

UNITED POSTMASTERS AND MANAGERS OF AMERICA
GARDEN STATE
TRIBUNE



INSIDE THIS EDITION:

What is H.R. 756?



Candidacy Announcements



NJ State Convention Registration Form



National Convention Registration Form

**New Jersey UPMA
State Convention**

May 30th - June 1st

Bally's - Atlantic City, NJ



UPMA National Convention

August 5th –10th

Galt House - Louisville, KY

Reception with the Postmaster General At the National Postal Museum Monday, February 27, 2017





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**Garden State Tribune
P.O. Box 667
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Welcome to Volume 1, Issue 2!

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our National Office and my fellow UPMA members who ventured to Washington, D.C. this February.

I am extremely pleased with the progress we made on the Hill in our efforts to meet with our State's senate and house leaders regarding the need to protect and enhance our great service.

Regardless of your active or retiree status as an UPMA member, we all play a vital role in securing the future of the United States Postal Service.

I ask that you humbly join that mission

Sincerely,



Disclaimer:

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are the opinions of the author and not necessarily the opinions or positions of the United Postmasters and Managers of America of the United States Postal Service.

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Messages from

Bernadette Puodziunas, Co-President



UPON RETURNING FROM LEGISLATIVE DAYS...

Upon returning from the UPMA Legislative Days February 27-28th, in Washington, DC, this is the first time in years, I felt optimistic that our advocating will pay off for the benefit of the United States Postal Service. H.R. 756 is the first time a bi-partisan bill has been supported by all the USPS Unions and Management Organizations. H.R. 756 would reduce our current retiree health benefit prefunding obligation. It would calculate the USPS pension costs and liabilities by using data specific to the USPS population instead of the government wide population. It would also clarify MSPB Appeal Rights for all USPS non bargaining employees. H.R. 756 would establish postal plans within FEHBP. Medicare eligible USPS retirees would be automatically enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B. Part D prescription drug coverage would be made available with subsidies.

In addition, the USPS would cover a decreasing portion of Medicare Part B premiums over four years for those retirees transitioned into Medicare as a result of HR 756. HR 756 would also allow the USPS to increase postal rates for a first class stamp by 1 cent. I know this probably sounds like a lot of changes but these are changes the USPS needs to stay viable in this ever competitive delivery environment. Sometimes we all need to make some compromises in this world to make something work and the fact that all the postal unions and management organizations are supporting H.R. 756 shows compromise. According to PMG Brennan, if H.R. 756 is enacted, the bill would save the USPS an estimated \$26 billion in cost reductions and new revenue over 5 years.

The NJ UPMA contingent of Postmasters and Managers visited all 14 of our New Jersey congressional leaders and senators during the two day UPMA Legislative Days. We spent the first day meeting in the Capitol Visitor's Center with congressional leaders from all over this great country. After the meeting we walked over to the postal museum and met with Postmaster General Megan Brennan who took the time to thank us for all the hard work Postmasters and Managers do day in and day out. She spent time after her speech answering questions and taking photos with everyone who asked. PMG Brennan spent some time speaking with members of the NJ contingent and asked that we email her our concerns, which we did once we got home and she did read our concerns. So now we anxiously await her reply. The two days of annual leave that we each have to take to attend this event is definitely worth the exposure with the HQ Postal Leadership and the legislative leaders. We are able to introduce ourselves, since we all know when someone can put a

name with a face it certainly helps. I would rather my congressman or congresswoman call me with their postal issue than it go all the way to headquarters and back to resolve a customer issue; after all we do work for the United States Postal SERVICE. Fix it before it becomes an issue.

On a more personal note, I am taking this opportunity to express my interest in a possible re-election campaign. I say possible because this organization needs a good leader. Someone who has a lot of time to dedicate assisting postmasters. Someone who will represent the state chapter of New Jersey UPMA in a positive light, on a local and national level. Someone who has morals and ethics and will remember them when they represent this great state of New Jersey and its postmasters and managers. Someone who will equally represent each of its members and not discriminate in any way shape or form. Someone who realizes this is a team effort and there is no "I" in team. And someone who loves this organization and the people who have made it great over the years as much as I have. So, if anyone possesses these qualities please step forward and let your intentions be known. WE NEED LEADERS! Who is ready to take that next step?????

NOTICE: At our upcoming NJ UPMA State Convention, we will be voting on the following chapter positions:

President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Vice-Presidents to begin their term in November 2017. In addition to these elections, we will be voting in our state by-laws.

It is imperative that you attend!

Be a part of history at the 1st Annual NJ UPMA State Convention beginning the evening of May 30th -June 1ST at Bally's, Atlantic City!

Our Presidents

Gordon Strater, Co-President



CONTENTS OF A DEAD MAN'S POCKET

Contents of a Dead Man's Pocket. Those words resonate to me every week. We all have things which have deeply influenced us as human beings, things that have shaped our view of the world. For me, it is this little short story penned by Jack Finney in 1956. I originally read it as a sophomore in high school in Mr. Cunningham's English class. At no point in time did I realize how much of an influence that this little short story would impact me, and how I see the world. The irony is that I did not realize it until decades later. As time marches on, my mind recalls that one little story.

The story begins with a man, Tom Benecke, who is busy working on a project in which he has invested much of his time – a paper that would allow him to put in for a promotion at work. He has spent the better part of a month compiling data to pursue his quest to receive a promotion. He has invested an enormous amount of time on this project, including much of his leisure time on what he perceives as something that has deep intrinsic value. He values it so much that he neglects his wife, and all of his time spent away from the job. Tom is busy typing away on a typewriter recording all of his data. His wife asks him to see a movie, and he declines because at this point in time he values the project more than time spent with his family. He rationalizes that once the promotion is received, he can then spend time with his wife. His wife leaves him to his work, and leaves to attend the movie alone.

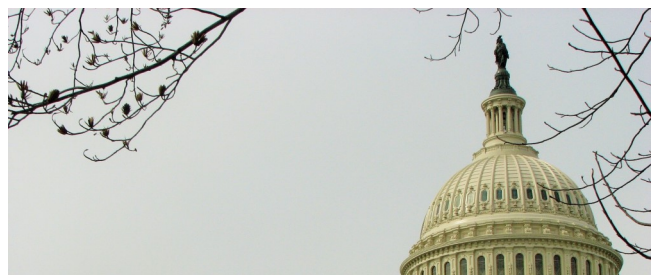
The protagonist lives in a high-rise building on the eleventh floor. Before continuing on his paper, he opens the window to allow some fresh air to enter his room while he assiduously types away at his project. To his abject horror, a gust of wind carries his paper, the one in which he has invested countless hours, out the window to lie on the ledge. What is he to do? Does he abandon the project and start over, or does he tempt fate by trying to retrieve it? Surely, he can just reach it. Unfortunately, the paper is beyond his reach. He cannot conceive of abandoning all of his hard work so he does the unthinkable - he climbs out on the ledge to retrieve it. It should only take a moment. Surely, nothing can go wrong in the scant seconds it will take to salvage the paper. Then the unthinkable does happen - the window shuts behind him thereby trapping him on the ledge eleven stories above the pavement below with only a narrow ledge separating him from the abyss. He begins to go through the contents of his pockets realizing that the only thing he possesses is the sheet of paper which

he went out on to the ledge to retrieve. What will the contents of his pockets say about him if he slips and falls to his death? What would they say about him? It is at this point he realizes that the paper is absolutely worthless. It is at this point he realizes how much of time he has wasted on things that do not matter.

How we spend our time has deep and lasting consequences. There is a delicate balance that must be struck between doing what is required of us, and doing what we know has lasting value. The question we must all ask of ourselves is this – what do we hold as having value? Each of us is only allotted a certain amount of time. How do we wish to spend it? I am reminded of a quote by William Penn: *"Time is what we want most, but what we use worst."*

I am by no means averse to people's dreams of upward mobility. Indeed, it is often something to which many aspire. Many simply wish to make a difference. Many simply wish to ensure more income so as to better provide for their families. All I am saying that it does come with a cost. Everything we do in life comes with a cost. All too often I have seen people seek upward mobility, and not realize the costs. People have bid for higher level positions, and have ended up ill equipped to accept the added responsibilities of that position. What I am saying is to be absolutely certain of what it is that you want. Regrettably, I have seen people face corrective action because they weren't prepared for the challenges of the new position. Even worse, I have seen people neglect what it is that should be of primary importance to each of us – time spent with those that we love. Work is supposed to be something that provides for your life; work is not supposed to become your life. How many of us have become like the protagonist, and have ventured out on that ledge to retrieve that piece of paper? What do the contents of our pockets say about each of us?

(Continued on Page 7)



Our Past President is...

"Still Singing"

Friday, March 31, 2107

Today marks the end to an incredible journey. I have had the pleasure for the last 33 years of working for the greatest company in the world: the United States Postal Service. I would like to recognize all of our employees, who are the most dedicated and hardest working people I know. They have overcome the most difficult events and adverse conditions, but continue to remain focused on the core missions: to deliver the mail, while providing excellent customer service to our great country. It has been my honor to work beside them. Over the years, I have met many postmasters, supervisors, and employees with whom I have made lifelong friendships with throughout the United States. My fellow postmasters have embraced my family and have become my extended family. I am blessed with a wonderful life filled with incredible memories. My family has always been there to inspire me and to help me become a better man. I have stumbled along the way but have always made adjustments to do the right thing.



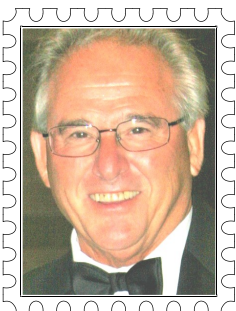
"The most memorable event was the day of my installation as a United States Postmaster!"

The incredible support from my family, friends, community, and fellow Postmasters is overwhelming. I was especially moved by the words my father said to me on how proud he was and that he loved and respected me for what I have accomplished throughout my life and for the man that I have become. Honorable Postmaster Gary L. Carrasquillo: a title that will stay with me forever and a title that I will never tarnish. I am excited to begin a new journey with my future wife, my family, and my wonderful grandchildren; all who light up my life.

I thank everyone for the memories! May God Bless, and may your journey in life be fantastic!
Honorable Postmaster Gary L Carrasquillo Forever in my Heart

CONGRATULATIONS on the retirement of fellow UPMA member and Postmaster Tony LoPrinzi!

NJ UPMA Co-Presidents Puodziunas & Strater acknowledge Honorable LoPrinzi at his retirement party, which was held on January 29, 2017, at the infamous Brownstone.



NJ UPMA State Convention Reminders from Jim Fusco, State Convention Co-Chairman:

May 30, 2017 thru June 1, 2017—Room rate of \$65.00 per day and a daily resort fee of \$10.00 which includes unlimited local phone calls, Two (2) Guest admissions per day to the fitness center, \$5.00 towards self parking, and Basic WIFI to include two (2) devices per room per day. Your registration fee will include two (2) continental breakfasts, a lunch, and a dinner at Carmine's Wednesday night at the Quarter.

PAC is...

"Welcoming Change"

Pamela E. Wilmer (Sanders)

Congratulations Mrs. Sharon Young our South Jersey District Manager, on your new detail assignment to the position of District Manager, Northern OH. At the same time we welcome Mr. David Webster, Senior Plant Manager of Harrisburg, PA to South Jersey as our Acting District Manager.



Question: How many District Managers governed our South Jersey District over the last 25 years? Can you name them all?

Just returned from UPMA Legislative Advocacy Days on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. along with a visit to the National Postal Museum. Our very own Postmaster General Megan Brennan and Deputy General Ronald Strom both graced us with their presence as we prepared for up close face to face communications with members of Congress and the Senate. Both Postal Leaders reiterated the fact that policy changes are urgently needed to put the Postal Service on sound sustainable financial ground which are viable for our future.

Bipartisan House Government/Oversight and Reform Committee Leaders introduced the Postal Reform Act of 2017~H.R. 756. This bill addresses the Postal Service's unfunded liabilities and enables reforms to keep down mailing costs ensuring affordability for consumers. The bill also, encourage innovation without taxpayers incurring added cost. For updated Legislative/PAC News and Government Relations information, log onto UPMA's national website www.unitedpma.org. We must engage in the political process!

Fellow Postmaster's we need you...

Please take advantage of UPMA PAC for Postmasters hassle free contribution opportunities. Please send envelope containing processing information to UPMA PAC for Postmasters, 8 Herbert St., Alexandria, VA 22305-2600. Sign up today for ePAC via Direct Credit Card, Signature FCU direct transfer, Postal Ease Allotments and OPM to ePAC. UPMA ePAC contributions are the way to go! Become a \$1,000.00 PAC contributor via ePAC.

Thank you New Jersey Postmasters for your continued voluntary PAC contributions. We are truly grateful for your dedication and generosity. New Jersey UPMA sincerely appreciates your support of the Political Action Committee!

**Remember, the task ahead of us is never as great as the power behind us!
Live, Laugh, Love and Contribute to (PAC) Political Action Committee!**

(continued from Co-President's Message on page 5)

Mr. Cunningham, wherever you are, I extend a thank you for asking me to read that one tiny little short story. Hardly a day goes by when I don't hear the words reverberate through my own head – what do the contents of my pockets say about me? I have long believed that what truly matters in this life are the people that we come across – the relationships we develop along the way. Am I making a difference? Am I able to help those people that come to me? How many of us neglect those around us that desperately need our help all on account of pursuing that little slip of paper laying on the window ledge? How many are far better equipped than I am to serve the needs of our organization, UPMA, that have decided that the little piece of paper lying on the ledge has greater value? Our organization is not would it could be simply because those that have the greatest knowledge or abilities have opted to step out on to that window ledge pursuing a piece of paper. Benjamin Franklin once said, "Lost time is never found again." How much time have we lost?

Be certain of what it is that you want. Strive to better yourself. Make a difference. Help those that need your help. Our organization, UPMA, needs people that can assist those that are struggling. At our career's end, what will be the contents of your pockets?

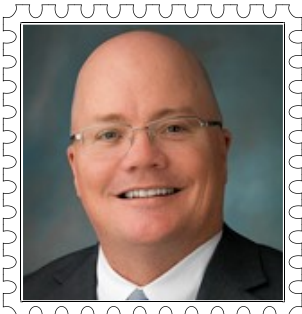
"One of the most important things you can do on this earth is to let people know that they are not alone." – Shannon L. Alder



Tom Wagner
Toms River Postmaster

After some soul searching and the resolution of some personal issues, I've decided that the time is once again right to become much more involved in the Postmasters' and Managers' organization. I've found over time that we have drifted away from proper training and also have more consistently placed personnel into positions for which they may not actually be qualified. And yet they accept these challenges in attempt to do right by their employer, and take on these challenges many times to the detriment of not only their own career but their family lives as well. And the thanks they get in return is often veiled threats, PDIs, PIPS, and reassignments; often at the hands of a higher level manager who has neither any business doing so, nor a successful track record themselves by which to make such decisions. This simply should not be. We need a stronger voice from our organization; we need a safer position from which to manage; we need support from our fellow Postmasters and Managers.....we need to MAKE THE POSTMASTER/MANAGER ORGANIZATION GREAT!!!! With that, I respectfully submit my name for consideration for the position of NJ State President of UPMA.

***Special Guest to Speak at
1st Annual NJ UPMA
State Convention...***



David Williams
Chief Operating Officer & Executive Vice President

David E. Williams was named chief operating officer and executive vice president in February 2015. He leads the continuous improvement of the entire postal network operation as well as the allocations of people and resources.

He reports to the Postmaster General. Williams has responsibility for the day-to-day activities of 488,000 career employees working in more than 31,000 facilities supported by a fleet of over 200,000 vehicles.

He is responsible for Post Offices, delivery and retail operations, facilities and the mail processing network. Reporting to Williams are the vice presidents of Delivery Operations, Facilities, Network Operations, Retail and Customer Service Operations

***NJ UPMA State Convention
Registration Form
on Page 11***

***1st Annual
NJ UPMA
State Convention***
May 30 - June 1, 2017
***Bally's Hotel Casino
Atlantic City***

**Prescott Butler
Chaplain (Ret.)**

This is Your Season

When you read this article Spring will be upon us. One of the richest and wisest men in the Bible was King Solomon. The biblical King Solomon was known for his wisdom, his wealth and his writings.

It is with the wisdom of Solomon that I write this article. In the Book of Ecclesiastes, chapter 3:1-8, wisdom confirms that everything in life has its own season. "There is a season, or a time for every purpose under heaven" (3:1). As we move from season to season, our priorities change. As our priorities change, we may need to put aside what we did in the past and funnel our energy into something new. Each major transition in our lives requires our undivided time and attention for successful passage.

What the third chapter of Ecclesiastes is really trying to tell us is; life is really a matter of timing, for *timing is everything*. This should be evident to us by the way we manage our time. You and I probably have a dozen clocks and four or five calendars in our homes. Many of us carry a timepiece attached to our wrist. We have time indicators built into our cell phones, computer screens, and PDAs. If *timing is everything*, then how should we live? We can learn a lot about the seasons of our lives by looking at nature.

- 1. Expect change. Everything changes.**
- 2. Accept limitations. Respect your limitations but don't use them as an excuse not to grow.**
- 3. Trust Universal timing (God). What you wish for may be closer than you think.**
- 4. Enjoy life. Because life is short and life is fleeting.**

Although new beginnings are usually preferred over endings, we should remember that every new beginning requires an ending. We cannot have one without the other. Likewise, reaping a harvest may be preferred over the work of preparing, planting, and tending a crop or garden, but we cannot enjoy reaping without sowing. Even the transitional storms of our lives

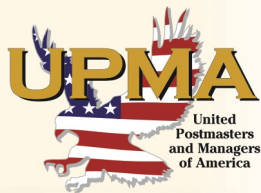


are necessary to clear the atmosphere of old ways of thinking that keep us from fully experiencing the next seasons of our lives. Both sorrow and joy are part of life; without one the other is unrecognizable. If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant.

We will encounter negative and positive emotions and experiences throughout this life. This is to be expected. Change is a constantly occurring thing. One moment we will be on the mountain peak; the next moment we will be in the valley. We are to find joy in the midst of each season and also in the transition between them. Is it possible to be close to God in ever-changing circumstances? If you only thank God



in seasons of great health and prosperity your chances will be limited, because those seasons ebb and flow like the tide. If we remember that there is a gift in every crisis or challenge—in every transition of life—we will be able to go with the flow more easily always looking for the good in every situation. As we discover the gift in every season, learn to trust that loving, divine purpose behind it. Thank God seasons always change.



1st UPMA National Convention

Aug. 5-10, 2017

Official Registration Form

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

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Title: First Name (for your badge): _____

Postmaster
 Supervisor
 Manager
 OIC
 Associate
 PM Retired
 Spouse
 Guest

Post Office You Represent City: _____ State: _____

Your Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP+4 _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

**First-Timer/
PM Retired
First-Timer?**
 Yes No

Convention Registration (only one person per form):

Please circle the appropriate fee:

	1/1/17- 3/31/17	4/1/17- 7/15/17	After 7/16/17
Postmaster/Manager/Supervisor/ OIC/Associate	\$215	\$240	\$265
Postmasters Retired or Guest* (PM Retired Luncheon included)	\$186.25	\$205	\$223.75
Auxiliary/Spouse/ Postmaster Guest (Does NOT include PM Retired Luncheon)	\$161.25	\$180	198.75

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

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

Grand Banquet: Aug. 9, 2017

Payment Information

Convention Fee: \$ _____

_____ Additional tickets for Postmasters

Retired Luncheon @ \$25 each \$ _____

Total Payment: \$ _____

Check payable to UPMA

Visa/MasterCard

Card number _____

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

Signature: _____

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

Questions? Call 703-683-9027

Hotel Reservation

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

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

Be sure to request the Postmaster convention rate.

Registration Cancellation Refund Policy

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





1st Annual United Postmasters & Managers of America (UPMA) – NJ Chapter STATE CONVENTION
REGISTRATION FORM
May 30st - June 1nd, 2017
(Convention starts the evening of May 30, 2017)
Bally's Park Place
ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY 08401

Full Name/Vendor* Name _____

Attendee's/Vendor's* Name to be placed on badge(s) _____

Post Office of CURRENT position _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Are you attending as a (Check Only One)?

PM: _____ OIC: _____ RETIREE: _____ GUEST: _____ New PM: (< 1 year of service) _____ Vendor: _____

Vendors need to submit a \$25.00 fee for a table only; however, if a vendor is interested in partaking in the convention's daily festivities, including the continental breakfast, breakout sessions, etc. they MUST pay the registration fee below depending on the amount of days involved in attending, PLUS the vendor flat fee of \$25.00.

E-Mail Address _____

REGISTRATION COSTS: ~ Include two (2) continental breakfasts and two (2) lunches~

\$40.00** PER DAY _____ OR \$60.00** for TWO DAYS _____

****Each registered guest is entitled to one complimentary UPMA- NJ Chapter State Dinner to be held at Carmine's, Atlantic City, on Wednesday, May 31, 2017 – promptly arrive at 6 pm; otherwise, non-registered attendees' cost is a \$45.00/per person, non-refundable contribution.**

Calculate Your Cost:

Vendor (Table ONLY) Fee of \$25.00 - _____

Attendee/Vendor Registration Fee - One Day: _____

Attendee/Vendor Registration Fee – Two Days: _____

NJ State Dinner (REGISTERED - Complimentary) ** -: _____

NJ State Dinner (NON-REGISTERED cost \$45.00/per person) ** -: _____

Total Payment Included: _____

Hotel Reservations:

Each individual will be responsible for making his/her own reservations with Bally's Park Place in Atlantic City. Reservations must be made through Bally's Reservations Department by calling 1-888-516-2215 between the hours of 8:00 AM to 2:00 AM, 7 days a week. You MUST mention our convention code: SB05UP7. You can also book online at <https://aws.passkey.com/go/SB05UP7> . Reservations made after the cut-off date are on a space availability basis at the current room rates. The cutoff date for room reservations is May 9, 2017. Check-in time is 4:00 PM; Check-out time is Noon.

Parking:

Current parking fee per stay is \$5.00 for self-parking or \$10.00 for valet parking for all overnight hotel guests. However, subject to change.

Rates:

The room rates for your 1st Annual UPMA – NJ Chapter State Convention will be \$65.00 per room, per night, plus a daily resort fee of \$10.00, which includes unlimited local phone calls, two (2) guest admissions per day to the fitness center, \$5.00 voucher towards self-parking, and basic WiFi to include two (2) devices per room, per day. There will be a 14% (tax subject to change) Atlantic City room tax, in addition to the room rates set forth above. All rates quoted are based on a single or double occupancy. Each Additional person is \$20.00 per night charge for any occupant in excess of two per room; with a maximum of 4 persons per room. Children of registered guests under the age of 18 years are not charged as additional guests. Rates are subject to an Atlantic City Tourism Promotional fee, currently \$2.00 and a New Jersey State occupancy fee, currently \$3.00 per room, per night.

**SEND THIS REGISTRATION FORM AND TOTAL PAYMENT
CHECK PAYABLE TO UPMA – NJ Chapter**

AND MAIL TO:

**UPMA – NJ Chapter
P.O. Box 372
Cedarville, NJ 08311**

Capitol Hill Hotel...Where've you been all my life?

As I reflect on our chapter's participation in our national organization's Legislative Advocacy Days this past February 27 - 28, 2017, I am extremely proud of team NJ UPMA's dedication to scheduling and coordinating our superior accommodations and effective visits on the Hill. The extreme value, prime location, utmost cleanliness, trendy layout, hospitable staff and the safe, tranquil environment of the Capitol Hill Hotel, located in the Capitol Hill Historic District, welcomed our Co-Presidents: Bernadette and Gordon, Co-Secretary-Treasurer Darlene, Vice-Presidents: Bill and Sandy, and myself with the reassurance that we are making great strides as one, unified organization.

On Monday morning, Co-President's Bernadette and Gordon methodically laid out our day's agenda: we were to stroll over the Capitol Hill Visitor's Center for an informative presentation by Bob Levi, UPMA Director of Government Affairs. Here we were to listen to several key players and supporters of H.R. 756 - The Postal Reform Act of 2017. We were promised a visit by a special guest, which heightened our already excitement for the day that was before us. After the conclusion of Mr. Levi's presentation and guest speakers, we were to meet for a late afternoon/early evening special reception at the National Postal Museum with the Postmaster General Megan Brennan.

Mr. Levi welcomed us and was the main emcee for the occasion. Mr. Levi explained the A, B, C's of H.R. 756 - The Postal reform Act of 2017. A: Agreement, B: Bipartisan, and C: Compromise. He explained that in order for this bill to be passed, every employee and their respective union or organization has to come together to get this postal bill passed.

National Co-President Tony Leonardi proudly welcomed all of us and thanked us for investing our time in attending the 1st UPMA Legislative Advocacy Days. He also proudly in

formed us that all, but one state, made the trek to Washington, D.C. for this historical occasion. Approximately 300 UPMA members filled the room for this presentation. Mr. Leonardi reiterated the 3 vital aspects of what UPMA does and continues to do: 1. Member Representation, 2. Member Education, and 3. Legislation work.

He understood that because each chapter was responsible for securing their own accommodations, he realized that we were missing out on the social networking that our organization thrives on. Next year, the national office will be looking into affordable room blocks for us to be able to stay and meet together in one place. Congressman Mark Meadows of North

Carolina was the first to address us on the proposed postal bill. First, he let us know that he is indeed a secret shopper, which we all enjoyed a little chuckle at the fact perhaps Congressman Meadows had affected our RCE scores.

He assured us that he is constantly reminded during his shops of the superior customer service provided to him by us and our employees. He thanked all of us for being such vital members of our communities. He also thanked us for "taking the time to counsel and engage" in conversation with our customers on a daily basis. Congressman Meadows is extremely optimistic that he will be able to move H.R. 756 across the finish line. He also explained that he sees no resistance in having this bill successfully received by both parties.

He met with the White House in mid-February and mentioned that with "very minor modifications" we have a good chance in signing this bill into law by the next quarter. He ended his presentation with the local quip: "There are 2 ways that DC does things:

slowly or never" and with the elusive saying: "Things are not always what they seem."

We were next addressed by Congressman Jason Chaffetz from Utah. He applauded us by saying that what we do on the Hill really makes a difference. He took a moment to reiterate the importance of Washington, DC to our great nation by telling us to take a moment while we are on the Hill to truly appreciate the location.



Area National Vice President - West, Edmund Carley took the stage next. He enthusiastically explained that legislative advocacy is his "thing." He explained that he understood that this year is unlike the years in the past. He reassured us that National is already planning for our Legislative Advocacy Days for 2018. They are looking into planning the same type of legislative presentation, with the same type of positive impact that we have always had with our visits on the Hill, for a lot less money than in the past.

He said, "While on the east side of the Capital, take a moment to gaze to the west side of the Capital - this is where President Abraham Lincoln addressed the people." Congressman Chaffetz mentioned that he has met with President Trump and his senior advisor, Jared Kushner regarding 2 goals: 1. Avoid a bailout for the post office and 2. The bipartisan supported bill, H.R. 756 - The Postal Reform Act of 2017 saves \$50 million dollars. Both President Trump and his senior advisor Kushner were seemingly supportive. Congressman Chaffetz spoke of the bill's process, stating that meetings were held on the house side of the committee, then mark-up occurs, then either a yea or nay vote.

Once the bill passes it goes back to Congress to receive a score on how much money it will save. Once the score is received, then the majority leader of the senate will go to vote. Congressman Chafetz ended his presentation by thanking us all for being there.

Mr. Levi introduced the final, surprise guest of the day: Deputy Postmaster General and Chief Government Relations Officer Ronald Stroman. Mr. Stroman spoke on how "active engagement becomes critical." He recognizes that our efforts in visiting our Senators and Congressional Representatives on the Hill truly emphasizes to them the importance of what we stand behind. He and Postmaster General Megan Brennan meet with legislators often to provide them with a sense of urgency for legislation to get through on behalf of the postal service. Mr. Stroman mentioned that "IF the USPS would pay all of our bills, we would be out of cash by 2018."

He recognizes the many misconceptions about the postal service's current conditions, surrounding the diversion of first class mail. He reiterated that we've lost 26% of first class volume since 2007. Our organization adds 1 million new delivery points every year. He stressed that we need legislative and regulatory help in order to maintain this imbalance. Mr. Stroman believes that this is the best chance we've had in the past 10 years to get this bill passed. The cornerstone of the bill has 3 parts: Medicare integration - 1. Retirees have the FEHB plan (secondary) and Medicare (primary), and 2. Exigent rate increase - we must meet in the mid-

dle, and 3. Right now calculation is done by general government demographics. With this bill, Mr. Stroman would have the OPM calculate or payment. Those who oppose this bill view Medicare as a trust fund. The gatekeepers of Medicare will do everything and anything they can to protect the Medicare trust. Mr. Stroman wrapped up his presentation with these 2 points: 1. There is a need for speed; the passing of this bill must happen quickly and 2. We must try and keep the bill intact as it is now, as much as we can.

After this speaking engagement, team NJ UPMA regrouped, stretched our legs a bit, and did a little museum hopping before we made our way to the National Postal Museum for the special reception and meet-and-greet with Ms. Brennan. I was pleasantly surprised with how swiftly the security check at the postal museum went for all of us. As the museum was closed to the public for this monumental engagement between UPMA and the PMG. There was something about the feeling in the air while we were waiting for Ms. Brennan to make her appearance. Perhaps this feeling is a familiar one when any of us are about to engage with the highest ranking person of our organization. For me, it's not her title or position that astonishes me; albeit, I have the utmost respect for both her title and position.

At this particular moment in time, at this particular special engagement, between all of the hustle and bustle of our UPMA state chapter retired and active members and dignitaries, the security of the stout Postal Inspectors guarding our PMG and the quarters, the hospitality staff refueling our bellies and the catering tables, I was in awe. In awe surrounding the roads within my life that have taken me to where I am today. In awe surrounding my entire career and family's livelihood built within my positions and roles within this great organization. In awe of the historical relevance that is abound every time I visit the National Postal Museum.

And now, I am within the walls of this museum, awaiting to be addressed by the first female Postmaster General. And just as she always is, Ms. Brennan confidently walked in, up to the podium and greeted us with such

familiarity, such pride, and with such an understanding of mutual respect for all of us who every day get the mail delivered and take care of our customers. Ms.

Brennan thanked us for our continued work and dedication to legislation. She assured us that are visits on the Hill do not go unnoticed or unrecognized. She acknowledged our National Co-Presidents and there role as leaders of our unified organization.

After the conclusion of her addressing our members, Ms. Brennan naturally took her time amongst the crowd to speak with us, one-on-one. As ever, her genuine concern and respect of our feedback was easily felt. Moreover, her gregarious nature enabled many of us to shake hands with her and snap a selfie or two. We left feeling refreshed, renewed, and reassured that our efforts on the Hill do not go unnoticed, nor are they futile.

The following day, we regrouped once more at the breakfast table and enjoyed our second day of the complimentary breakfast. Co-Presidents Bernadette and Gordon strategically outlined our visits to the Hill, as we would be meeting up with our counterparts in order to ensure that we would be most successful.

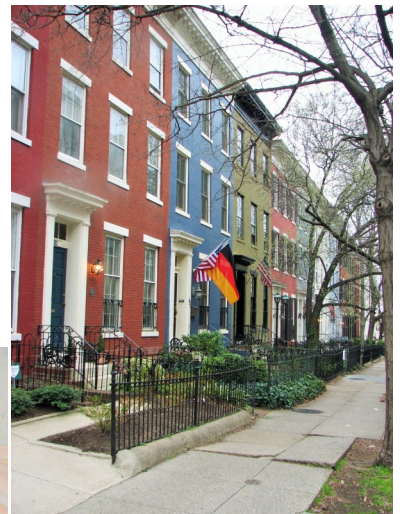
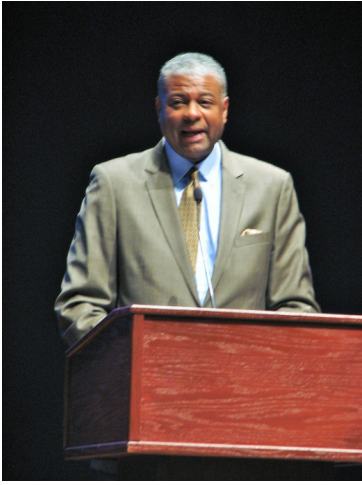
Upon meeting up with our state's legislative chair, Paul Kelly, we were armed with UPMA's position papers to be able to best brief our state senators and congress people. We divided to conquer; and conquer we did. We were successful in handing all 14 sets of our position papers out to all 14 of our state's representatives. We even were able to grab a few photos with the representatives and their aides.

For a pictorial glimpse of this two day event, take the time to view all of our pictures on page 2 and pages 14 and 15.

I look forward to seeing you in Louisville, KY for the 1st Annual UPMA National Convention this August 5 -10, 2017.



Legislative Advocacy Days



February 27 & 28, 2017





H.R. 756 The Postal Reform Act of 2017

Robert M. Levi

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Posted by Bob Levi on 03/16/17

Earlier today, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee approved H.R. 756, *the Postal Reform Act of 2017*, by voice vote. The bipartisan bill would help to stabilize postal finances and ensure its operational viability. H.R. 756 was the subject of UPMA lobbying efforts during the association's Legislative Advocacy Days, on the last two days of February. At today's committee meeting, Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) and other committee members publicly thanked UPMA for its efforts in support of the measure.

Five amendments, other than a technical amendment authored by Chaffetz, were offered at the committee meeting. The chairman and Ranking Member Elijah Cummings (D-MD) opposed all the amendments but one, since those amendments would have destroyed the careful balance so important to the bipartisan bill.

Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA) offered an amendment to require the Postal service to notify the member of Congress of its intent to close or relocate a retail postal closing or relocation at least 10 days prior to notifying the general public. The amendment passed by voice vote, with the support for Chaffetz and Cummings.

Rep. Darrel Issa offered four amendments; three were withdrawn, prior to a vote, and one was defeated on a voice vote. (Only Issa voted "yes".) The defeated amendment would have converted door-delivery to centralized if the Postal Service failed to break-even. Two of the withdrawn amendments also dealt with centralized delivery; the other withdrawn amendment would have implemented 5-day mail delivery under certain circumstance.

The next steps on the legislative trail are the House Ways and Means Committee, and the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Both committees have jurisdiction over the Medicare program and Medicare integration is a key element of HR 756.

The committee also approved H.R. 760, legislation introduced by Reps. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) and David McKinley (R-WV), to enable the investment of a portion of the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund in index funds modeled after those established for Thrift Savings Fund investments.



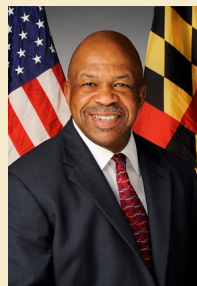
Key House Postal Players



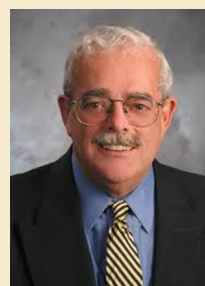
Jason Chafetz



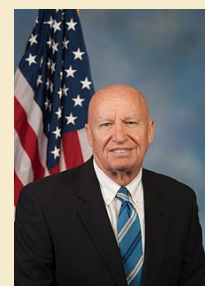
Mark Meadows



Elijah Cummings



Gerry Connolly



Kevin Brady



What is H.R. 756?



What is HR 756?

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

What is Medicare integration?

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

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

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

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

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

Who does Medicare integration affect retirees?

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

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

It's important to note that HR 756 waives the enrollment penalty imposed on Medicare-eligible retirees who did not enroll in Medicare when first eligible. This penalty can be prohibitively expensive and there are many older postal retirees who regret not having enrolled in Medicare, because as they aged the need for 100% medical coverage increased. Generally, the current Medicare Part B premium is \$134 per month. This additional cost would be partially offset by a reduction in FEHBP premiums (according the actuaries about 9%), the elimination of deductibles and copayments, and less costly prescription drugs.

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

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

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

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

For more information visit www.unitedpma.com

Women in Business

"At the Expo"

New Jersey Postmasters: Empowered Through Engagement at the Chamber of Commerce's Women in Business Expo

Ocean City, NJ – Several New Jersey Postmasters attended the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce's 12th Annual Women in Business Expo on March 2, 2017. "Once I received the emailed invite from the chamber, I knew that we had to participate and that we could successfully represent our individual post offices and the organization in which we serve," said Bernadette Puodziunas, Postmaster of the Wildwood, NJ Post Office.

The Postmasters enjoyed listening to the wide array of successful, professional women, who held careers as doctor, volunteer advocate, surrogate, and Lieutenant Governor. All of these women shared their inspiring stories on education, family, employees, work-life balance, and the variety of opportunities that led them to their specific careers. The Postmasters networked with a room of almost 200 professionals, all who were thoroughly engaged in the topics at hand.



Bernadette was one of the five female Postmasters from the county that attended the expo. Her invite was met with great enthusiasm as the other Postmasters saw the added value with their participation. Margaret Clifford, Cape May, NJ Postmaster, Cheryl Foster, Sea Isle City, NJ Postmaster, Cindy Yeshgosh, Cape May Court House, NJ Postmaster, and Melissa Lomax, Avalon, NJ Postmaster, made it a point to attend the event together. The largest Women in Business Expo yet, this year's theme focused on "Women Empowered and Engaged" and was hosted at the historic Flanders Hotel in Ocean City, NJ.

The event concluded with a luncheon, while the guest speaker - New Jersey's Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno - addressed the attendees with her own success story of work life balance.

*Postmaster Megan Brennan acknowledges our Postmaster's Involvement:
"I'm encouraged that you and your neighboring Postmasters are active members of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce. It's important that our Postmasters engage with local businesses. Thanks for your leadership.
All the best, Megan"*

For almost seven years, the Cape May County Postmasters have been proud members of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce. Their partnership has enabled the Postmasters and their respective post offices to continue their efforts in networking with potential customers in attracting Business Connects, all the while, partnering in planning educational and informational postal events for the local communities they serve.

At the conclusion of the expo, the Postmasters met up with the chamber's President, Vicki Clark, and thanked her and the entire chamber for another "engaging and empowering" event. "Our Postmasters and employees are extremely involved with their communities and the customers we serve," added Melissa Lomax, Avalon, NJ Postmaster.

Vice Presidents'

Updates



Good Day my fellow Supervisors, Managers and Postmasters. How is it going? Are you thinking about moving up? Requesting to move down? Contemplating the next move? Thinking of retiring? For those who have made the decision already I hope you will be happy with the outcome. It is never easy when making the next step. The experience pool is running short and if you would like to step up now would be a good time. I would hope that your boss would support you in the transition and not hold your feet to the fire after you agreed take the chance at the next level. I have spoken with so many of you this year. The theme that seems to run throughout the conversations is the struggle maintaining a family life while trying to excel in your job. The other thing is that despite all the talk of employee engagement there is still far too many management members who cannot make the switch to that style. The good news is that the Post Office will continue the training throughout the rest of the fiscal year. Our hope is that our leaders will continue to evolve for the good of the Postal Service and its employees. How about you? Are you engaged? Are you trying to do the right thing with your employees? I know sometimes it isn't easy but the change must come for us to survive as a company. Remember those of you who are struggling can call on fellow members for their help and advice. Please, if called for an investigative interview, bring one of the Presidents or Vice presidents with you. I continue to hear reports of Postmasters being belittled and harassed and I assure you that your UPMA leadership is looking into it both on the local and National levels. There is no room for this behavior to continue! It is 2017 and this is a place of business! Ladies and gentlemen I am all in. I am announcing my candidacy to become your State President. I bring experience and a level headed approach to problem solving. I am a 30 year Postal Employee who has served under some terrific bosses and some who were not. I have a pride in my job and belief it is still an honor to be a postmaster. I believe in the oath that I took. I seek to lead in my community. I volunteer my time I will work tirelessly to make sure your interests are represented. If you would like to vote for me then come to the state convention May 30th - June 1st. I would appreciate your support. If we haven't met I welcome that time to get to know you better. In addition to the election we will have speakers and information about retirement, compliment and finances. Plus our State dinner at Carmines! For members who need financial services I encourage you to go to. This is our credit union with great rates on Loans, mortgages, credit cards and much more.



I am writing this article on March 15th, the Ides of March, which marks the assassination of Julius Caesar in 44BC. However much more important than that, and even more important than the fact that our editor Melissa said it is the last day to submit articles, it is an important day on Capitol representatives are or that are important to you stand idly by while people affect our lives. Right Postal Reform. This bill care, our social security, ment. A small group of NJ Capitol at the end of Feb-



Hill. Do you know what Do you know who your how they vote on things and me? We cannot make decisions that will now they are working on will affect our health our Medicare in retire-postmasters went to the ruary and visited all the We talked about Postal tions of the USPS back would need a tax payer sacrifices we each would going to meet with them home for spring break.

representatives that would make time for us. Reform and the fact that all unions and associa-this bill. We explained that without this bill we bail out by next September. We explained the be making if the bill passes. Now we are all again, or for the first time, when they come I am asking each of you to reach out to your representatives and ask to meet with them. It is not painful. The meetings last only 15 minutes and you are just hitting the highlights of what is important to the Postal Service. It is even easy to find out who your representatives are and how to contact them. Text your zip code to 520-200-2223. It will send you back, within seconds, your Federal and State Senators and Representatives names and phone numbers. Take the time to contact their local offices and schedule an appointment for when they are home. I have been meeting with my local congressman for a decade now. He knows me by name and we always save a little time for local gossip. I also always offer to help should he have problems with any constituent's mail delivery. Often it is easier for us to reach out to another postmaster to solve an issue before it becomes a problem. Oh and they will all be home from April 10th till the 21st. Schedule your appointment today!

National Candidacy Announcements...

My name is Linda Gurka and I am running for National Vice President for the East side of the country. I am currently the Co-President of MI UPMA and Postmaster in Suttons Bay MI.



In Michigan, I have been Registration, Career Development and Membership Chair, Co-convention Chair, Service Rep, VP and President. I was in the core planning group for the national convention held in Michigan in 2010. On a national level I have been the National VP for area 12 MI/WI, First timer, Career development and Registration Chair, and the liaison to the National President. I have, also, taught a number of classes at our national conventions.

I worked with Tony Leonardi when he was running for National President as his campaign manager. I co-authored the step-by-step reference manual for state presidents and the training for CSV and SOV.

My passion is helping to put together the tools we need to be successful in our states. I don't wait to be asked to help with something, I look to see what needs to be done and then try to find a solution. The reason I decided to run for this position again is because I still want to help our organization move forward for the betterment of all Postmasters.

I believe that I have the experience and knowledge to represent all the states in the East. I think I would be a strong reasonable voice on the board and I am asking for your support.



My name is Angela Greene, Co-President of the SC Chapter. I write to you today officially announcing my candidacy for National Vice President for the East. I have the gracious support of my state chapter and the full support of my family and wonderful husband, Joe.

Currently I serve as Co-President of the South Carolina chapter. Prior to that I served as President, Executive Vice President, Vice President, Membership Chair and a page for the former National LEAGUE of Postmasters.

Helping Postmasters has always been a driving force for me and I look forward to working with managers of all levels. I have always tried to do what is beneficial for the Postal Service but I am just as passionate about the Postal Service doing what is in the best interest of the managers and Postmasters who help to make our company successful.

What an exciting time it is in the history of our organization as we are in the beginning stages of what will become a premier organization. We have the awesome privilege of experiencing something new and exciting and should do everything we can to ensure we are successful.

I look forward to our future knowing we made the right decision to do was right for Postmasters and managers. We definitely adapt and change better than any group I know. With your support, I look forward to helping mold our organization into something great.

Moving forward in UPMA, we need to focus on promoting a unified body of managers because we are stronger now that we are one. Strong leadership and a solid commitment to make a difference are what I would bring to the National board.

I hope to meet with as many of you as possible during the state conventions and speak with you at the National Convention in Louisville, KY. I personally ask for your support in electing me to the National board.

National Candidacy Announcements...

My name is Jo Oberly and I am seeking the position of National Secretary-Treasurer. UPMA's future is bright. I believe that to reach its full potential, UPMA must have a strong board that is committed to the betterment of every member. As a national board member, I will work to ensure the organization represents everyone's best interests and provides Postmasters and Managers with the best in education, representation, and support.



For the past 19 years, I have served postmasters at the county, state, and national levels. In doing so, I have built strong relationships with Postmasters and postal management across the spectrum. As the current UPMA Eastern Area Coordinator, I meet with the area VP quarterly and serve as a liaison between the national office and state chapters. Having served in this position for 8 years has given me a wide perspective on the issues that Postmasters and Managers face.

For example, when POSTPlan and DUO were launched, I traveled across the state to educate Postmasters on the effects of these programs. I heard from members that the changes were causing confusion and uncertainty. In response, I created a spreadsheet better known as "The Calculator" which provided an easy and accurate way to determine the earned hours in SOV offices. By using "The Calculator" Postmasters could determine the impact POSTPlan would have on their office and to make the best decision regarding their career. These efforts exemplify my commitment to the education, representation, and support of the members.

In addition to being an area coordinator, I have served in other capacities, as well. At the national level, I have served on the Resolutions, Registration, Banquet, and First Timers Committees. I have also chaired the Page Committee for 6 years and held the position of president of the Vice Presidents Club. At the state level, I have served as an Adverse Action Counselor, VP, Secretary, and Convention Co-chair. For my county's association, I fulfilled 2 terms as Secretary and 2 terms as Treasurer. My membership efforts have been recognized by the national organization, and my history of service has earned me a national leadership award. I have also been voted PA Postmaster of the Year by my peers.

The National Secretary-Treasurer is responsible for maintaining UPMA's organizational and financial records. I am confident that my experience doing so at the local and state levels has prepared me well for these duties. However, it is my years of service to Postmasters that has best prepared me to serve as a voice for the membership on the National Executive Board and to guide the direction of our new organization.

I have great confidence in our shared future in UPMA. As a unified organization, we can speak with a single voice for Postmasters and Managers across the county. As national secretary treasurer, I pledge to use my skills and experience to grow our organization and to provide members with unparalleled representation, education, and support. I am requesting your vote and support in my election for the position of UPMA national secretary treasurer.



Making a difference through sound leadership – that's my goal! I'm Susan Rice, candidate for UPMA National Vice President for the East. Being a Postmaster and serving my fellow Postmasters and Postal Managers is a passion of mine. I was on the NAPUS National Executive Board in 2014-2016 as we worked to blend our two organizations, and I welcome the opportunity to serve our membership again as we continue to grow.

As a NAPUS National VP, I worked directly with the Northeast, Great Lakes, Eastern, Cap Metro, and Southern Areas. I was an active participant in the national pilot program for Postmaster Essentials training for Level 18 – 20 Postmasters and am a Course Facilitator for the Alabama District and the Southern Area. I believe that it is important for our organization to continue to encourage our growth as leaders within the USPS with continued training opportunities. I am currently Co-President for the Alabama Chapter and have served my chapter in various capacities through the years.

As a Postmaster, I understand the everyday challenges we face as managers. I will represent the membership of UPMA as we build upon our past to make our future better. Thank you for your consideration.

Retirees' Corner

Ted Stirling, State President



I hope everyone has had a safe and uneventful Winter. Most of the retirees I speak with can't believe how much the Postal Service has changed since we were active Postmasters. Does anyone out there remember some of the things we had to figure out each day? Things like DCEA and other factors which we had to use a calculator, yes a calculator, to arrive at the answer. Remember DUVRS? We measured all of the mail by .25, .50, .75 or 1.00 ft. Now the mail is measured in inches or the totals are sent to you via computer. We thought that we had a lot of acronyms to remember, today I have no idea what the new ones even stand for.

When we inspected a route we had to have our clip board, a few pencils and make sure we wrote down all of the vital information on the 3999. Before I retired I was using a handheld computer to do the same thing. I guess it just shows how much things change over time. The things that don't change are very important; things like keeping your finances in shape, accident reporting, and the reporting all delayed or curtailed mail daily. Those things can result in disciplinary action if not taken seriously. There is no shame in having delayed mail. If you fail to report it and you are discovered, you risk the possibility of discipline.

If any active postmaster has a problem they can't solve or a question they don't now the answer to just remember to PICK UP THE PHONE and call one of your peers. Since PostPlan, many postmasters have either retired, lost their positions, or have been promoted.

Retired postmasters are a resource that many forget about. We may not know all of the new acronyms or programs that are current, but we are willing to help if called upon. The retirees are a huge "brain trust" filled with the knowledge of many years of faithfully doing our jobs. If you have a question that a retiree can help you with, don't hesitate to call upon us.

One thing that everyone can do is make us aware of any postmaster or manager who is about to retire. We want to increase our ranks. If you know anyone who is interested in joining UPMA as an associate member let us know. Remember, "we can do more together than we can do alone," to paraphrase the old NAPUS slogan.

Well, Spring will be here soon and the flowers and other plants will be poking their heads out of the ground. I don't know about you, but I can't wait. Hope to see many of you at our NJ State UPMA convention at Bally's on May 30th to June 1st. I'm looking forward to the convention and to our dinner at Carmine's.

"Travel makes one modest. You see what a tiny place you occupy in the world" - Gustave Flaubert



Notes from the Gypsy PM

Debbie Stubbs, Retired



Spring is Sprung! Well, in Florida it's been spring for a couple of months already. Our winter was absolutely fabulous! My heating bill is usually higher than the air conditioning bill as we get a bone-chilling cold. Of course living in a cinder block house and getting older has a lot to do with it too - but I think we had 2 days of cold and I only turned the heat on once! Never wore a coat, just a hoodie. Totally awesome!

I went to the FL UPMA steak-out in January along with 150+ other folks. It was like a mini-convention! I sat with Mikki and Lorraine and made up the NJ contingency. Signature FCU even had a table set up and as always it was great to see Paula.

In February I went to Englewood (FL not NJ) tarro for a weekend. two of us went and visit-interesting, vivacious pens to be Wayne's hours with her and found younger she lived near She mentioned places small world. After leav-north to Venice to meet birds for lunch. Since I earlier than our meeting walked the beach look-n't find any but got a During February I also rental apartment as their I really enjoyed painting.



and visited Linda Man-What a great time! The ed Fran Orshak a really, lady! Oh yeah- she hap-Mom. We spent a few out that when she was some relatives of mine. that I knew! What a ing Linda's I drove friends who are snow-had gotten there much time @ Sharkey's I ing for shark teeth. Did-few really pretty shells. helped paint a friend's tenant had moved out.

The following day I went with the photo club I GREAT field trip! I know, FLORIDA??? Well the (south of Orlando) has and cowboys. It was the 89th Annual All Florida Championship and had participants from throughout the US and Canada. I took over 350 pictures and got some great shots.

to the Arcadia Rodeo belong to. What a I know - a RODEO - In middle of the state an awful lot of cattle

I spoke to a fellow traveler the other night and found out that she uses the Traveler's Century Club's country and territories list to determine the amount of countries she has visited. I've always wanted to join this club, attainable when you visit 100 of the listings. Now I'm in a quandary! According to their list I've visited 79 places on their list, BUT - Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico and St. Thomas are listed separately from the USA because "they are removed from the parent country either geographically, politically or ethnologically". Just as Ireland is separated into Ulster (Northern Ireland) and Eire (Southern Ireland). And I can even list countries that I've landed in on a connecting flight to my final destination! Now - the quandary- do I use their list as I REALLY do want to join the club at 79 or use the list I've maintained at 67 countries? When y'all see me please let me know your thoughts as I'm asking every-one's opinion!



(PROPOSED)
BYLAWS OF THE NEW JERSEY CHAPTER
of the UNITED POSTMASTERS AND MANAGERS OF AMERICA

Preamble

The purposes for which this Chapter is organized as a part of national organization, United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA), shall be to provide a vehicle through which members may assist one another in matters connected with their employment in the United States Postal Service; to foster a favorable image of public service; to; assure the users of the mails the best service possible improve the conditions under which individuals work, having concern for salaries, hours of employment, working environment, and related issues; to cooperate with other groups and levels of postal management in the achievement of common goals.

Article I – Name

This organization shall be known as the New Jersey Chapter of the United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA).

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to affiliate with and become a part of the national UPMA organization.

Article III – Membership

Any person as designated by the UPMA Governing Documents to be a member of the national Organization shall be considered a member in this Chapter but no member in arrears for dues shall be recognized or permitted any of the privileges at its conventions.

Article IV – Meetings

The annual convention of the organization shall be held at the time and city as set by the “annual convention one year or more prior to that convention,” provided however, that the president may, with the approval of the majority of the executive board, and for good and sufficient reason change the time and or place previously fixed. **All chapter conventions must be completed prior to the start of the National Convention.**

Special meetings may be called by the president, and shall be called on the request in writing by a majority of the executive committee or on demand in writing of ten (10) percent of the paid up membership of this chapter.

The chapter secretary/treasurer shall mail notice of meetings to members of the executive committee at least ten (10) days prior to the date specified for such meetings.

In any convention of this chapter, all members who are present and registered for the convention shall constitute a quorum.

Robert Rules of Order shall govern the deliberations of this chapter.

Article V – Election of Officers

The officers of this chapter shall be a president, executive vice president, a secretary/treasurer, the immediate past president who shall serve for a term of one year beginning on November 1 of the year a newly elected president shall assume office, the president of the postmasters retired, editor, who together with the 3 vice presidents, shall constitute the executive committee, and the governing body of the chapter.

The president, executive vice-president, and 3 vice presidents shall be elected at the annual convention to serve a term of 3 years. The term of office shall commence on November 1st and will end on October 31st. The officers shall be limited to 1 consecutive term of office. The secretary/treasurer, and the other 3 vice presidents shall be elected at the annual convention in a subsequent year to serve a term of 3 consecutive years. The term of office shall commence on November 1st and end on October 31st. The secretary-treasurer may be elected to serve 1 term of office.

The new executive committee shall hold an organizational meeting within 60 days of November 1st each year.

Additional or other nominations may be made from the floor, if seconded and approved, and shall be included with the list of recommendations made by the nominating committee for determining by ballot of those present and qualified to vote in said election. If there shall be more than two nominations for any office, balloting shall continue until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.

(PROPOSED)
BYLAWS OF THE NEW JERSEY CHAPTER
of the UNITED POSTMASTERS AND MANAGERS OF AMERICA (Continued)

With the exception of the positions of President and Executive Vice President, which shall be limited to active EAS members who are members in good standing of the organization, retired postmasters, retired EAS employees and Postmaster Reliefs shall be permitted to hold office in this chapter provided they are present at the meeting where the vote will be taken and that no other active EAS member seeks the office. Any active member who is an officer of this chapter, who during their term shall resign or be removed for any cause whatsoever, from the position that qualified them for active membership, shall immediately become ineligible to hold office and their office shall be declared vacant.

Article VI – President

The president shall preside at all meetings of the chapter, shall call special meetings when requested to do so as provided in Article IV. They shall also preside at the meetings of the executive committee and appoint all committees for the proper handling of the business of this chapter and in general perform such duties as may pertain to the office. The president shall receive such compensation for their services as the executive committee may provide.

Article VII – Executive Vice President

The executive vice president shall serve in the absence or disability of the president and work with the president as needed. This position will be a separately elected position and must be an active member. Should the office of the president be vacated, the executive vice president will serve the remaining term. The remaining term of the vacant position of the executive vice president shall be filled by the executive committee.

In addition, the executive vice president shall serve as the Membership Chair for the chapter. It shall be their duty to promote membership for the organization, and insure that the chapter always has a strong membership. The executive vice president shall receive such compensation for their services as the executive committee may provide.

Article VIII – At Large Vice Presidents

The At Large Vice Presidents will be responsible for the following duties:

One Vice President will serve as Education Chair. It will be their duty to work with the President in aligning training that is deemed necessary and appropriate for the membership.

One Vice President will serve as the Legislative Chair. It will be their duty to handle legislative activity within the chapter.

One Vice President will serve as the Political Action Committee (PAC) Chair. It will be their duty to handle any PAC activities within the chapter.

The above three Vice Presidents will have their duties assigned by the executive committee at the Executive Board organizational meeting.

In the event of a vacancy in the vice presidential position, the vacancy shall be filled by the executive committee.

Article IX – Secretary-Treasurer

The secretary-treasurer shall combine the office of secretary and treasurer, and shall perform all duties commonly incident to both offices. The secretary-treasurer shall be bonded, as well as all executive members with fiscal responsibility to the organization, as provided in Article XV hereof and shall receive such compensation for their services as the executive committee may provide. The secretary-treasurer shall keep all records, record the proceedings of all conventions and meetings of the executive committee, deposit, withdraw and have custody of the funds of the chapter and shall be responsible to keep an accurate and complete account of the receipts, vouchers and membership. In the event of a vacancy in the position of secretary-treasurer, the vacancy shall be filled by the executive committee.

Article X – Editor

An editor may be appointed by the executive committee. At which time they become a voting member of the committee. It shall be the editor's duty to publish the official newspaper of the New Jersey Chapter of UPMA. The editor shall receive such compensation for their services as the executive committee may provide.

(PROPOSED)
BYLAWS OF THE NEW JERSEY CHAPTER
of the UNITED POSTMASTERS AND MANAGERS OF AMERICA (Continued)

Article XI – Executive Committee

The officers of this chapter shall be a president, executive vice president, 3 at large vice presidents, a secretary-treasurer, the immediate past president who shall serve a term of one year beginning on November 1st of the year a newly elected president assumes office, the president of Postmasters Retired and editor, shall constitute the executive committee and the governing body of the chapter.

It shall be the duty of the executive committee to carry out the orders of the chapter as expressed in the convention, it shall have direct control of all business of the chapter and its affairs, it shall be the power of the executive committee to authorize necessary expenditures; to audit all accounts; approve the expenses of the executive officers and in general perform all the functions ordinarily attached to such committee.

The executive committee shall have the power to remove any of its members for good and sufficient reason by two-thirds vote of the committee when in session.

Article XII – Sergeant-At-Arms

At the opening of each convention the president shall appoint a master sergeant-at-arms and the necessary assistant sergeants-at-arms, and it shall be their duty to maintain order and perform such other duties as designated by the president.

Article XIII – National Convention Roll Call Voting Procedure

When preparing for roll call votes to be cast on elections, amendments, etc., at the National Convention the vote shall be taken by paper ballot at the annual Chapter Convention. The results of that paper ballot shall govern the procedure, by percentage, for how the Chapter's votes will be cast at the National Convention by the Chapter President. The results of the votes shall be recorded by the National Officer present at the convention, as well as in the official minutes of the Chapter convention. The National Officer and the Chapter President must send the results to the National Office within ten (10) days of the conclusion of the Chapter convention. On the issue of elections, the Chapter's official vote must be taken at the Chapter convention in the year that the election will take place at the National convention. **This procedure cannot be changed prior to October 31, 2018, in accordance with the National Bylaws Article XI, Section 1, paragraph 14.**

Article XIV - Bonds

The secretary-treasurer shall be required to be bonded in the amount deemed sufficient by the executive committee, said bond to be executed by a surety company approved the executive committee and the premium on such bond shall be paid by the chapter.

Article XV – Dues

The annual dues of the members of this Chapter shall be the same as provided in the governing documents of the national organization.

Article XVI – Official Publication

There may be established an official publication of this Chapter, to be published up to 6 times per year. The publication will be distributed to the membership and others. The official publication will be named – Garden State UPMA. In addition, the Chapter may maintain a website for the dissemination of information. The executive committee, as the governing body of the Chapter, shall have editorial control over the official publication(s).

Article XVII – Amendments

All proposed amendment(s) must be submitted in writing to the Chapter president at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the annual Chapter convention. The proposed amendment(s) shall be published prior to the convention. These bylaws may be amended at any convention of the chapter by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting. Any proposed amendment(s) shall be read at one session of the convention and voted on at a subsequent session. These amendment(s) shall become effective immediately upon the adjournment of the convention unless otherwise specified in the amendment.

Consumer Fraud

Protection Week

Postmasters, U.S. Postal Inspectors, & the South Jersey Postal Customer Council: Guest Speakers on Consumer Protection

Cherry Hill & Avalon, NJ – The South Jersey Postal Customer Council (SJPCC), along with the assistance of several Postmasters and Postal Inspectors, hosted two Consumer Fraud Awareness Seminars in New Jersey during the Federal Trade Commission’s National Consumer Protection Week: March 5 – 11, 2017. Every year, Consumer Protection Week combines the resources offered by federal agencies and their partners to encourage our communities to manage their credit scores, their money accounts, how to stay safe online, and to understand how to steer clear from fraudulent scams.

The first seminar was on Friday, March 3, 2017. The speakers teamed up with the local JCC in Cherry Hill, NJ. Postal Inspectors George Clark and Thomas Ninan provided a down-to-earth and engaging presentation on the roles each of us play, not only protecting ourselves from identity theft and fraudulent scams, but protecting our loved ones and our fellow neighbors.



After the event, Cherry Hill Postmaster Rob Hudson and his supervisor Russell Carmody made themselves readily available to speak with their town members on the numerous topics discussed.



The second seminar was on Thursday, March 09, 2017, and was held at the Avalon Community Center.

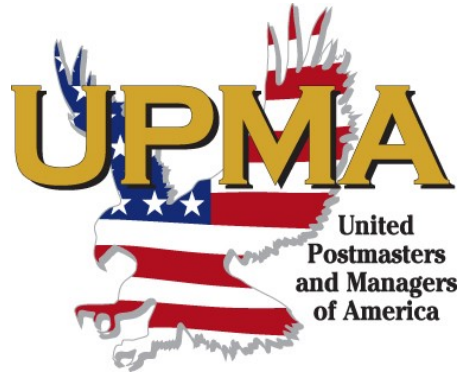


Postal Inspector Tony Fenu and several Postmasters addressed the crowd of community members in a panel forum. Many community residents, including officers from the local police department, participated in an enjoyable discussion on ways to stay safe in today’s technological world. Inspector Fenu utilized the old adage that “if it seems too good to be true, then it probably isn’t.”

Postmaster and SJPCC Postal Chair Bernadette Puodziunas and Postmaster Mandeep Kaur reminded everyone that our local carriers, clerks, supervisors, and Postmasters are always working together to protect the communities we serve.



UPMA—New Jersey Chapter
The Garden State Tribune
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Members can submit change of address updates online at www.unitedpma.org. To log in, you will need your membership ID (located directly above your name on the UPMA Leader) and your last name. Go to Update Names and Addresses, then Edit Your Record.

Place Label Here



H.R. 756—THE POSTAL REFORM ACT OF 2017

