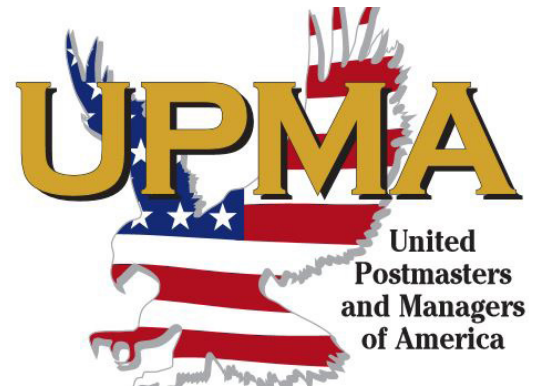
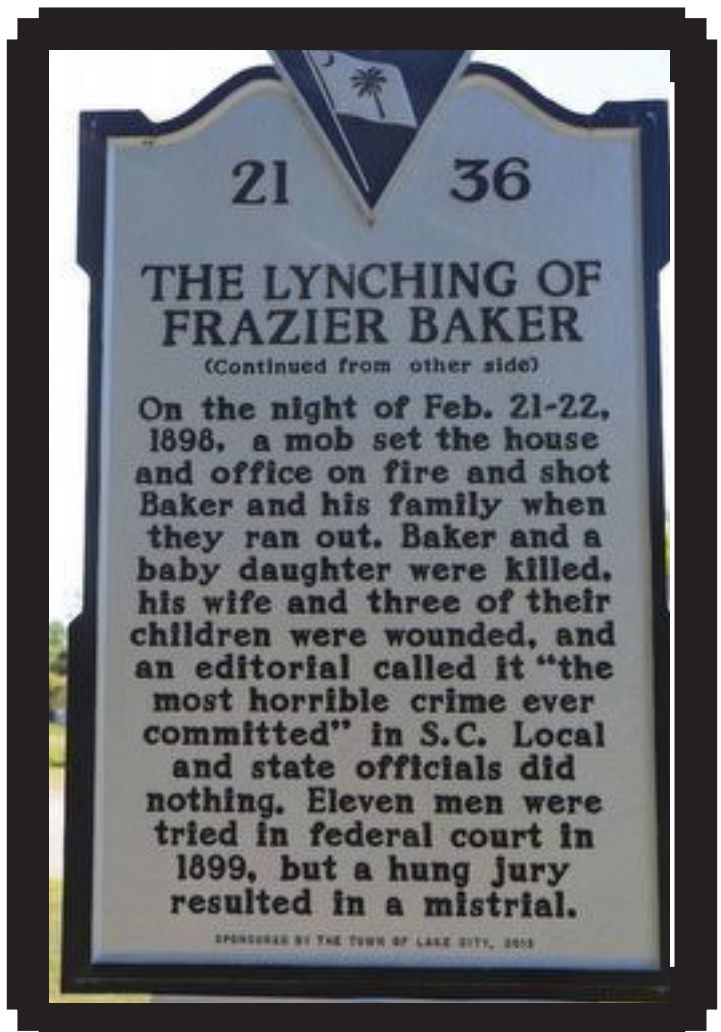
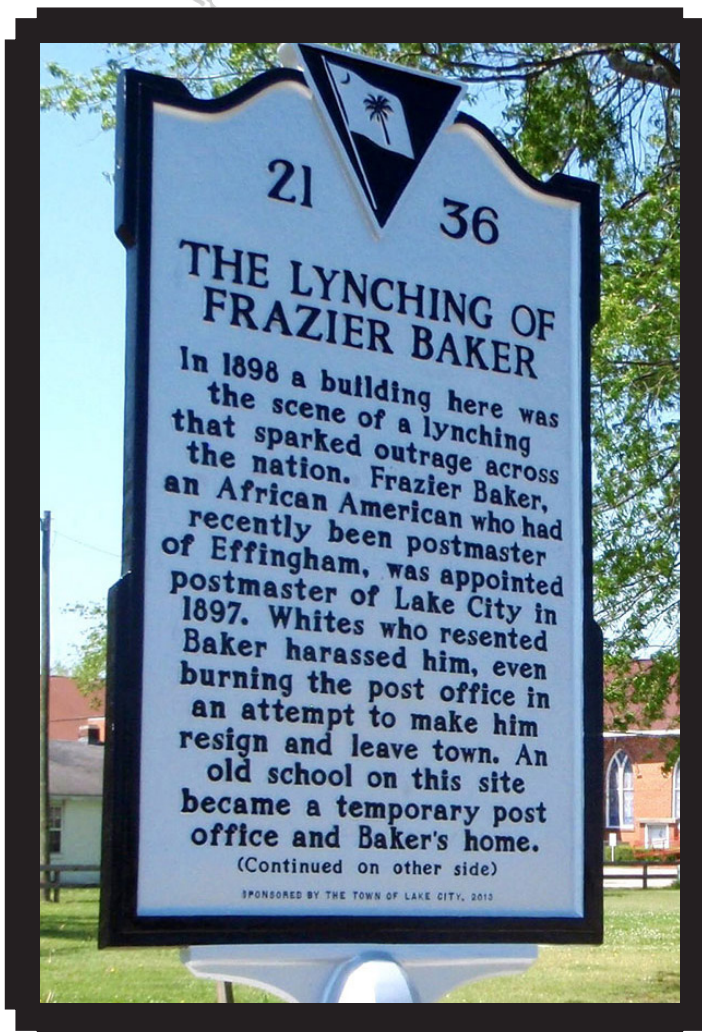


# Illinois Postal News Leader



July/August 2024

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



## The Honorable Frazier Baker, Postmaster Lake City, North Carolina

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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 Husbands, President

## Instrumental Panel

Greetings UPMA Family,

The 2024 Illinois Chapter convention held on April 5th thru 7th in Springfield, IL was a resounding success, bringing together members from all across the state to discuss important issues, share ideas, and create a stronger sense of unity. The convention featured engaging training courses, informative presentations, and valuable networking opportunities that left attendees feeling inspired and motivated.

A key highlight of the convention was the USPS / UPMA Training Day. I would like to thank Illinois 1 A/District Manager Jewel Morrow, Illinois 2 District Manager Tangelia Bush, and all of the MPOOs for granting our members a day of training on Friday. This shows their commitment to partnering with UPMA in our goal of making sure essential training is provided for every member to be successful in their current positions and achieve their professional goals as they advance in their careers. We look forward to partnering on more events like this in the future that continue to support the overall growth and success of the United States Postal Service.

The training classes were well attended and received rave reviews from the participants. Many attendees expressed how valuable the information was and how the skills they learned would be beneficial in their professional development. The speakers were knowledgeable and engaging, and the interactive classroom settings allowed for valuable hands-on learning experiences. The networking opportunities provided a platform for fruitful discussions and connections amongst coworkers. Overall, the UPMA Training Day exceeded my expectations, and I was thrilled with the positive feedback we received. I'm looking forward to building momentum from the success of this year's training day and fostering relationships and support from other departments outside of Retail & Delivery, so all USPS employees can benefit from the in-person training classes. This will include Human

Resources, Customer Relations, Labor, Logistics, Plant Operations, and other departments.

Another key highlight of the convention was the Postal Panel which was made up of a select group of Illinois 1 and 2 District Leaders that serve in a variety of different USPS roles. We had two District Managers, two Managers of Operations Integration, a Labor Relation Manager, a Plant Manager, a Field Human Resources Manager, and several MPOOs from all over the state on the panel, which provided a platform for our members to voice their concerns, ask questions, and engage in meaningful discussions about the future direction of the postal service.

On Saturday our members got to hear the keynote address delivered by UPMA National President Edmund Carley, who spoke passionately about the importance of being leaders in the organization and treating all our employees with dignity and respect. His words resonated with attendees and served as a powerful reminder of the strength we possess when we stand together.

In conclusion, I would like to personally thank our 2024 Convention Chairs Bev Freehill and Patti Sadnick for all their hard work over the last several months in preparation for an outstanding Convention. I would also like to thank Shelley Zellers, Meta Belford, and Kizzie Austin for the fantastic job they did at the registration booth as well as Marianne Miller and Pam Bardell for all the decorations they provided for our evening events, which were a lot of fun. Overall, the success of the recent UPMA convention can be attributed to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved. It was truly a testament to the power of unity and collaboration in achieving our shared objectives.

Earl Husbands  
UPMA Illinois Chapter President  
(708) 785-1253

Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved. ~ Mattie Stepanek (July 17, 1990- June 22, 2004)





# David Clark ~ Executive V.P.

## The Postmaster's Creed: Duty and Honor

It's been a busy few months. We returned from the Legislative Summit to begin preparations for the Illinois Chapter UPMA convention. Both were very successful. At the summit, we made our rounds on Capitol Hill speaking with Congress. In our teams, we spent the day going to our assigned congressmen and congresswomen to thank them for their support on WEP/GPO and asked for their continued support on HR 595. This bill will give all EAS the same appeal rights. EAS that do not directly supervise employees are not eligible for Merit System Protection Board (MSPB) rights. This bill will change that and give all EAS the same appeal rights.

After the fun was over, there was time to take in some sights. I took the opportunity to visit the National African American Museum. If you are ever in Washington, D.C. I seriously suggest that you visit here. Go early because there is so much to see and take in. While I was there, I came across a name on a plaque tucked in a corner of a display. The name was Frazier Baker. While there are many things to see and observe there, I thought this should have had a little more prominence. I thought this because Frazier Baker was a Postmaster. So, here is a little history.

Frazier Baker was married with six children. He was 41 years old and a schoolteacher. Frazier Baker was appointed as the Postmaster of Lake City, South Carolina, in 1897 under the William

McKinley administration. There was opposition to his appointment as there was a fear that the increased political power of Black postmasters would embolden them to proposition white women. Complaints had risen against PM Baker claiming that he cut mail delivery from three times a day to one after threats to his life were made. Yes, mail was delivered three times a day.

Amazing!

A Postal Inspection ensued after the complaints were filed. Yes, there were Postal Inspectors back then. The Postal Inspector recommended closing the post office. A mob burned it down before that could happen. Another post office was opened on the outskirts of town. This also served as PM Baker's home. On February 21, 1898, PM Baker and his family were awakened at 1 in the morning by a mob that had set fire to the post office (their home). PM Baker defended the post office, trying to put out the fires. PM Baker was unsuccessful in putting the fires out as they grew. As the fire

became more intense, PM Baker and his family tried to escape only to be met by gunfire from the mob. PM Baker's youngest daughter was killed. Her name was Julia. She was two. Realizing there was no way out, PM Frazier Baker sacrificed himself, by throwing open the door allowing his family that moment to escape. PM Baker was killed in a hail of gunfire defending the Post Office and his family.

Lavinia Baker and her five surviving children after the murder of her husband and baby daughter on February 21, 1898  
Library of Congress

### The Murder of Frazier Baker, 1898

In 1897 Frazier B. Baker, a schoolteacher, was appointed postmaster in predominantly white Lake City, South Carolina. Local opposition emerged immediately. When a boycott and protest petition failed, a mob set fire to the Baker home while the family slept. As they tried to escape, Frazier and his infant daughter were killed. His wife and other children survived. Although several men were eventually tried for the attack, no one was found guilty.

"The Mob at the Lake City Post Office," illustrating the attack on the Baker family, Boston Post, 1899

Lavinia Baker in the hospital in Charleston, South Carolina. Avery Research Center, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC



# Roger Roten, Retiree President

## Retired and Still Active

As I look forward to the National Convention, I cannot help but remember all the wonderful times I have experienced by attending UPMA events. The friendships I have gained, and the knowledge imparted to me have become invaluable to me. Even as a retiree, I continue to learn and grow through attending the events.

I've listened to current employees and understand it is more difficult than ever to take vacation time. This past April, the District and Area leadership agreed to provide training at the Chapter Convention, and to credit attendees with a training day rather than charge them an annual leave day. We had excellent presenters and current topics of concern. Thank you to all who were key in making that decision. It was a first-rate decision!

If you are looking for a way to enhance your career and enjoy your time doing it, UPMA is the answer! I hope you decide to join us in Orlando, FL with your family. It is an investment in yourself, and your family, to learn in a relaxed environment and spend time with your family in a great location. Sun and fun await your arrival!



# Cindi Cotton, Treasurer

## Become a Postal Pro

If you are looking for information to share with customers on postal products and services, PostalPro™ is the place to go. PostalPro is a one-stop shop for information not only for customers, but postal employees as well. Do you ever feel like customers get information before you do as an employee? It may be because they are utilizing PostalPro.

All information on PostalPro is customer facing, which means it can all be shared outside of the Postal Service. You will find information on Mailing and Shipping, Promotions and Incentives, Operations, and Resources. There is also an Industry Form that customers can use to access Postal Customer Council (PCC), Mailer's Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC), and National Postal Forum (NPF) information and events, and a Certifications program where they can become a certified mailing professional.

The Mailing and Shipping section contains information about Intelligent Mail barcodes, secure destruction, HAZMAT information, and more. Promotions and incentives contains programs that your customers can participate in to save even more money on postage. The Operations tab contains service standards and zone charts as well as information customers can use to ensure correct bundling and flats sequencing. Customers can also find information about webinars and training that is held by the Postal Service especially for our customers. This is just a small sampling of the information available in PostalPro.

If you haven't experienced PostalPro, I would encourage you to go in and look at the plethora of information it provides. You can access PostalPro from [usps.com](https://usps.com) (scroll to the bottom of the page) or go to <https://postalpro.usps.com/>

What begins with a P, ends with an E, and has a million letters in it? ...Post Office



# Tenia Thompson, V.P. Education

## Excellent Experience - Come Get it

Talk about in-depth knowledge and excellent training! That was what I experienced at the UPMA IL Chapter Convention this year.

Remember, this organization is about networking, if you don't go outside your comfort zone, you will never

The convention was filled with many first-timers, new people to meet, and so much to learn. The different training sessions that were presented at this year's convention allowed me to bring new information and learning material back to my staff. From NPA training to Emergency Preparedness, and everything in-between, we enjoyed in-person training from our top-tier professionals.

**“If you don't give anything, don't expect anything. Success is not coming to you. You must come get it.”**  
—Marva Collins

have the opportunity to meet new people, experience new friendships, and gain new perspectives. How often do you get a chance to have a face-to-face meeting with your District Manager in a learning environment? Most of us never do, yet both Illinois 1 and Illinois 2 District Managers attended the convention and interacted with everyone. It was an amazing experience! If you didn't attend this year, make sure you sign up for next year.

## Welcome Our New Officer



# Kizzie Austin, V.P. Legislative

## Just A Little About Me...

Hello everyone, my name is Kizzie Austin. I am the Postmaster of Millstadt Post Office.

position. Of course, I decided to go for it and applied for the Postmaster position. I say all of this because I grew up in a family that worked at the USPS, but I was the first to take my career further and became a Postmaster.

Just a little about me. I started my career with the USPS in the early 2000's as a Christmas casual, working as a clerk for half of the year and converting to a mail handler for the other half. I decided to take the test to become a city carrier. I began working as a city carrier in St. Louis, MO. After carrying mail for about two years, my manager requested that I 204B as a supervisor, in which I did for a couple of years before I decided to apply to become an EAS supervisor. After supervising for a couple of years, I was asked if I would be interested in an OIC

Lastly, I am honored of being voted in as your new Chapter IL VP Legislative and I am committed to doing my very best. I am looking forward to all that we will endure this year and the years to come.

Thank you,  
Kizzie Austin





# Nikata Adams, Secretary

## Summer Refreshment

New Year’s Day is not just a date on the calendar, it is a celebration of time itself. It is a special time when we say goodbye to the old year and welcome the brand-new one with excitement. A New Year can offer us an opportunity to reflect on our experiences, appreciate the lessons learned, and set our sights on new adventures. Perhaps you want to dedicate more time to yourself, be kinder to others, or discover a new hobby. Whatever it is, remember to let your resolutions be a roadmap guiding you toward becoming the best version of yourself.

UPMA is a family where we have new adventures and experiences, and create the best version of ourselves. We work hard every day. The amount of time we put in for the betterment of the organization is outstanding! Each day at work, more challenges are added to the list of our responsibilities, which can be overwhelming. However, this is allowing us to flex our knowledge and experience.

Being an active member of UPMA, you can have the opportunity to express your ideas and concerns at our conventions. The first event in 2025 is the Legislative Summit in Washington DC, March 16-March 19, 2025. Next is The Illinois Chapter convention in Oakbrook, IL. Currently, it is the UPMA 8th National Convention in Orlando, FL. We also have regional meetings, in the late summer and early fall. Our Central Area Officers Symposium (CAOS) is in September this year, in Canton, OH. See the information in this publication to register.

Let this summer be the time you put the negative experiences behind you and take a positive step into your postal future. Come out, be active, and network. Enjoy these new experiences and adventures, not only with your personal family, but with your UPMA family as well. Join us in Orlando for a family fun adventure!



### Scholarship Awards

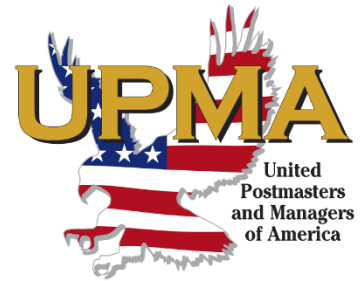


# Ohio Chapter UPMA proudly presents:

## Central Area Officers Summit (CAOS)

September 20 – 22, 2024 in Canton, Ohio

Embassy Suites by Hilton Akron Canton Airport



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

Your UPMA Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Your mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

One attendee per registration form please.

### Registration fee:

On or before July 31, 2024 - \$100

After July 31, 2024 - \$150

[Registration fee is due by September 1, 2024.](#)

Check the box if you wish to participate:

**g Football Hall of Fame d Antique Car Museum**

### Hotel Information

Contact the **Embassy Suites by Hilton Akron Canton Airport** at **330-305-0500** or you can use this website to book directly online:

[www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/caknaes-90d-f38f8006-ff32-4d3b-99f8-3bb6e80e1db2/](http://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/caknaes-90d-f38f8006-ff32-4d3b-99f8-3bb6e80e1db2/)

If reserving by phone, **be sure to ask for code 90D** which is our room block until August 31, 2024 under UPMA Central Area Officers block. See next page for more information on rooms and the event.

Registration fee is due by September 1, 2024 and can be paid by CHECK OR MONEY ORDER payable to: Ohio UPMA

Mail a copy of your registration form and payment to:

OHIO UPMA

3416 New Zoarville Road NE

Zoarville, Ohio 44656-9718





# Marianne Miller, Editor

## Humbled and Grateful

Greetings My UPMA Family!

This past April, the Illinois Chapter held its convention in Springfield, IL. If you did not attend, you missed quite an event! We all know that in-person training is so much more beneficial, and we had some superb training sessions. I attended the NPA training by Don Flak, and Emergency Preparedness, IEMM, by Steffani Pieart. This was the third time I have heard Mr. Flak speak, and am continuously impressed by his astute judgment, and his finger on the pulse of what drives the NPA numbers behind the scenes. His ability to assess individual office performance without prior knowledge and provide valuable advice is a testament to his value to the postal service and our employees. He fielded as many questions as possible before needing to leave to catch a flight. If it were not for the flight, I believe he would have been peppered with questions for quite a while longer.

Ms. Pieart held a class which also provided extremely valuable information. Her expertise in emergency preparedness and response was apparent from the get-go. All the questions that we answer in the FDB/IEMM module are not just an exercise in futility. She explained the reason behind the questions, and what the information is used for. For example, with the increase in tornadoes in the Midwest, if something were to happen to your office, the information on file determines the type of response, whom to contact, from the Postmaster to all the utility companies, and the layout of the building to find missing persons. Every detail counts in the IEMM! Personnel in another state are unaware of the details, so be sure to share them in the program.

During the general session, we heard from our National President Edmund Carley. He presented the By-Law changes and oversaw the voting protocol. We held the National V.P., Central Area election as well as the Chapter V.P., and Editor elections. The National V.P. elect is Jim

Maher from Missouri. Our new Chapter V.P. is Kizzie Austin, Postmaster Millstadt, IL. Congratulations Kizzie! Kizzie will be the Legislative chair which was formerly held by Jennifer Longo. Thank you, Jennifer, for stepping into the position, and I sincerely hope you remain engaged in the organization.

The first night's entertainment was provided by: BOOMBOX ALL 80'S BAND. They are an '80s band which boasts not only having family members as bandmates, but postal family as well. They have a postmaster, a rural carrier, and a communications employee who are all related. BOOMBOX played through all the hits from Prince to Journey, and everything in between with electric energy and vocals. Check them out on Facebook.



The second night's banquet had a Disney theme in anticipation of the National Convention. Each place setting had Mickey ears and each table had a different Disney-themed centerpiece. The centerpieces were sold after dinner to raise money for the scholarship fund. The 2024 scholarships were also presented as well as the UPMA Chapter awards.

I was truly surprised and humbled to be awarded the Hall of Fame for 2024. As I stood poised to take the photo of this year's recipient, President Earl Husbands called my name and presented me with the award. Your faith in me is overwhelming and I am truly grateful for my UPMA family. You all have provided me with support, advice, admonishment, knowledge, and wings to help me soar... Wings that have only gotten stronger over the years through their nourishment. Thank you for all that you have provided me over the years! I sincerely thank you for the recognition. I could not have achieved it without your support!

I hope to see you all again soon. Until we meet in Orlando... Blessings to you and yours!

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# SPOTLIGHT

## Chapter Convention 2024

**First Time Attendees**



**Retirees**



*And Just Plain Fun!*





From: Wendt, William T - La Salle, IL <William.T.Wendt@usps.gov>  
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 2:13 PM  
To: Husbands, Earl A - Bedford Park, IL <Earl.A.Husbands@usps.gov>  
Subject: Training Day 4/12/2024 Friday UPMA State Convention

Earl,

In person training was successful on Friday 4/05/24 at the UPMA. This was the first time it was explained to me how the FY Budget's are made. Elizabeth Anderson was an excellent speaker and answered all my questions about F2 and F3 staffing and how budgets are affected by adding city carrier routes after adjustments are made. She followed up on her statement to sending out detailed subscription flash reports and was positive about me sending our information in to her from La Salle. La Salle had a city route adjustment that ADDED 2 routes (we still delivery our own amazon parcels (up to 150 scans per route)). This took effect on 9/30/23, the day before the FY 2024 budget started. Therefore, the F2 budget for FY 24 was already set and continues to not show the additional hours required from the route adjustment process.

I hope next time there can be break out trainings on other items like Webcoins, TIEREAP, and Ebuy+.

Thank you,

Thad Wendt  
Postmaster  
La Salle, IL 61301  
815.410.8260

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From: Peterson Jr, James R - Galesburg, IL <James.R.Peterson@usps.gov>  
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 3:49 PM  
To: Husbands, Earl A - Bedford Park, IL <Earl.A.Husbands@usps.gov>  
Subject: RE: April 5th Training Day

Thank you for providing training on April 5, 2024. Although zoom training meeting can serve a purpose to a certain extent, nothing truly beats an in person training. I gathered a lot of knowledge that I can go back to my unit and apply to my delivery unit. Another bonus to on site training is the ability to network with other mangers and postmasters with similar problems to determine solutions to those problems. Once again thank you for providing this training day.

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From: Huckleby, Michelle - Hazel Crest, IL <Michelle.Huckleby@usps.gov>  
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 1:41 PM  
To: Husbands, Earl A - Bedford Park, IL <Earl.A.Husbands@usps.gov>  
Subject: 2024 Convention Springfield

Good morning Mr. Husbands,

This was my first convention, and it was a great experience. I'm not sure how you got the DM, MOI and that many Pooms to come and answer our questions but that set up is necessary as we go forward as a BRAND.

We were to be able to have a TWO way conversation about topics without fear of repercussion.

Great event.  
Michelle Huckleby  
HQ, IL2 COR data prep



From: Miller, Marianne S - Winnebago, IL <Marianne.S.Miller@usps.gov>  
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 3:48 PM  
To: Husbands, Earl A - Bedford Park, IL <Earl.A.Husbands@usps.gov>  
Subject: UPMA Chapter Convention

Greetings Earl,

Thank you for a well run and very informational UPMA convention! I had the opportunity to attend Mr. Flak's and Ms. Pieart's training sessions, which were exceptional. Mr. Flak presented the NPA material in laymen's terms that anyone, whether postal or not, could understand and be able to create improvement plans for their future. Ms. Pieart presented materials that are vital to our organization's emergency response systems, and explained not only the "How To's" but the "Whys" as well. She provided insight and answered all questions that arose from the audience, and took suggestions from the audience as well. In both classes, we were engaged in two-way communication and problem solving with fellow attendees. We shared information that will enhance the operations at our individual offices, stations, etc. It was a wonderful experience for everyone that attended.

Once again, thank you for providing excellent training sessions and networking opportunities.

Thank you,

Marianne S. Miller  
Postmaster  
Winnebago IL  
105 Landmark Dr  
Winnebago, IL 61088  
P: 815-335-1179





## UPMA 8TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

# Show Your Badge & Save



If you are attending a convention or meeting in Orlando, show this page on your device or your physical convention badge to a participating "Show Your Badge" member during the dates of your event to take advantage of a great offer!





**UPMA 8<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION**  
**Caribe Royale, Orlando, Florida**  
**August 24-30, 2024**

***Program of Events as of 4/15/24***

*This Program is Tentative and Subject to Change*

<b>Friday, August 23, 2024</b>		
8:00 AM	5:00 PM	UPMA Executive Board Meeting
8:00 AM	5:00 PM	UPMA Executive Board Meal Room
<b>Saturday, August 24, 2024</b>		
12:00 PM	5:00 PM	Registration Open
8:00 AM	5:00 PM	UPMA Executive Board Meeting
8:00 AM	5:00 PM	UPMA Executive Board Meal Room
4:00 PM	6:00 PM	UPMA Retired Executive Board Meeting
4:00 PM	10:00 PM	UPMA Hospitality Suite Open
6:00 PM	7:00 PM	Church Choir Practice
7:00 PM	10:30 PM	Dance Sponsored by The Southern Officers Conference (SOC)
<b>Sunday, August 25, 2024</b>		
8:00 AM	5:00 PM	Registration Open
8:30 AM	10:00 AM	Church Service
10:30 AM	11:30 AM	Auxiliary Board Meeting
10:30 AM	12:00 PM	All Hands UPMA Membership Meeting
1:00 PM	3:00 PM	UPMA B.R.A.T.S. (Bringing Real Attributes to Society)
1:30 PM	4:30 PM	National Member Reps Meeting
1:30 PM	4:30 PM	Breakout Meeting - Presidents
1:30 PM	4:30 PM	Breakout Meeting - Secretary Treasurers
1:30 PM	4:30 PM	Breakout Meeting - Editors
1:30 PM	4:30 PM	Breakout Meeting - Legislative & PAC
1:30 PM	4:30 PM	Breakout Meeting - Membership Chairs
1:30 PM	4:30 PM	Breakout Meeting - Education Chairs
1:30 PM	4:30 PM	UPMA Retired Meeting
4:30 PM	5:00 PM	Area Coordinators Meeting
4:00 PM	6:00 PM	UPMA Hospitality Suite Open
5:00 PM	6:00 PM	Active First Timer's Orientation Meeting
6:00 PM	7:00 PM	Welcome Reception
7:00 PM	8:30 PM	Welcome Dinner
8:00 PM	11:30 PM	Dance
8:30 PM	10:00 PM	UPMA Hospitality Suite Open





<b>Monday, August 26, 2024</b>		
7:30 AM	3:00 PM	Registration Open
7:45 AM	7:45 AM	Door Prize Drawing
8:00 AM	12:00 PM	General Business Session
9:00 AM	10:00 AM	UPMA B.R.A.T.S. Informational Meeting
10:00 AM	2:00 PM	UPMA B.R.A.T.S. Activity & Lunch
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	Area Coordinators Meeting - Atlantic
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	Area Coordinators Meeting - Central
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	Area Coordinators Meeting - Southern
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	Area Coordinators Meeting - Western Pacific
12:00 PM	2:00 PM	UPMA Retired Voting Precinct
2:00 PM	5:00 PM	UPMA Retired Business Meeting
3:30 PM	5:00 PM	Training Seminar
3:30 PM	5:00 PM	Training Seminar
3:30 PM	5:00 PM	Training Seminar
3:30 PM	5:00 PM	Training Seminar
3:30 PM	5:00 PM	Training Seminar
3:30 PM	5:00 PM	Training Seminar
3:30 PM	5:00 PM	Training Seminar
3:30 PM	5:00 PM	Training Seminar
3:30 PM	5:00 PM	Training Seminar
4:00 PM	6:30 PM	UPMA Hospitality Suite Open
7:00 PM	9:00 PM	Chapters Night
7:30 PM	11:30 PM	Dance
<b>Tuesday, August 27, 2024</b>		
All Day	All Day	Free Day
<b>Wednesday, August 28, 2024</b>		
7:30 AM	3:00 PM	Registration & Information Open
7:45 AM		Door Prize Drawing
8:00 AM	12:00 PM	General Business Session
9:00 AM	11:00 AM	Auxiliary & B.R.A.T.S. Business Meeting
11:00 AM	1:00 PM	UPMA Auxiliary/B.R.A.T.S. Community Service Project
12:30 PM	3:30 PM	UPMA Retired Luncheon
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	Training Seminars
3:30 PM	5:00 PM	Training Seminar
4:00 PM	10:00 PM	UPMA Hospitality Suite Open
7:00 PM	10:30 PM	Dance Sponsored by UPMA Retired



Thursday, August 29, 2024		
8:00 AM	11:00 AM	Registration & Information Open
7:45 AM		Door Prize Drawing
8:00 AM	12:00 PM	General Business Session
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	New UPMA Auxiliary Board Meeting
12:15 PM	3:00 PM	NEW & OUTGOING UPMA Executive Board Lunch and Meeting
2:00 PM	5:30 PM	UPMA Hospitality Suite Open
6:00 PM	6:30 PM	Reception
6:30 PM	7:30 PM	Grand Banquet
7:30 PM	11:30 PM	Dance





# Understanding the Postal Service Health Benefits



The Postal Service Reform Act of 2022 (PSRA) mandates significant changes to healthcare provisions for eligible Postal Service employees, annuitants, and their families, effective January 1, 2025. This transition impacts eligibility, enrollment procedures, and coverage options within the Federal Employees Health

Benefits (FEHB) Program.

The Postal Service Health Benefits (PSHB) Program operates within the existing FEHB framework, providing tailored health insurance for USPS workers without disrupting current coverage. PSHB becomes the primary source of health insurance, enhancing accessibility and addressing USPS personnel's unique needs.

PSHB's implementation streamlines healthcare coverage, ensuring continuity and consistency for eligible individuals. As the launch nears, it will be crucial for you, all of your active employees, annuitants, and their families to stay informed about the transition process and its implications.

## Eligibility, Enrollment, and Deadlines

Eligibility for coverage under the PSHB Program extends to Postal Service employees, annuitants, and their family members currently eligible for coverage under the FEHB Program. This ensures a smooth transition for those already enrolled in FEHB plans.

Leading up to the program's launch, participants can maintain their participation in the FEHB Program without immediate action. Their existing FEHB enrollment will persist until the transition to PSHB coverage, slated for January 2025. During the 2024 PSHB Program Open Season, eligible Postal Service employees and annuitants must enroll in a PSHB plan. Failure to do so will result in automatic enrollment in a PSHB plan for those currently enrolled in FEHB plans. All of the most popular current plans, such as those offered by Blue Cross, are expected to remain as options within PSHB, though the exact list of plans which will be

offered has yet to be determined.

## Transition and Implementation Timeline

The implementation timeline sets the stage for the first opportunity to select a PSHB plan during Open Season in late 2024. This window should allow ample time for individuals to evaluate options and make informed decisions regarding their healthcare coverage under the new program.

## Impact on Other Benefits

Enrollment in a PSHB plan will not disrupt participation in other insurance and benefits programs, including the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP),

Federal Flexible Spending Account Program (FSAFEDS), Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (FEGLI), or Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP).

## Medicare Enrollment and Continuing Coverage

Most Postal Service annuitants and eligible family members entitled to Medicare Part A will have a six-month special enrollment period (SEP) to enroll in Medicare Part B without facing late enrollment penalties, ensuring seamless integration with Medicare coverage. Enrolling in Medicare Part B is essential to maintain eligibility for PSHB coverage post-retirement, aligning with the transition to PSHB coverage effective January 1, 2025.

It is important to note, there are two listed exceptions to PSHB's Medicare Part B enrollment requirement: 1) all annuitants who separated from service prior to January 1st, 2025, and 2) anyone older than age 64 prior to January 1st, 2025. So, if you are already retired, over the age of 64, or both, you will effectively be grandfathered into optional Medicare Part B enrollment – meaning you can choose to not enroll Medicare Part B, and still maintain your PSHB coverage, just like you can now with FEHB coverage!

- Submitted by Sam Eberts, Co-Founder and Chief Experience Officer of Dugan Brown Federal Retirement



## **\*\*CARES & CONCERNS\*\***

Beverly Jane Phelps, wife of Lowell Phelps, retired Postmaster of Salem, died Wednesday, May 22, 2024. Visitation will be Monday, 5:00 to 7:00 and 10:00 to 11:00 on Tuesday. Funeral will be at 11:00 Tuesday. You may view the complete obit on Crouse Funeral Home Salem II website.

If you attended any of the retired Postmaster get togethers you will remember Lowell and Beverly. They attended quite often. If you wish to send a card please send it to Lowell Phelps, PO box 604, Salem II 62881.

Lowell, you have our sympathy and your family is in our prayers.



### **SYMPATHY TO PRESIDENT EDMUND: with permission**

Dorothy Carley, mother of UPMA National President Edmund Carley, passed away earlier this year in Ireland. Edmund traveled to Ireland earlier to visit and spend time with her.

Cards may be mailed to Edmund and his family at his home address 7704 Stone Wheat Court, Alexandria, VA 22305, or the UPMA National Office, 8 Herbert Street, Alexandria VA 22305. Please keep President Carley and his family in your prayers

### **UPDATES ON PSHB PROGRAM: from Charley Peters, UPMAR National President**

1. The Postal Service launched the mandatory employee training on MyHR.
2. The Postal Service has started showing the mandatory PSHB education modules on the Monthly WATCH PARTIES. The schedules and dates for all the informational sessions are on KeepingPosted.org . Text PSHB Watch Party to 39369. They have Lunch and Learn Seminars, Checkbook Seminars, Watch Parties, or simply PSHB updates. You can sign up to get notices for one or all of these by texting what you want to be advised of to 39369. If you send a separate text for all of them, you will get multiple texts to notify you when and how to log on to join the seminar. The next Watch Party will be August 16. Checkbook Seminar July 31. Lunch and Learn August 8.
3. The Guide to PSHB booklet has been posted on KeepingPosted.org. Go to KeepingPosted.org, and on the Home Page you will see a "PSHB Resources" block of choices and the booklet choice has been added at the bottom, or you can choose the Health benefits tap at the top of the Home page and choose find out more on PSHB and the Resources are listed there also.
4. The "Guide to PSHB and Medicare enrollment information" booklet will be mailed to employees and annuitants at the end of July.

Please be advised:

On Page 7 of the new Guide to Understanding the PSHB Program Booklet, is information on Medicare Part D that you need to be aware of. "Medicare Part D will

be included in all PSHB plans for Medicare eligible participants and you will not have to pay a separate premium for prescription coverage." You can opt out of automatic coverage under the PSHB Medicare Part D Plan, but "If a Medicare eligible PSHB participant opts out of or disenrolls from Medicare Part D coverage, they would NOT have access to prescription drug benefits through their PSHB plan." If you enroll in a Medicare Part D plan outside of the PSHB Program, you will pay a monthly premium.

You should receive a letter in the mail prior to "Open Season" telling you which plan you will be cross-walked into from FEHB to PSHB. It should be the Plan you have now, if that Plan is being offered under PSHB. If your current Plan will not be included in PSHB, then the letter will tell you the Plan they are putting you in. Either way, if you are happy with that Plan, then you will not have to do anything during Open Season. If you are not happy with the Plan you are being put in and need to make a Plan change under PSHB, you will need to do that during "Open Season" and you should receive instructions on how to choose a new Plan. This year is a critical year for your future Health Benefits that you have enjoyed through your employment with the Postal Service, so watch your mail closely and become informed on the changes coming with our new Postal Service Health Benefits Program Plans, PSHBP. Go to KeepingPosted.org, download the new Guide to PSHB booklet (11 pages) and read it carefully. If you have questions, email me at crpeters0219@gmail.com, text 606-307-7483. You can also send questions directly to the PSHB Help line 833-712-7742.



# Carol Sue Carnes, Signature FCU ~Emeritus~

## SIGNATURE FCU PROMOTIONS

My son, John, and I attended the Illinois UPMA State Convention held in Springfield, and I can't say enough about the wonderful speakers, (including National President Edmund) delicious food, fantastic entertainment, informative vendors, etc. Thanks so much to President Earl for a great convention, Cindi Cotton, Chairman of Registration, Pam Bardell, Marianne Miller, Christine Heyden, Patti Sadnick and Bev Freehill, and their team for a great job on decorations both nights, the hospitality room volunteers, and the many others that helped make it such a wonderful convention. Thanks, one and all.

Ruthie Beal and I had the Signature FCU table all set up with brochures, forms, copies of all the Savings and Loan Rates, enrollment forms to join our great Credit Union, and last, but not least, lots of giveaways from the CU and candy provided by Ruthie and me. Many thanks to everyone who stopped by for forms, rate sheets, information, pens, sticky notes, and other useful items provided.

We are still offering great CD Rates, but this may start to change as the Federal Reserve is planning on lowering rates by early fall. Currently, we offer CDs for a \$500 minimum balance, our 3-month rate is 3.00%, 6 months at 3.25%, 9 months at 3.95%, and 12 months at 4.75%. And remember during the term of the CD you can add funds to your certificate any time after it has been opened. This is ONLY available for 3-, 6-, 9- and 12-month CD's. Also, for a limited time, you can withdraw the full balance of any existing certificate with "NO Penalty" and invest in our higher-paying CDs. If information is needed on any of this, please contact the office at 1-800-336-0284.

We still offer up to 100% financing on Home Equity Lines of Credit. From home remodeling, a once-in-a-lifetime vacation, debt consolidation, education expenses, or a wedding, the possibilities are endless. Apply today, at [SignatureFCU.org/HELOC](http://SignatureFCU.org/HELOC) or call 1-800-336-0284 Extension 689.

Hope you all are aware of a new FRAUD scheme! Fraudsters are trying to impersonate Signature Federal Credit Union representatives. Please do not provide ANY personal information to anyone who calls you from our phone number over the weekend. Our Visa fraud center will try to contact you to verify charges by text or email first if there are charges that look out of the ordinary for you. If you are ever in doubt that you are not speaking with the Credit Union or the actual fraud center, please hang up and call the credit union directly.

Until next time...

Carol Sue Carnes, Emeritus, Signature Federal Credit Union  
4800 Illinois River Road, Brussels, IL 62013  
Email address: [carolsuecarnes@gmail.com](mailto:carolsuecarnes@gmail.com)

ZIP CODES	UPMA REPRESENTATIVE	CONTACT NUMBER	CONTACT EMAIL	MPOO GROUP	MPOO / CSOM
600, 602	Cleveland Williams	(618) 310-4199	<a href="mailto:Comanche618@hotmail.com">Comanche618@hotmail.com</a>	IL 1 GROUP A	Ben Giese
601, 603, 611	Cleveland Williams	(618) 310-4199	<a href="mailto:Comanche618@hotmail.com">Comanche618@hotmail.com</a>	IL 1 GROUP B	Susan Meathe
606, 607	Dr. Veronica Johnson	(872) 243-5762	<a href="mailto:Veronica_Johnson2@yahoo.com">Veronica_Johnson2@yahoo.com</a>	IL 1 GROUP C	Chicago CSOMs
610	Cindi Cotton	(309) 363-2609	<a href="mailto:upmailtreasurer@gmail.com">upmailtreasurer@gmail.com</a>	IL 1 GROUP D	Jo Bittinger
604	Tenia Thompson	(630) 885-7956	<a href="mailto:TeniaThompsonupma@gmail.com">TeniaThompsonupma@gmail.com</a>	IL 2 GROUP G	Suzanne Hankins
605, 613	David Clark	(219) 951-1547	<a href="mailto:mywayornot_6@hotmail.com">mywayornot_6@hotmail.com</a>	IL 2 GROUP H	Dwayne Russell
612, 614, 623, 626	Kizzie Austin	(618) 789-6050	<a href="mailto:Kizzie_A@yahoo.com">Kizzie_A@yahoo.com</a>	IL 2 GROUP I	Victor Wallin
615, 616, 617, 625, 627	Marianne Miller	(815) 908-9565	<a href="mailto:upma1@aol.com">upma1@aol.com</a>	IL 2 GROUP J	Mark Wilson
609, 618, 619	Cindi Cotton	(309) 363-2609	<a href="mailto:upmailtreasurer@gmail.com">upmailtreasurer@gmail.com</a>	IL 2 GROUP K	Towanna Murphy
624, 628, 629	Pam Bardell	(815) 291-9726	<a href="mailto:pamela.bardell1981@gmail.com">pamela.bardell1981@gmail.com</a>	IL 2 GROUP L	Tara Conner
620, 622	Pam Bardell	(815) 291-9726	<a href="mailto:pamela.bardell1981@gmail.com">pamela.bardell1981@gmail.com</a>	IL 2 GROUP M	Jeff Hamilton
ESCALATION	Earl Husbands	(708) 785-1253	<a href="mailto:earlhusbands@gmail.com">earlhusbands@gmail.com</a>		



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Know A Retiree?  
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To Join The Fun!

## Article Due Dates

Sept 5, 2024

Oct 17, 2024

Nov 5, 2024

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

8th Annual UPMA National Convention  
Caribe Royale, Orlando, FL  
August 24th - 30th, 2024

Central Area Officers Symposium  
Embassy Suites Airport, Canton, OH  
September 22, 2024

Southern Area Officers Conference  
Louisville, KY  
October 11th - 14th, 2024

Legislative Summit  
Hyatt Regency Crystal City,  
Arlington, VA  
March 16 - 19, 2025

IL Chapter Convention  
Oakbrook, IL  
2025