

**UNITED POSTMASTERS AND MANAGERS OF AMERICA  
GARDEN STATE TRIBUNE**

**2018 Publication of the Year**



**2018 NJ UPMA Group Picture Submitted by: Debbie Stubbs,  
Retired Postmaster and Traveler Extraordinaire**

**Congratulations to President-Elect Dan Heins**

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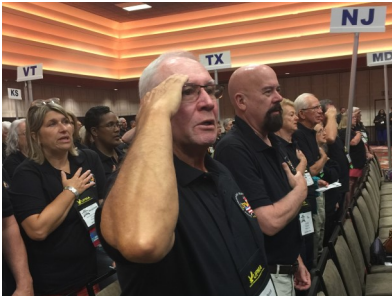
**Upcoming Events**

**2018 Southern Officers Conference**

**UPMA 2019 Legislative Summit  
January 28—29, 2019**

**Make the Call:  
to your Representatives and Senators**

# 2nd Annual UPMA National Convention—Reno, NV



July 2018—Photos Courtesy NJ UPMA



**United Postmasters and Managers of America**

**2018 Executive Board Effective Nov. 1, 2017**

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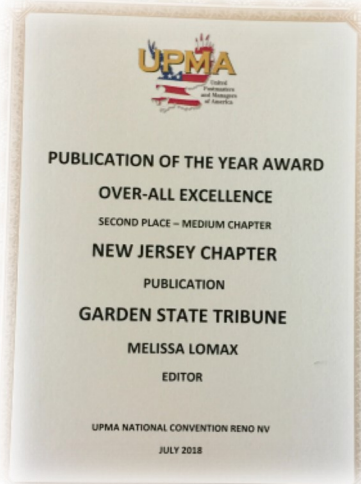
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**Welcome to Volume 2, Issue 4!**



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 or the United States Postal Service.



**United Postmasters and Managers of America**

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## Editor's Letter

**Honorable Melissa Lomax**  
Postmaster Avalon

### **Subject: My Heartfelt Notice to Step Down as Editor, Effective 9/30/18**

Dear NJ UPMA President Sparano, NJ UPMA Executive Board, NJ UPMA Appointed Members and NJ UPMA membership,

After very long consideration, and many heart-to-heart conversations with myself, yes myself, I have made the decision to step down as our chapter's editor. The past 12 years as a dedicated and enthused member of what was NAPUS, and what is UPMA, has provided me with tremendous opportunities to work beside each and every one of you at one point or another.

I truly value our professional working relationship and I admire you for your own tenacity to generously share your talents, skills, and time to better one another, find success in our initiatives, and continue to positively affect our organization.

I am grateful for all of you one of us who were once and supporting our

I am also grateful for all of take a step back, to refocus to what is most important es of your life. I commend self, to your family, to your found focus; for the ability to "hand over the wheel" is

The opportunities that I ber of NAPUS and UPMA, hone my skills in many positions that I have held: As-geant at Arms, VP of 082-Chair, Host State National Editor, to my most beloved Winning publication - The made my decision to va-by this September 30, pointed editor to begin on willing to offer my service winter 2019 edition, to al-with the new editor.

This, my last publication, is two-in-one edition. I was magazines that I would re-do). The ones where the fall season fashions would consist of the first half of the magazine and the winter season fashions would be flipped and begin anew from the back cover. I am grateful for the relationship with our trusty printer, whom had enabled me to create this edition.

I am truly blessed to have come to my decision to step down as editor, not under any negative circumstances, nor illness, nor loss, nor frustration of any kind. In fact, I am feeling quite the opposite. I am confident in the work I have provided over the past two years as our editor, especially in the merging of two fine organizations into one great organization. My goal was to provide a most visually appealing, enriching, and positive publication and WE did! Thank you for all of your constructive criticism, honest feedback, and especially for your timely submissions!

I trust that you will honor and respect my decision. Moreover, I trust that you understand that I still stand as a dedicated member of UPMA, however, I have decided to focus all of my extra time to bettering my and my family's overall work/school/life balance, which equates to our overall health and wellness.

Sincerely,



who paved the way for each "newbies;" enabling, inspiring, thoughts, ideas, and hard work.

you, who were enlightened to and redirect your own priorities, to you during the various stag-you for remaining true to your-organization, and to your new-to acknowledge when it is time most humbling.

have been privy to as a mem-have allowed me to grow and sitions. From the various posi-sistant Sergeant at Arms, Ser-084, State Convention Co-Convention Co-Chair, Assistant role of Editor of our Award-Garden State Tribune - I have cate our state editor's position 2018, in time for a new ap-October 1, 2018. I would be for one additional edition, the low for a stress-free transition

actually a first of its kind - a inspired by all of those fashion ceive as a young girl (and still



## President's Message

**Honorable Dave Sparano,**  
Postmaster West Caldwell



Stop on a dime: Pre-convention: I was worried about my office coverage: short clerks, short carriers, in the middle of primetime, ridiculous mandates coming out of the district via the NE area. My focus was to set up a schedule my supervisors could follow and get to the UPMA National Convention, so that I could compare what was going on in our two districts to other districts throughout the country. I was calling and messaging friends from around the country. "Let's catch up for dinner, let's discuss solutions for our mutual concerns, and let's build one another up!" Then SLAM, a phone call...I'm needed at the hospital. My wife of 32 years is sick. Then, the word we all dread...Cancer...pivot focus.

Encouraged by the words treatable and contained. I continued on my journey to the National Convention, but as the phone calls got more discouraging, I realized that I had made an effort to attend the national convention in judgement. I was not doing my wife, myself, my family, or my organization any good by staying in Reno, Nevada. We have great team for NJ UPMA, this I know and this I would rely on. They can handle this. With one phone call, my flight was changed and I was headed home.

Work? The post office has lasted over 200 years. My 31 years of being an employee are good, but I am far from indispensable. My whole focus needed to be home. Maria will be fine, I kept telling myself. Although she has a long treatment period ahead; complicated by an added diagnosis of cirrhosis. So why am I sharing this? Because I want you to take heed of the following: take care of your family and take care of yourself. Work is important, but at what cost are we putting work ahead of our own and our family's well-being? Those of us that bleed "postal blue" take extreme pride in what we do, but distracted focus doesn't help to make any one or any matter better.

Use FMLA if necessary. Take personal time already earned to care for yourself and your loved ones. Personal leave is part of your compensation package. Let your boss know if you are struggling. Ask for help. Talk to a fellow UPMA member. Get advice. My conversations with our executive team have proven to be invaluable. Special thanks to Bernadette for talking me down a few times.

Work: while I've been out, we lost two CCAs, 1 regular and a PSE (my other one was promoted). However, we are the United States Postal Service and we will continue to deliver to every house, every day, because that is what we do. We always find a way to get the job done.

Regarding UPMA's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Convention, this year in Reno, NV, I'll be leaving more detailed feedback on how it went to those who had their head in the game and who were able to participate in the entire convention. Although, I must say that the Nevada chapter did an exceptional job and our Postmaster General, Megan Brennan, gave a good talk to our membership. I hope her area vice presidents are getting the same message. There seems to be a continued disconnect on engagement and it seems to continue to grow. I remain hopeful that all of our leaders can strive to fix the gap.

Surrounding the goings-on in our New Jersey UPMA Chapter, there have been some very questionable disciplines and assignments occurring recently. In both the northern and southern parts of our state, our UPMA representatives are continuing to put their best foot forward by working to represent you. The only way we can adequately represent a member is, if a member performs the duties bestowed upon them in their postal roles with professionalism, honesty, and integrity. Everything else is defensible and debatable. I ask you to come to our meetings and get involved. Together, we can work with our postal management teams to make our respective post offices safe, efficient, profitable, and a great place to work. As always, I am proud to serve you.

### **UPCOMING UPMA EVENTS:**

**January 27 - 29, 2019: Legislative Summit,** Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel, 2800 South Potomac AVE, Arlington, VA 22202, (703) 413-1300

**July 27 - August 2, 2019: 2019 National Convention,** Mohegan Sun, CT, 866-708-1340

**2020 NATIONAL CONVENTION:** Omaha, NE

**"Man of Letters," July 24, 2018**  
**Author: Stephen Meyers for CityLab**

Permission to Print Received from: Nicole Flatow, Editor, CityLab, August 6, 2018

My fourth day delivering mail for the U.S. Postal Service, it snowed—one of those heavy, wet, spring-in-Colorado snows that knocks down tree branches and crushes newly-bloomed tulips. I was training with a veteran letter carrier on a walk-out route, the type where the carrier pushes a blue buggy full of mail and small packages. It's a lot harder, I discovered, to push that thing through slush. I schlepped my disheveled, wet self into downtown businesses where concerned secretaries took pity on me as I handed them their soaked mail. Welcome to the Postal Service. "Neither snow nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night ..." that's how the saying goes right? The rude welcome to the Postal Service quickly taught me mail delivery is no leisurely stroll through the neighborhood, dismantling the idyllic image of a smiling Mr. McFeeley handing out birthday cards in "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood." My first week on the job, I lost 5 pounds.

Being a mail carrier is *hard*. I'd eventually get used to the physical rigors of the job and learn the rhythms, tricks and routines of delivering mail, but what surprised me the most over the next 15 months working on the front lines of this vast, imperfect, but essential big-government institution is how the Postal Service delivers much more than just letters, magazines and Amazon packages to a neighborhood. I met elderly residents who lived alone and just wanted someone to talk to for a couple minutes a day. I saw how critical the Postal Service is for local businesses, like the one that ships dozens of Priority Mail boxes of custom-made zippers for wedding gowns across the country every day. I met strangers willing to donate grocery bags full of food during the long-running Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, which tallied 71.6 million pounds of food collected nationwide. I learned the value of a powerful union and experienced the most diverse workplace I've ever encountered. And most importantly, what I found while roving from house to house on foot was an intimate insight into my community and fellow Americans.

Like many who come to work for the Postal Service, I didn't find my way into the USPS because I had burning desire to deliver mail; I just needed a job. A laid-off journalist, I'd spent six months striking out on landing a writing gig and grew tired of the soul-sucking grind that is job searching. An old college friend was working happily delivering mail, and making more than I ever did in newspapering: The benefits are good, you don't take the job home with you, and there's lots of overtime if you want it. And the USPS is nearly always hiring, especially in metro areas in advance of the holiday shopping season. Colorado's Front Range, which includes Denver, Boulder, and Fort Collins, is currently short more than 500 positions.

The hiring process is long—I applied in mid-February and didn't start until May—and includes two exams, a personality assessment, and the 473 Postal Exam, which tests your ability to check addresses for errors, accurately fill out forms, and memorize and recall lists of street addresses. I had to also pass a drug test (that's the biggest hurdle to hiring in weed-legal Colorado, the Fort Collins Postmaster told me) and an exhaustive background check. Then it was off to city carrier academy, where veteran carriers taught my fellow classmates and me the tricks of organizing and carrying mail and how to drive the postal vehicles. We each got a navy blue USPS hat and T-shirt and were sent to our respective post offices to begin our postal careers; I was now a USPS employee, working as a city carrier assistant. In the evenings I'd continue my search for a Plan B career after journalism, but for the other 8-to-10 hours a day (and up to 12 during holiday season) I'd deliver mail and packages to residents of Fort Collins, Colorado. A *lot* of packages. Receive an Instant Pot for Christmas? Yeah, so did your neighbor. My record was 18 delivered in one day—we saw that craze coming on well before Black Friday. The old-timers at my office remember the days they'd deliver, five, maybe, 10 packages a day. Now it's more like 50 or 60 a day, from 40-pound bags of dog food (a particular pain in the ass) to furniture and food-in-a-box meal kits. The Postal Service wasn't really built for the Amazon era: Our (badly outdated) vehicles don't have enough space to house them, and few have shelves, leaving carriers to play an Amazon box-sized game of Jenga every day.

Delivering the mail gives you a granular insight into America's growing cultural, political, and wealth divide. (Side note on those trucks, called LLVs, or Long Life Vehicles: Most are about 30 years old, with that many years of cigarette smoke soaked into the seats; they lack airbags or air conditioning, and the heaters are less than effective. The USPS is facing a major budget challenge because it needs to replace up to 180,000 of these elderly machines over the next several years, which is going to cost more than \$6 billion.)

**"Man of Letters" (continued from page 6) , July 24, 2018**  
**"What I learned about America, and myself, working as a mail carrier."**

Every Sunday we'd fill our LLVs with 100 to 175 Amazon packages, thanks to USPS' exclusive contract with the e-commerce giant—that's the one that the president keeps objecting to, though it's been a revenue source for the cash-strapped service. And, no fail, every Sunday, customers would ask why I was working and I'd jokingly (is it a joke, though?) tell them "Because Amazon is taking over the world." Other comments I'd hear almost every day: "You bringing me a check today?" "You can keep the bills." "This one better be a winner!" (I had no idea Publisher's Clearing House was still a thing, but it is, especially in low-income and senior-living communities.) "You staying cool out there?" (The answer is always "No, but I'm trying!"). No one is ever *upset* to see their mail carrier, you know? This was so foreign to me, as a journalist who was used to being less warmly received. And while predictable and routine and mostly about the weather, I loved these little conversations with residents along my route. When kids saw me driving around the corner, they'd drop their ballgame and race me down the sidewalk. Others were excited to see me because I was about to be a lucky customer at their lemonade stand.

At the retirement home, residents greeted me every day at the wall of mailboxes; if I'd show up five minutes early or five minutes late, they'd jokingly let me have it. "You know, Sue is usually here by 3:30!" Residents learned my name, and more importantly I learned the intricacies of their neighborhoods. A fellow carrier, a Fort Collins native and Mexican American, proudly showed me his home that's part of the historically Hispanic neighborhood that I had never taken the time to properly explore and experience on foot. I learned from longtime residents how they felt about the gentrification happening in pockets of Fort Collins. This booming college town has outgrown its farming and ranching roots and is transforming into a progressive tech hub, known for its breweries and affinity for bike lanes, coffee shops, and high-priced boutiques. Delivering the mail gives you a granular insight into America's growing cultural, political, and wealth divide. North of town, there's a senior-living mobile home community sitting in the shadow of newly-built eco-friendly condos that sell for half a million dollars. Residents at the condos subscribe to *The Atlantic* and *New Yorker*; residents in the trailer park a few hundred feet away get *People* and *National Enquirer*.

After several months, the rhythms of carrying mail became second nature; I'd successfully carried nearly every one of the office's 50 routes around the city. I also became familiar with the downsides of the job. As one might expect at a financially beleaguered organization that's been losing money for more than a decade, office morale was often low: Nearly every week, there'd be a shouting match between carriers complaining about mail arriving late to the office, thus delaying and extending their day, and management only shrugging their shoulders and saying that's an issue out of their control. Clerks, whose duties include working the front desk helping customers and sorting mail and packages (sometimes overnight), were brutally overworked, often clocking 60- to 70-hour weeks. Many of my coworkers felt trapped: Sure, the job sucked sometimes, but where else can you find a secure job that pays as well? It was my relationships with fellow carriers and clerks—a diverse group, from first-generation Americans to military veterans—that made the job bearable most days. But once I landed a long-sought communications gig, I made the decision to move on from the USPS.

After I shared my Postal Service experience in a thread on Twitter that went semi-viral, I received dozens of comments from readers who shared their nostalgia and affection for this beloved and embattled American institution. One told me about a mail carrier who heard a smoke alarm going off in an empty house and alerted a neighbor. Others were children of postal workers, grateful for the livelihoods that the jobs provided. "Both my parents retired from the post office," one reader told me. "My mom started when she was just 19 years old. It's not what it used to be.... They work the new folks into the ground, so I hear. I try to tip my carrier well for dealing with the BS." The response made me even more proud of my time wearing the blue uniform; I'm more deeply connected to my community and have a better understanding of my fellow Americans. From now on, I'll tip my mail carrier well. You should, too.

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*About the Author*

*Stephen Meyers - Stephen Meyers worked as a mail carrier for the United States Postal Service in 2017 and 2018. His writing has appeared in USA Today and newspapers in Colorado and Idaho.*

# 2nd Annual UPMA National Convention—Reno, NV





# July 2018—Photos Courtesy of UPMA Photography



# Editor's Message

**Honorable Melissa Lomax**  
Postmaster Avalon



So this happened at our 2nd Annual UPMA (United Postmasters and Managers of America) National Convention this past July 21 - 27, 2018...

**CONGRATULATIONS to YOU** my fellow New Jersey UPMA Members AND **CONGRATULATIONS to US** for creating an Award-Worthy publication (two years in a row ) filled with positive postal happenings, intelligently written editorials, interesting feature stories, and a whole lot more!

I have two words to share with you surrounding my position as our state editor: **EVER GRATEFUL!** I am ever grateful for your timely submissions and for your continued support of my editorial position!

I am ever grateful for those who have paved the way for our organization to have such a newsworthy presence for our local and national membership. I am ever grateful to our National office for honoring us with the **2018 Publication of the Year Award for Overall Excellence!**



Feel free to pass on a 1187 or a 1187R to a future member! Be certain to have them check out our Award Winning Publication on our chapter's website at [www.njupma.org](http://www.njupma.org)!

Way to go NJ UPMA!  
Respectfully yours, Melissa Lomax, NJ UPMA Editor, SJPC Communications Chair, & Avalon Postmaster

# Postmaster Representation

**Honorable Butch Belanger**  
Postmaster Retired



Hello again my fellow active and retired Postmasters. Many things have happened over the pass few a direct impact on both members. I had attend-UPMA National Convention this past July.

In this article you will see beautiful Lake Tahoe, Resurrounding cities like City. While others were I was playing golf at the Country Club. I enjoyed a information filled week

mation that will affect level 18 and 20 Postmas-ate future. If you turn back to page 20, you can the EAS pay package.

Again we had the pleasure of hearing our PMG dress our membership. She shared many topics, the opposing viewpoints surrounding what will Postal Service and the movement that is in privatize our great company. I dislike hearing coming from the very people that we have elected. How would it be remotely possible to break apart the greatest federal agency that gives universal service AND delivers to each and every residential and business address, each and every day. (continued on next page)



months which have active and retired ed our 2nd Annual tion in RENO, NV

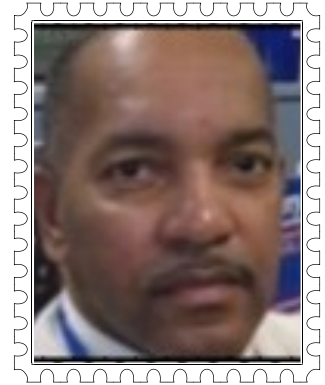
many pictures of no, along with the Carson and Virginia touring these areas, beautiful Lakeridge very relaxing and with new infor-ters in the immedi-see the changes to

Megan Brennan ad-most importantly, become of the U.S. Washington trying to such murmuring

## Chaplin's Corner

**Honorable Prescott Butler**  
Postmaster Retired

Recently I attended the National Convention for the National Association of Postal Supervisors. Our United Postmasters and Managers of America Association co-presidents Sean Accord and Tony Leonardi were also in attendance. When I look at the two organizations and the power we possess, I cannot understand why we do not work together. **Even if we have dissimilar ways of going about things, there are certain fundamental goals that should unify us all.**



***One for all, and all for one; Un pour tous, tous pour un***

Here is an article that was posted on the UPMA website by Frank Augustosky: "On June 28<sup>th</sup>, the Postal Service released the EAS pay package decision letter that was to cover through fiscal year 2019. Immediately upon receipt, Sean Acord and Tony Leonardi requested a meeting with Executive Postal Leadership in an effort to resolve some concerns. At 10:00 a.m. on June 29<sup>th</sup>, a meeting was held, the results of which, were believed to be very productive at the time. A follow-up meeting took place on Thursday, July 5<sup>th</sup> of July, at which time a verbal agreement was reached. An extension was also granted to the time line in which UPMA would have to file for "fact finding" under Title 39. Your UPMA Board held a teleconference that same evening to discuss the changes agreed upon. It was a unanimous vote to forgo "fact finding" providing that all changes discussed were actually implemented. The modified pay package was released on July 20<sup>th</sup>."

UPMA went one way and NAPS went the other. This article is not to promote one organization over the other because I am a member of both. But I believe when it comes to issues like EAS pay packages, working conditions, and employee morale, we should come together as one. Alone we can do so little, but together we can do so much.

Virginia Burden stated, **"Cooperation is the thorough conviction that nobody can get there unless everybody gets there."** Once we decide to work with each other, and not separately, it will start to become clear that unity creates power. Where there is unity there is always victory. You may ask what does this have to do with the chaplain's message. Well, here it is. A quote from John 17:22, "and the glory which You gave me, I have given them, that they may be one, just as we are one." There is power in oneness. It may be time to rethink our strategy.

*(Butch Belanger: continued from page 10)* During the week in Reno, I listened to our headquarters representatives taking questions from the field on the continuing issue of upper management not treating our Postmasters with dignity and respect. As an employee, you must know your rights under Title 39. Always reach out to us that are here to represent you, even if it is to ask a simple question. Your fellow retirees are still very active and are willing to help in anyway we can. Until next time, I just wanted to say : "Thank you for what each and every one of you do, each and every day, for your customers and your communities! God Bless America!

**WITHDRAW CANDIDACY FOR NAT'L RETIRED VICE PRESIDENT:** *from Butch Belanger, July 31, 2018*

To all my friends and fellow retired Postmasters:

I first want to thank all my personal friends for coming on board with me to help me to get my candidacy in motion. Since I returned home on Thursday, I have been the bearer of personal bad news and I have to say that it will not allow me to be able to spend the time to run a proper campaign or be able to commit to run for the Position of VP for 2020. I do feel bad about this and when I am able to explain better of this decision I will, but for now I just want to stop any and all rumors. I thank all of you that had the confidence in me to commit early on my behalf. I will also personally thank all members of my team for coming on board to assist me in my short lived candidacy. I will always support our organization and I will hopefully see all of you next year at the 3rd Annual UPMA National Convention.

**UPMA Director of Government Relations**

**Bob Levi,**  
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**Senate Confirms 2 Board of Governors; President Nominates 2 More**  
**Posted on [www.unitedpma.org](http://www.unitedpma.org) by Bob Levi on 08/29/18**

Yesterday, the U.S. Senate confirmed Robert Duncan and David Williams as members of the Postal Service Board of Governors by voice vote. In addition, President Trump nominated Ron Bloom and Roman Martinez IV to the Board of Governors. Governors Duncan and Williams will join Postmaster General Megan Brennan and Deputy Postmaster General Ron Stroman on the Board. The position to which Duncan was confirmed expires on December 8, 2018; and Williams' position expires on December 8, 2019. Their terms may be extended for one year should the President not nominate a successor prior to expiration of their respective appointments.

David Williams is the immediate past USPS Inspector General, and Robert Duncan a former chairman of both the Republican National Committee and the Tennessee Valley Authority. Board of Governor nominee Ron Bloom occupied positions in a number of labor organizations and was part of the Treasury Department during the Obama Administration, with responsibilities in economic policy and manufacturing. In 2011, he was retained by the NALC to provide advice on postal reform.

Nominee Roman Martinez has been a director at the Cigna Corporation and a partner of Lehman Brothers, where he served for more than thirty years. Bloom is being nominated for a board position that expires December 8, 2020, and Martinez is being nominated for a position that expires December 8, 2024. Should their nominations be confirmed by the Senate, there would remain 5 Board of Governor vacancies, all of whom must be nominated by President Trump and confirmed by the Senate.



Bob Levi hosts his version of Jeopardy. Contestants, including our own legislative chair, Tim Hunt (far right) answered questions on a wide variety of UPMA and postal legislative trivia.

**PLEASE CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVE AND SENATORS:**

***Phone Script Opposing President Trump's Plan to Privatize US Postal Service***

White House Switchboard 202-456-1414

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am a registered voter from the state of \_\_\_\_\_ and want to express my strong opposition to the President's proposal to privatize the US Postal Service. The proposal was included in the President's June 21 plan to reorganize the federal government. The proposal undermines the credibility of the President's Task Force on the Postal System, which is due to finalize its recommendations by August 10. In addition, postal privatization would destroy universal mail service, raise postage rates and gut essential services to rural America. Thank you.

Capitol Switchboard 202-224-3121

I'm calling to urge Congressman \_\_\_\_\_ / Senator \_\_\_\_\_ to oppose the President Trump's June 20 proposal to privatize the US Postal Service. Furthermore, I ask the Congressman/Senator to convey his/her opposition of postal privatization to the President. The President's proposal undermines the credibility of his own Task Force on the Postal System, which is due to finalize its recommendations by August 10. In addition, postal privatization would destroy universal mail service, raise postage rates and gut essential services to rural America and other postal reliant communities. If the Congressman has any questions, please have him/her call me back. My phone number is \_\_\_\_\_. Thanks very much for your time.

# VP/Legislative Chair

**Honorable Tim Hunt,**  
Postmaster Monroe



As I write this we anticipate release of the report of the President’s task force on privatization in just a few days. While the task force’s conclusions were presumed to be predetermined in favor of privatization at the time of the task force’s commission in June, specific details are still not known. However, a few things to keep in mind:

1. No consensus in support of postal privatization exists among members of the Republican caucus in either the House or Senate.
2. With just approximately 10 weeks remaining between the report’s release and the midterm congressional elections, it seems unlikely that privatization and its implications for delivery changes in rural areas will be advanced now.
3. The leadership of the Republican majorities in each house who control the legislative calendar seems reluctant to add a potentially hot button issue to congressional debate so late in an already volatile political season.

This is the near term view, but because this election year seems to have produced a larger than usual number of competitive House races our focus through the fall campaign needs to be on the longer term implications for this election on postal employee and retiree interests. There are two such races in New Jersey, where the fight to replace retiring Representative Lobiondo is regarded by Cook’s Report as competitive, while the race in Representative Frelinghuysen’s district was described as a “toss up” in NJ Politico.

The most important factor in deciding November results and ultimately which party will form a ma-

majority in the new Congress is likely, as always, to be contingent upon voter turnout. Do you live in either of the districts cited above?

Make postal reform with all its implications a prime factor in determining your vote and where possible let your candidates know you will hold them accountable. All of us should engage friends, relatives and neighbors in a discussion of what postal reform issues mean to your life and interests.

For both voters and candidates few postal issues are going to sound compelling unless someone they know and respect explains how these matters impact them personally or have potential impact in the economy.

So, with no moving ahead of the prime reform efforts (House bill 6076 and Senate bill 2629) we can’t count on a continuing of the lack of partisan enthusiasm for privatization. It will remain at least a potential alternative until the representatives we elect in November agree to place reform on the legislative calendar and resolve to enact it.

The efforts we make now as active and forceful agents for our own interests are vital.



# VP/PAC Chair

**Honorable Darlene McNamee,**  
Postmaster Clayton



One of the things that hit home to me while at our convention in Reno was when Jeff Williamson spoke of the number of employees that came to work, but did not return home. I believe it was 145 in the last 5 years. We all know how important safety is and what we should be doing about it. My question to you is: ARE YOU WORKING SAFELY EVERY DAY? I certainly do not want to be the person who has to explain to my employee’s loved ones why they are not coming home. My employees and coworkers are like family to me and I want to see each of them return home to their families and friends after a SAFE and productive day at the office. Our district remains on the radar with the amount of accidents that we have already seen this year. A majority of these accidents result from mostly inattentive/distracted driving, more importantly, they are PREVENTABLE. Please be safe and return home to your loved ones every day!

# Retirees' President's Message

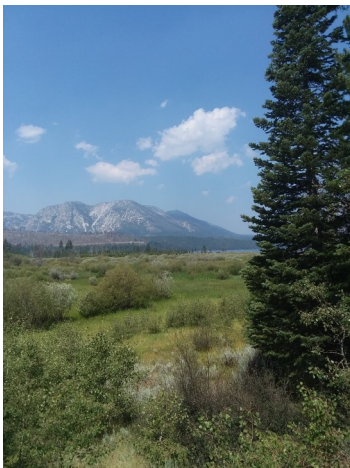
**Honorable Ted Stirling,**  
Postmaster Retired



I hope that everyone has had a great summer. This year the 2nd Annual National UPMA Convention was held in Reno/Sparks, Nevada. There were about 1,100 people in attendance.

Sunday was a busy day and night. There was a religious service in the morning and a retiree business meeting in the afternoon. Sunday evening there was a "Welcome Dinner". We were entertained by a gentleman dressed as Mark Twain. He recounted Mark Twain's journey to Nevada. It was interesting and the meal was delicious!

The convention opened on Monday with the presenting of the colors by a joint color guard consisting of the Reno/Sparks and the Nevada Police Departments. An group from Virginia City performed a gun fight, blanks, for entertainment.



The business meeting and we brought up the status and other Awards presented. The voting for National Convention gave us...

That afternoon the retiree business meeting was held. Elections were for National Retiree Treasurer and Secretary. Mandy Heslep-Whitten was elected Secretary and Charles Peters was elected Treasurer. We also voted on site selection for the 2020 National Convention.

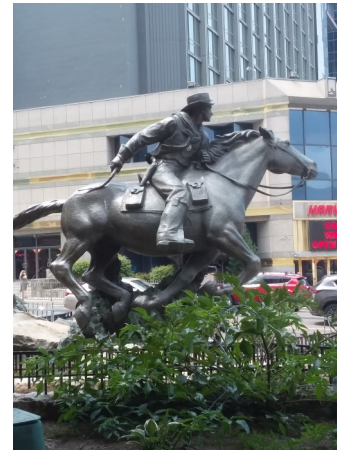
Monday evening was New Jersey state dinner night. We had a delicious dinner at The Steakhouse, a restaurant in the casino. We even celebrated two Postmasters' birthdays: Bill & Tracy! Happy Birthday!

Tuesday was a "free" day- no meetings. We traveled around Lake Tahoe (what a drive). The Nevada side of the lake has some beautiful beaches and look-outs. We crossed over to the California side and stopped at Taylor Creek Visitor Center at the Lake Tahoe Basin National Forest. We decided to take a walk through the forest. It was very peace-

ful walking through the trees and watching the wildlife.

On Wednesday morning, our very own NJ UPMA State President, Dave Sparano sang, "This Land is Your Land." Great job, Dave!

The Post-General, Brennan, about the conditions Postal Ser-thanked all our hard also took tions. Chief Officer, Daliams, also took ques-



master Megan spoke current of the vice, of us for work and ques- Operating vid Wil-spoke and tions.

The final the site se-the 2020 UPMA National Convention was Omaha, NE. Wednesday afternoon was the Retiree Luncheon.

On the last day of the convention, UPMA Retiree Scholarships were awarded to eight deserving students and Dan Heins was sworn in. Good luck president-elect Dan!

We traveled to Carson City: Nevada's capital. We toured the state museum which is filled with local historical items including the fossilized skeleton of a mammoth!



There is a replica silver mine museum in Carson City which was of a US Mint time. The City silver were minted

is also a mine in the um. Car-the home at one Carson dollars here.

The grand banquet was held late evening. Everyone from NJ had a great time!

Friday morning we packed our car to depart and set off for Sacramento, CA. The views were spectacular and you could see where there had been forest fires in the past. Our flight left on time and we spent the night in the air, arriving at Newark the next morning. What a trip! Hope to see you at the next meeting! Stay safe and healthy!

# Notes from the Gypsy PM

**Honorable Debbie Stubbs,**  
Postmaster Retired



The 2nd annual UPMA Convention was AWESOME! I really laughed when the Nevada Chapter said it would be hot, but a dry heat; as I remembered the same claim for a convention held in Salt Lake City in '96. It was like sticking your head in an oven! But they were right. Yes it was hot - in the 90's everyday BUT to-tally bearable.

to Tallac and the three heartiest of our group: Ted, Connie, and Frank, hiked all the way back to get the car and retrieve the rest of us who remained behind. We stopped for lunch in the town of Truckee.

Our President Dave sang at the opening ceremony on Wednesday and did a superb job! The site for 2020 was voted on and we're going to Omaha, NE! Us retirees enjoyed the retiree's luncheon and the entertainment. I attended the annual Signature FCU meeting.

I am so happy to be retired, as I joined 3 other retirees and their wives touring this beautiful area. We meandered up Geiger Mountain and visited Virginia City. Although we only had a short time to explore, we found the town very interesting as a lot of the buildings from the 1860's were still there. We stopped in Reno just to take a picture of the infamous sign: *"The Biggest Little City in the World."*

On Thursday the my group and I enjoyed the sites at the Nevada State Museum and the US Mint in Carson City. What an extremely informative and interesting place! The museum is actually housed in the old mint building and the displays about the mint were really cool. There was a section about life in the west, animals found in the area (including prehistoric ones) and much, much more. It was really cool that here we were in the capitol of Nevada and guess who we bumped in to: another New Jerseyan - Dot Gondola!

We attended Monday's general session and the retirees meeting where we voted for a new Treasurer: Congratulations Charley! We also voted on a site selection for the 2020 Convention. Our NJ dinner was held later in the evening and it was EXCELLENT!

We returned back to The Nugget hotel and casino Nugget to get ready for the evening's Grand Banquet. What an evening! The theme was Gold & Diamonds and everyone just sparkled!

This was the first time ever that our national office gave all of the attendees Tuesday off. This was my 36th Convention and I'm so happy they decided to do! Did I say I was happy to be retired? Seven of us traveled around Lake Tahoe, stopping at Taylor Creek National Forest where we walked a path to a beaver dam. Then we took the path to the Tallac Historical Site continuing to the Pope & Baldwin Estate, and the Valhalla Estate. We trekked back

The week went by super fast and I really enjoyed every minute of it! Seeing that Melissa won second place for the publishing of our fantastic magazine, hearing Dave sing, welcoming our state's two first-timers: Tim and Tracy, and celebrating two member's birthdays at our state dinner topped off my experience in Reno! Hope to see you at the Mohegan Sun in Connecticut in 2019!



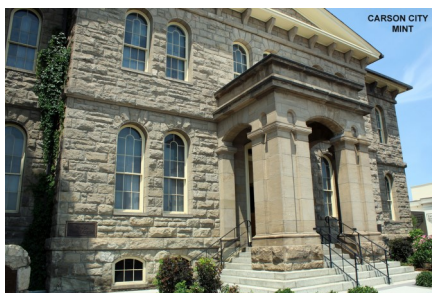
NEVADA STATE MUSEUM



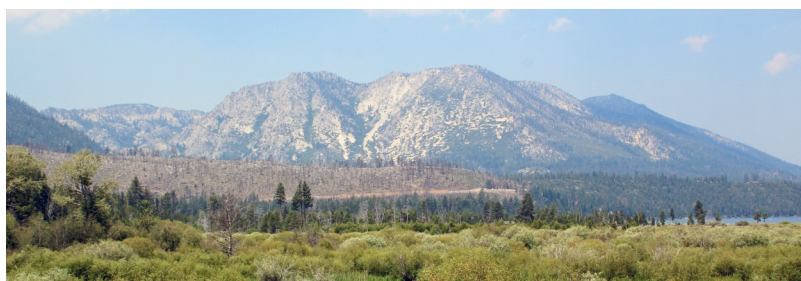
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**UPMA 2019 Legislative Summit**

Jan. 28-29

Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel

You also may register online at [www.unitedpma.org](http://www.unitedpma.org)



**Please note: one attendee per registration form.**

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Registration Fee: (please circle fee that applies)	Registration
On or before Jan. 1, 2019	\$25
After Jan. 1, 2019	\$50

**Hotel Information**

The UPMA National Office will reserve three rooms per UPMA chapter for the Legislative Summit at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel, 2800 South Potomac Ave., Arlington, VA 22202; 703-413-1300. The room rate of \$159 will be honored until Jan. 2, 2019, or until the room block is sold out, whichever comes first.

All reservations must be accompanied by the first night's room deposit. After Jan. 16, all first-night room deposits will be non-refundable. You may hold all three rooms in one name or individually.

Call Gerri Swarn, 703-683-9027, by Dec. 1 with the name(s) and credit card information to hold the rooms. After Dec. 1, all remaining rooms will be available to any UPMA member who would like to attend.

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

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