Thank You & Be Safe!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE
Editorial & Retiree Ramblings.................................................................2
Presidential Pointers & Positives from a Pandemic.................................3
Alabama UPMA Scholarship Recipients..................................................3
Making the Best of Things......................................................................4
Coloring Sheets...................................................................................5 & 8
Mission Moments.................................................................................6 & 7
Gift Offerings........................................................................................9
She is US................................................................................................10
A Leader, A Lady, & a Positive Person....................................................11
EDITORIAL
Debra Alums

“All of the real heroes are not storybook combat fighters either. Every single man in this Army play a vital role. Don’t ever let up. Don’t ever think that your job is unimportant. Every man has a job to do and he must do it. Every man is a vital link in the great chain.” - General George S. Patton

It’s a war quote but for the past two months, we have been in a war. While those of us sheltered in place may have met challenges of finding paper towels or toilet paper or missed getting a hair cut or nails done, active Postal Employees have been on the front lines of this pandemic. Alabama has 7,695 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 289 deaths. Our Alabama Postal Family has experienced a number of employee illnesses and a death. Alabama UPMA sends thoughts and prayers to every one of these families. The active employees have been at risk every day playing their vital role, never letting up, doing their job as a vital link in the essential chain of the United States Postal Service. They are not storybook fighters; they are real Heroes. This Special issue is a collection of ways the public has shown their appreciation.

RETIREE RAMBLINGS
Debra Alums

Covid 19 Chapter

I know that in life we are particularly good at remembering the lessons that leave scars. My glass is always half full. When life gives me lemons, I don’t just make lemonade, I make lemon pie, lemon-cheese cake and even barbecue sauce! But maybe sometimes I need a reminder of the things I take for granted everyday - that’s what this chapter has been about for me. For the first time in my life, it hasn’t been about having the time or money to go to the store. It hasn’t been about a few minutes to drop in on my 88 year old Mother, my daughter’s schedule allowing me to eat lunch with her, where I was going to take my granddaughter shopping or even if I was going to early Church or regular - none of those decisions matter because there is NO decision to make. The only decision is - “When time stands still, what do you do with your life?” My lessons from this crisis, could fill a book, not just an article but I’m going to share them in the following:

There’s more time to count our blessings, more time to say a prayer.
There’s more time to do a good deed, to show someone you care.

We always said, “When I have time…”, just fill in any task.
But what’s the cost of having time, we never thought to ask.

A crisis brings us to our knees, we thought we were so strong.
A faceless, nameless, unseen enemy has shown us that we’re wrong.
The lessons that we learn from this, are the way, we know who wins.

So how you choose to spend this time, tells how your story ends.

Mine ends with new friendships, a gut check for what’s really important, and the reality that we are not promised tomorrow. I will hug tighter, laugh louder, and not be ashamed to cry or pray in public!

Things that you can do:

- Spread the word for customers to buy a book of forever stamps to support the USPS.
- Contact your Congressman, the USPS is not looking for a “handout” we need a “hand up” with Postal Reform to secure the future of the Postal Service.
- Watch the Alabama UPMA Facebook page for information on the rescheduled State Convention probably July 24 - 25. Plans will be announced when State group sanction are lifted.
Presidential Pointers

The last two months have been unprecedented in the challenges facing the United States Postal Service. We have met those by sharing resources, best practices and focusing on our mission to deliver to every address, every day. We have received messages of Thanks written in chalk on driveways, cards from children taped to windows and mailbox lids, posters in yards, hand sanitizer, masks and treats. We have been identified as “essential”, but we have been honored by blue bows on mailboxes with #PostalHeroes. This special issue is a reminder of the Thank You’s we have seen in Alabama and a personal salute to every Alabama District Postal Employee. You have put yourself at risk to give every delivery address in Alabama a little piece of normal life every day. You have delivered medicine, supplies, letters, cards and even bills. The mailbox has connected families to the world while they sheltered in place. May Alabama never forget that in the pandemic of 2020 the Postal Service was essentially awesome!

Sherry Worrell
President

Positives from a Pandemic
Sherry Worrell

As we continue to work through these challenging times, I have been encouraged by many positives:

• Families are cooking at home and having family dinners together
• Quality family time has increased due to no outside activity or sporting events to take priority
• Family and friends now have a renewed appreciation for the time they spend together
• Spring cleaning and postponed task that we never had time for are getting done
• Reconnecting through phone calls and letters with old friends
• Picking up old hobbies such as crafting, scrapbooking, reading, cooking, and baking
• Customers leaving tokens of appreciation including notes and supplies
• Business customers bringing meals and supplies for employees
• Fellow Postmasters sharing supplies and supporting each other with acts of kindness
• Postmasters and Retired Postmasters making masks for employees
• Blue Ribbon challenge being taken up by members from WV to CA, NY to OR and FL to ID
• Increased support of the Postal Service with “Save the Post Office buy a book of stamps”

Alabama UPMA Scholarships Awarded

This year we had eight applications and we awarded three scholarships. As in the past, each application was very good and I am sure it was a hard decision for the committee.

The first honoree was Savannah Shoemaker, the granddaughter of retiree Leo Friday. She is graduating from Trinity Presbyterian School in Montgomery. Savannah was very busy through high school with National Honor Society, French National Honor Society, and several clubs. She also served as a Children’s Home volunteer, worked at the Humane Society, and participated in many other activities. She has been accepted at Auburn University this fall.

The second recipient was Andrew Hughes MacFarlane, grandson of retiree Josie Hughes, retired from Weaver, AL. Andrew is graduating from North Star High School in Lincoln, NE. He plans to attend the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and study Engineering or Political Science. He was in the top 3% of his class, worked at the zoo in the summer, and was active in his church youth group. Andrew’s mother was the recipient of the Alabama Scholarship in 1981, which was the third year of the program.

The final recipient was Cameron Lane Cooley, son of associate member and clerk 401B Ashley Cooley of Millry, AL. Lane will graduate from Millry High School. He has captained the baseball and football teams while achieving recognition as an honor roll student. He plans to attend Coastal Alabama Community College in the fall.

We are proud to honor these talented and hard-working students and look forward to seeing all that they achieve in the years ahead.
CoVid 19 caught most of us off guard and not sure how serious to take the situation. (Says a lot for our faith in the powers that be, huh?) But we did the right thing and followed instructions as close as we could. Billy and I have been social distancing the entire time and have done our grocery shopping online refraining from entering any retail stores. We have enjoyed the slower pace and have cooked many meals together in the past few weeks. I did not realize how much we ate out until the “shelter in place” began. Our conversations have increased, and we have really enjoyed each other’s company. It is a shame that it takes something like this to slow us down long enough to enjoy our loved ones. During one of our recent conversations, Freddie’s arrival in our family came up.

Early one morning (it was still dark and very cold) I pulled into the Post Office and my headlights caught a small figure obviously confused and scared darting in first one direction and then another. Watching closely that I did not run over the creature, I parked my truck and got out. Immediately the screaming meow’s started and a kitten just big enough to run about came flying up to me. I reached down and rubbed her back and she fell in behind me going up the ramp to the back door. At the door, I held her back with my foot to get in the door. She jumped my foot and charged in the door headed for the workroom floor. My clerk promptly began yelling “Don’t bring that cat in here!” and “That cat is evil! It didn’t want to let me out of my car!”. I picked her up and took her outside and set her down. As I came back to the building, I thought about all the carriers coming to work and they might run over her small body. I called Billy and asked him if he would come get her before she got killed or injured. He must love me because he came.

When he arrived, she came right up to him desperately asking for help. He scooped her up with one hand and asked me what I wanted him to do with her. I asked him to take her to “The Arphanage” hoping they would save her life. After a few minutes Billy called me and said that “The Arphanage” had all the kittens they could handle and could not take her. Then he asked the hard question, “What do you want me to do with her now?” I thought a second and answered, “Take her to our Vet and get her checked out and if she has a clean bill of health, take her home.” He didn’t bat an eye, he just asked, “What do you want to call her?”. “We will call her Freddie”, I said. He looked at me funny and asked, “You know she is a girl, right?”

This is how I got my best friend. If you know me well, you know this, because I often speak of her. She took a bad situation and turned it into a win for her and a win for me. As I type now, she is laying on my arm. When I had shoulder surgery, and lived in the recliner, Freddie lived in the recliner too. When the alarm clock goes off and I do not rise immediately, she puts her whiskers in my face. She waits in the kitchen window in the late afternoon waiting on me to come home from work. She never fusses when I am late, but she does want her walk. Yes, Freddie has a pink harness and leash and takes a stroll around the yard every evening. On Sunday afternoons, we nap together. If I am sad, Freddie has sympathy. If I am happy, she is happy too. She is my best friend.

During times like these, share time with the people and the “not-people” that you love. God gave them to you for a reason and that reason was for you to lean on each other.

If you would like to send PMG Brennan a Thank You or Retirement card, the address is:
PMG Megan Brennan, 475 L’Enfant Plaza SW, Washington D.C. 20260-0100
Dora, AL, employees received notes of appreciation from children, including one from Hogan that reads, “Thank you for your helping hands.”

A concerned customer reminded Butler, AL, Letter Carriers that they are essential and are appreciated. The customer provided each employee with a small token of appreciation — hand sanitizer.

On Easter Sunday, Mobile, AL, Postmaster Paul Birge, Jr. and Manager, Customer Service Operations William Spangler II gave all 41 employees at Prichard and Springhill Post Offices a personalized thank you card, along with homemade brownies (courtesy of Mrs. Spangler) and candy-filled bags that included face masks.
Lacey’s Spring, AL, Postmaster Sherri Bond posted customer notes of appreciation to her letter carriers. “I have great letter carriers who are showing up to deliver every day, and the community appreciates their service,” said Bond.

A mom added a kind message to her child’s colorful painting to all Dora, AL, employees.

Tammy Strickland, Postmaster Columbia, shows her support for Postal employees.

Owens Cross Roads Postal Strong: We received 3 cloth masks per employee from a sweet customer. She also made them for the local police department and fire station.
The Postal Service is reminding employees of the rules about accepting gifts from outside sources during the coronavirus national health emergency.

“As the men and women of the Postal Service deliver through this pandemic, we are incredibly proud and grateful for their dedication, but we aren’t the only ones. The American public also appreciates their service,” said Kristin Seaver, incident commander for the organization’s COVID-19 Response Command.

“Many businesses, community organizations and other customers want to show their appreciation to our employees, so it’s important for everyone in the postal workforce to understand - and honor - the rules regarding the acceptance of gifts.”

Although the ethics rules generally prohibit the acceptance of gifts, individual postal employees may accept free supplies, materials or services related to the COVID-19 crisis.

This includes meals and restaurant or store gift cards - as long as the value of the gift is $20 or less and the source doesn’t provide any single employee with gifts that exceed $50 during a given year.

In all cases - including during the current crisis - the ethics rules prohibit Postal Service employees from soliciting or asking for donations or gifts from customers, suppliers, vendors or any other outside source.

The Postal Service has “agency gift acceptance authority” - which means it is authorized to allow gifts and certain other items for the purpose of completing its work - and the Ethics Office has determined that postal facilities may accept donated COVID-19 supplies such as hand sanitizer.

However, USPS has not used its agency gift acceptance authority to accept donations of food or refreshments. If a business is proposing to drop off food for an entire facility, that type of gift would not be permitted.

If an employee receives COVID-19 supplies in excess of $20 from an outside source, the employee should turn over the supplies to management for postal use.

If a donor requires a signed agreement or waiver to receive such supplies, the employee should politely explain that he or she lacks the authority to sign on the Postal Service’s behalf. If the donor won’t give the supplies to the employee without the signed agreement, the employment should decline the donation.

Employees who have questions should email the Ethics Office at ethics.help@usps.gov.
While planning retirement does not always start the day we begin our careers, there does come a realization that it is time to start planning. We may plan major retirement changes, like relocating or we might start to make the long-awaited time to travel, pursue hobbies or sometimes even follow another career path. Regardless of the choice, retirement is a goal that we approach with considerable time, energy and financial planning spent prior to its arrival.

Megan J. Brennan began her postal career 33 years ago as a letter carrier in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. She was not a stranger to the United States Postal Service, her Dad, Jeremiah was in management in Reading, Pennsylvania and her brother was a rural carrier. The phrase, “Postal Family” would have literally described her from the beginning. She moved quickly through the postal management ranks, due to, in the words of friend and Retired Postmaster, Mike Sheely, “Her intelligence, her listening skills and her ability to respond or rebuff in a clear, concise and understandable way to the recipient.” She is a graduate of Immaculata College in Pennsylvania and earned a Master of Business Administration as a Sloan Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Prior to her appointment as the 74th and the first female Postmaster General in February 2015, Brennan served four years as Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President of the USPS. She also had served as Eastern Area Vice President and Northeast Area Operation Vice President. Postal reform has been on the USPS agenda for over a decade, so Brennan’s focus has been on transformative strategies to grow the business, better use data and technology, speed service innovations, promote process improvements and to engage and leverage employee talent. She has worked continually to educate and provide guidance on the regulations and requirements that impede USPS success. Being in management through 9/11, anthrax and ricin, Brennan is not a stranger to crisis outside the business model. She moved quickly through the postal management ranks, due to, in the words of friend and Retired Postmaster, Mike Sheely, “Her intelligence, her listening skills and her ability to respond or rebuff in a clear, concise and understandable way to the recipient.” She is a graduate of Immaculata College in Pennsylvania and earned a Master of Business Administration as a Sloan Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

When your retirement date approaches, your replacement has not been identified and you are asked to stay on for the good of the service, the answer to that question must require soul searching. As I started this article, I shared a few of the possibilities for the February, March and April plans that could have been on PMG Brennan’s agenda. I am personally familiar with all these plans since I retired September 30, 2019 and I am

currenty selling a house, moving, and making travel plans. I have given thought to what I would have done, had I been asked to postpone my retirement. Complex? Yes. Would I have stayed? Yes. Why? Because when you have literally spent more than half your life in a career, it becomes your second family. Remember, Megan Brennan is second generation USPS family, added to the responsibility of being the organizational Leader, it is easy to see why she could not just call it a career and step away on January 31. In the above paragraphs, you can see what history would have recorded as Megan Brennan, first female PMG’s legacy, but now the rest of the story is that the biggest challenge she faced, came after her retirement date.

In times of crisis, we all seek counsel and comfort from those we have confidence in and those we feel connected to. Experts, professionals, family, friends and coworkers fall into those lines. Megan Brennan fits all these categories also, so she was the leader the USPS needed for this unprecedented challenge. In a year that Postal Reform was strategic to the continued success of the USPS, progress had already been made on eliminating the pre-funding requirement but there was much more to be accomplished. The Corona virus is estimated to cost the USPS $2 billion per month in foregone revenue and cost related to the pandemic. History will record all of these on PMG Brennan’s watch although they in no way connect to her leadership or management. The end of the story in legislation, pandemic effects, economic impact and changes in the American way of life, have not been written yet. The legacy of what Megan Brennan means to the postal family, is being written and it’s summed up in the M.D. Arnold quote, “A good leader leads people from within them.” Megan Brennan has been where every postal employee is - craft, supervisor, management. She does lead from within. Follow that with Rosalynn Carter’s “A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people were they don’t want to go, but ought to be” ... as essential workers, no one says they “want” to be on the front lines but we “ought” to be. We bind the nation together has long been the tout but we “ought” to be. We bind the nation together has long been the tout but now we bring critical medicine, and supplies to every household, every day. We are the unsung heroes that wear Postal Blue and we are truly a Postal Family. So, when the question comes of “Why for better or worse, would Megan Brennan stay after her retirement to lead the USPS through the most challenging time in US history?” The answer is easy - She is US! USPS Family!

(She Is Us) Cathy Winnie, Retired New York
In February 2015, Megan Brennan made history as the first female Postmaster General. She was not a stranger to the USPS or UPMA. Her bio reads like the dream roadmap of any entry level USPS employee, and her accomplishments read like the success story that every Postal Manager would hope to achieve. As her five-year tenure as Postmaster General comes to an end, let’s reflect on the way UPMA members have commented on her tenure.

Retiree, Mike Sheely started with Megan in Lancaster, PA. He shared the following thoughts. “I knew immediately that Megan was destined for greater good in the USPS. She had a lexicon far greater than most and her intelligence level far exceeded most, in my estimation. Megan quickly got into management and I watched her move through the ranks, she worked with others like Pat Donahoe and Clarence Lewis. What impressed me most about Megan was her listening skills and her ability to respond or rebuff quickly. In doing that, she was clear, concise, and understandable to the recipient. Most notable, for me, was that Megan was a friend.”

Washington Chapter Secretary, Diana Schuler wrote in the Cascade Connection, “It was a real pleasure to see Megan Brennan one last time as our PMG to hear her concerns and to see she has a heart and vision for the Postal Service to succeed.”

Mississippi, The Magnolia. Editor, Barbara Morris, saluted PMG Brennan’s expected retirement in the December newsletter with Robert M. Duncan, Chairman of the Board of Governors comments on the PMG’s retirement announcement. Duncan was quoted as saying, “The Governors greatly appreciate her leadership and devotion to the Postal Service. Having begun her career as a letter carrier more than three decades ago, Megan has a fundamental understanding of the important role this organization plays in the communities around the country and to our broader economy.” Brennan responded with a sincere gratitude to the men and women of the United State Postal Service, “I have had the privilege to work with you over the course of my 33-year career. You embody the spirit of public service, you earn the trust of the American people every day, and you continually reinforce my reverence for this institution and my abiding belief in our mission.”

In November of 2019, PMG Brennan presided at the unveiling of the 2019 Holiday Wreath stamps hosted by L.L. Bean in Freeport, Maine. Retired Postmaster from Bowdoinham, Barbara Swiderski attended the event and visited with PMG Brennan. Barbara shared the PMG’s comments at the ceremony as an example of her genuine connection to holiday spirit. PMG Brennan said, “The wreaths on the door may express the shared spirit of the holidays…of family…and good will to others.”

The Music City Annex was dedicated on February 18, 2020 in Nashville, Tennessee. As the dedication plaque pictures were being taken, PMG Brennan invited Tennessee UPMA President, Sherwin Taylor to share holding the plaque. Later, she also graciously posed for a selfie with Sherwin and Vicki Fogle. What an amazing, inspirational example of the PMG that has served as a Role Model for so many female USPS Managers.

Arkansas Leader, Editor Teresa Shelton perhaps captures the three adjectives in the article title when she pens the following paragraphs in her tribute to the PMG in the Spring 2020 issue.

Many times, in her speeches, she would say “family comes first”. A few years back, one District mandated a blanket no leave during peak season policy for Postmasters regardless of the staffing. As this was brought to her attention from the convention floor, she advised them to send their 3971’s to her and she would approve them. Again, her commitment to her employees. When she would stand before us and say she was taking a concern back – she did exactly that. While she had a business to run, she took care of her employees and expected the District’s to do the same. In most every speech, she would encourage us to get outside our comfort zones. If it doesn’t challenge you - it won’t change you. I have worked under many PMG’s during my career but none as committed, dedicated and genuine as Megan Brennan. Her shoes will definitely be hard to fill.

Dig in, get your hands dirty, work alongside your employees. Set expectations and hold everybody equally accountable. Determination is nothing without dedication and hard work. Her success, as well as ours, didn’t come from taking the elevator. To be effective and successful you have to take the stairs.

Former NAPUS and UPMA Co-President, Tony Leonardi said, “I worked directly with PMG Brennan for five years. I knew her to be a lady of high integrity, high purpose, and passion for the United States Postal Service. She comes from a Postal family and that is evident in every decision she makes. She has been a true leader.”

Sean Acord, League President and UPMA Co-President said, “As Eastern Area VP, COO and PMG, I consider it a privilege to have known and worked with Ms. Brennan. Her demeanor in whatever position she held was unwavering. Her open-door policy was not just a saying. She always showed respect and serves as a true example of leadership that others should aspire to.”

If we had hoped for the bar to be set high by the First Female Postmaster General, we would be evaluating Megan Brennan’s performance as “Far exceeds”. She has not only set the bar for any females that follow but she has set the bar for all future Postmaster Generals. To sum it up, she is a Leader, a Lady, a Positive Person and SO MUCH MORE…that just happened to be the First Female Postmaster General. We honor your service and wish you happiness and health in your retirement!
Watch for Information Rescheduling the Alabama Convention for the end of July

**2020 National Convention**
St. Louis, MO ..........................................................August 1 - 7, 2020

Please check Facebook, Alabama UPMA & The National UPMA website for training and meeting updates and the National Leader for additional information

**Clip & Save Your Officers' Names & Contact Info**

**Chapter President**
Sherry L. Worrell
Postmaster
11374 Redland Road
Tallassee, AL 36078-2500
Work: 334-285-6800
Home: 334-567-6737
sherryworrell03@gmail.com
Cell: 334-320-6552

**Chapter Editor**
Debra S. Alums
Postmaster Retired
406 Charleston Ave.
Dothan, AL 36301
Home: 334-685-2068
alabama.upma.editor@gmail.com
dalums@juno.com

**Chapter Retiree Board Rep.**
David Seal
Cell: 334-657-2327
sseal1@charter.net
28 Vista Wood Drive
Dadeville, AL 36853

**Chapter Chaplain**
Vicki Smith
vickielynn552003@yahoo.com
3364 Bevia Road
Marianna, FL 32446

**Chapter Executive Vice President**
Jackie Hughey Miles
Postmaster Theodore
6322 Woodside Dr. S
Theodore, AL 36582
jackiemmiles2018@gmail.com
Work: 251-653-8718
Cell: 334-216-5462

**Chapter Vice President**
Jarrod B. Ward
Postmaster
474 CR 23
Skipperville, AL 36374
Work: 334-762-2019
Home: 334-774-0034
jarrodward61@yahoo.com
Cell: 334-344-8255

**Chapter Secretary Treasurer**
Joyce Cavender
Postmaster Oakman
366 County Road 3464
Haleyville, AL 35565
Phone: 205-269-5449
joyceccavender@yahoo.com

**Postmaster Representative**
Ron Davis
Postmaster
Valley, AL 36854
Cell: 334-344-8255
Rdavis36854@yahoo.com
1112 County Rd 540
Valley, AL 36854

**UPMA Safety Ambassador**
Denis Knudsen
Phone: 334-235-0636
dkudzoo@bellsouth.net
2365 County Rd 61
Deatsville, AL 36022