



Volume 7 Number 2

March 2023



# Northern lights in MN 2023



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effective 09/22/2022

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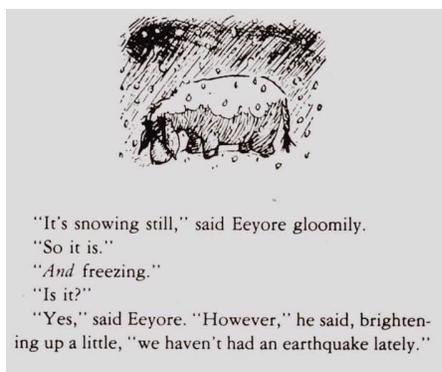
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# TONY TERWEY-PRESIDENT

Postmaster Richmond MN

Cell: 320-250-4612 Email: [mnupmapresident@gmail.com](mailto:mnupmapresident@gmail.com)

## Greeting Fellow Minnesota Difference Makers!

As I sit down to write, I find Minnesota in what seems to be the 30<sup>th</sup> big storm of the winter again with major snow fall and blizzard condition warnings across much of the state. What a winter we have had to deal with as public servants and the need to have employees out in the elements during each winter event trying to balance carrier safety while providing expected service to the public. Kudos to my plant team processing partners for making some decisions related to the most recent weather event, communicating them to the field thus allowing all offices to better plan for the day of the storm. No DPS on the day of the storm worked out great in my operation as carriers did not have to stop at every snowed in box, thus they focused on the parcels that made it into the unit as conditions improved throughout the day. As a manager it is always hard to find the right balance between employee safety and customer service in events like a snow blizzard.

**Are you are for spring?** I believe spring is my favorite season here in Minnesota. New life, fresh flowers, budding trees and open water all do wonders for my soul in spring. Additionally I enjoy time at the track, soccer field and baseball field with the kids! I find it therapeutic to park the snow blower for the next nine months, store the side walk salt, put the snow shovels away and pay the last invoice for snow removal while hoping that you did not exceed the \$2500.00 dollars in cost you can fund locally if your office is not on the national snow removal contract. I am definitely ready for spring here in Richmond.

**The Minnesota UPMA Conventions is now two months away!** Did you send in your registration, submit your PS 3971 and reserve a room? I challenge you to make the investment and come to Lakeville. The Minnesota UPMA Convention on May 17, 18 and 19 in Lakeville promises to be a great few days of networking and information sharing. Look further into the Postmark for registration and a tentative agenda for convention.

The invaluable part of convention is finding you are never alone as a Postmaster or Manager in the ever changing environment we work in. I am hopeful we will have the new MN ND District Manager as a guest speaker at convention. Additionally we will have our National UPMA President Edmund Carly and Executive UPMA Director Dan Heins in attendance. I believe both will be giving updates from all the consultations happening at Postal Service Headquarters. The opportunity to have both at convention will give you every opportunity to talk about current work environment, NPA, hiring challenges and the future of the Postal Service, in person, with direct conversation.

**The National Legislative Summit** is happening in March too. I am happy to report we will have 8 Minnesota Chapter delegates in Washington DC lobbying Minnesota elected officials for support of pension offset bills and title 39 reform. I believe our delegates will get more face time with Minnesota elected officials and possible support with all the political involvement in our service struggles related to staffing across the state. I look for a great follow up to the Legislative Summit from our delegates. PAC support is vital to drive the needed changes to pension offset and title 39 reform. If you have questions about PAC or where funds have been used to lobby Congress please reach out to Jason Croshaw, our Minnesota PAC chair. Jason is happy to share what we have done with our donations and what causes we have support to drive political action that is in our best interest as federal employees.

**I recent became a mentor** to a new Supervisor in the St. Cloud Post Office. The new OIC in St. Cloud reached out and asked if I would take this opportunity on to help better his team going forward. I am excited to see where we will go with this opportunity. Our plan is to meet monthly and have a touch point each Wednesday. The SCS is just over two years in the Post Office so we have so much to cover, share, and accomplish. I am

grateful for the team of mentors I had along the way in my early years of management career. I was lucky to have a Postmaster who believed in teaching you everything she could so that when she left the place would run as good or better than when she was at work.

**Mary Jo then went on to introduce me to the 553 team** of Postmasters who also took me under their wing to coach, mentor and train me as a new Postmaster. It is because of them I got involved in our great management associations and attended my first state convention. I could go on with all the positive mentoring impacts of Carol, Marty, Roy and Mike had on me when I needed it most. I wish every newly appointed EAS was given a mentor by the district to have a resource in which to learn and grow. Just think how confident you will feel as a new EAS if you had a mentor from day one.

**Just as important as a good mentor is, so is having a good back up/Postmaster Buddy.** I am lucky enough to have Cheryl. Every time I take extended leave, I know Cheryl will answer the call of my staff, cover my time-keeping, report any accidents, clear my C 360s and cover any urgent certifications that mysteriously pop up the day you are gone but are due right now. I am lucky to have Cheryl as it keeps my office off the radar and allows for me to enjoy my leave. Of course I repay the favor when Cheryl takes extended leave as well. Having a best friend as a backup at work is vital to being able to enjoy life outside of the post office in today's current environment.

The mail survey and results should be finalized about the same time you get this edition of the Postmark. I am hopeful we have a fair and accurate results which give the carriers proper time for completion of all duties required.

**In closing please honestly consider coming to convention in Lakeville in May.** You will not regret the time spent with fellow Postmasters and Managers across the state. You will have the latest information from National and will start to build a network of future support going forward.

Until next time

Tony

## Be the Most Informed You Can Be!

Follow these Pages on Facebook!

Postmasters and Managers of  
America  
Minnesota UPMA Chapter



US POSTAL EMPLOYEES PLANNING TO RETIRE  
AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

FERS Retired Postal Workers



Postal Maniacs

Jesse Black

LEAD (USPS ONLY)



Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)

FEDSMITH



7<sup>th</sup> Annual  Minnesota State Convention

May 17<sup>th</sup>(evening), 18 & 19, 2023 Lakeville, MN

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

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

**Title:** First Name (for your badge): \_\_\_\_\_

Postmaster  
 Supervisor Post Office You Represent City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Manager Your Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 OIC  
 Associate City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP+4 \_\_\_\_\_  
 UPMA Retired  
 Spouse Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ **First-Timer/UPMA Retired First-Timer?**  
 Guest E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No

Name of committee you would be willing to volunteer for: \_\_\_\_\_  
COMMITTEES: Registration / Audit Committee / PAC / Election and Tallies / Decorations / Sergeant at Arms / Memorial Service / Door prizes / Auctions / Scholarship / Distinguished Guests / 1st Timers / Hospitality / Bylaws

<b>Registration per person:</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Timers</b> will be refunded the	Send registration form with check to:
\$25.00 by April 15, 2023	Registration fee at the end of convention	Anita Pfiefer 20576 Kearney Path
\$45.00 AFTER April 15th, 2023	after they attend all business and training sessions	Lakeville, MN 55044
		<b>or scan/email form and pay via PayPal: amp2016@yahoo.com or 507-390-1164</b>

### Hotel Information

<p><b>Holiday Inn &amp; Suites</b>                  20800 Kenrick Ave S                  Lakeville MN 55044                  (952) 469-1134</p>	<p><b>Hotel block: reserve by April 15<sup>th</sup> for group rate</b>  <b>\$109.00 + tax/night for up to 4 per room</b>                  request United Postmasters and Managers rate</p>
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**Things to remember:** \*Silent auction items appreciated\*

\* Thursday Rolle Bolle – contact Greg Geheren to register 651-808-7486  
 \*Costume Contest: National/State Convention Theme is yet to be determined

**For more information, contact: Tony Terwey, President**  
 mnupmapresident@gmail.com or call/text (320) 250-4612

7<sup>th</sup>  
Annual

Vendor Registration



Minnesota  
State  
Convention

May 17<sup>th</sup> (evening), 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Lakeville, MN

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Set up Wed, 5/17 3pm – 5pm**  
**Registration starts at 4:00 pm**  
**on Wed, 5/17**

Vendor Registration Fees :

\$25.00 for one table

\*\*\*\*\*

To take part in food and events,  
use regular registration form for  
payment and add'l info

If you would like to contribute  
items to the welcome bag,  
please send to or have at the  
Hotel address below. Attention:  
UPMA so that they arrive prior  
May 15<sup>th</sup>

Send this form with  
payment by April 15<sup>th</sup> to:

Anita Pfeifer  
20576 Kearney Path  
Lakeville, MN 55044

### Hotel Information

Holiday Inn & Suites Lakeville  
20800 Kenrick Ave S  
Lakeville Mn 55044  
Phone: (952) 469-1134

Hotel block: reserve by April 15<sup>th</sup> for group rate  
\$109.00+tax/night for up to 4 in a room  
Request United Postmasters and Managers rate

Things to remember: \*Silent auction items appreciated\*

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- \* Costume Contest: National/State Convention Theme is to be determined.

For more information, contact: Tony Terwey, President  
mnupmapresident@gmail.com or call/text (320) 250-4612



## ANITA PFIEFER SECRETARY/TREASURER

Retired MGR, TACS Help desk, Eagan, MN  
Cell phone: 507--390-1164  
Email: amp2016@yahoo.com

### Top 5 Reasons to attend the 2023 State Convention

#### 1. It's all about Networking

Conferences are not only about talks, they're about the community and the people who attend them. What better place to share your ideas and get valuable feedback. A community that understands you and shares the same experiences as you will improve your 'posse' of peers and friends.

#### 2. Expand your knowledge – 'Sharpen the Saw'

I *always* return from a convention with new ideas and approaches that help me be more effective and efficient at work.

#### 3. Invest in Yourself

Admitting that you're worth it! It's admitting that you still have things to learn. That you can get better. It's an investment in yourself and your career. When you attend the state convention, you're saying that you're investing in your own growth.

#### 4. Collaboration and friendships

The camaraderie of state convention is an experience all its own. Everyone attending the convention has something in common with you. You will make new friends and form new relationships. Every meal will be an opportunity to meet and talk to someone new!

#### 5. Have some fun and unwind

I'm not sure this is the *most* important of all these reasons, but I didn't want to leave it off the list. Conventions are fun! Live events with other people are fun!

I'm not a master networker. I struggle with finding the right way to break into a conversation with people I don't know. But I've gotten better by attending conventions. By sitting at lunch tables with people I don't (yet) know. I've made some amazing connections and even more amazing friends by attending conventions.

### Don't miss out on this opportunity.

The State Convention registration form is in this publication. Make your hotel reservation, complete your 3971, call a friend to share the room, if you want.

There will be a welcome event on Wednesday evening; general sessions on Thursday with Rolle Bolle and other fun in the evening; and Friday, a general session ending by 10 am.

We are excited to see many new faces this year and show you what UPMA can do for you.

Contact me about any questions you may have, happy to help you out.

Anita

The regular Executive Board Meeting of the Minnesota Chapter of UPMA was held on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 via Zoom.

President Tony Terwey called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm with Secretary Treasurer Anita Pfiefer present.

Secretary Treasurer Anita Pfiefer provided the invocation.

President Tony Terwey led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: in attendance: Tony Terwey, Pauline Lambrecht, Greg Geheren for Margie Jacobson, Jason Croshaw, Carey Welder, Vanessa Nielsen, Anita Pfiefer. Guest(s): Dorothy Kleinhol, Postmaster Spicer Absent: Janelle Duerksen

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Anita Pfiefer to approve the agenda as presented/passed.

President: Tony Terwey reported he will be meeting with the Holiday Inn in Lakeville to sign the contract for the 2023 State Convention; Janelle will also be in attendance to do a walk through; attended 10 of 11 KickOff meetings focus on recruitment for hiring.

Secretary Treasurer:

Minutes of the August 3<sup>rd</sup> and September 22<sup>nd</sup> board meeting were emailed to the board for review. Motion by Jason Croshaw to approve the meeting minutes of August 3<sup>rd</sup> and September 22<sup>nd</sup> as presented/passed Minutes will be published.

Anita Pfiefer presented the financial report YTD September 30, 2022.

YTD (09/30/2022) Balance Sheet information presented.

\$ 10,007.63	Certificate of Deposit #40
\$ 00.00	Certificate of Deposit #41
\$ 30,039.95	Certificate of Deposit #42
\$ 12,739.94	Regular savings
\$ 5,850.03	Scholarship Checking
\$ 142.63	Scholarship Savings
<u>\$ 50,838.98</u>	<u>Regular Checking</u>
\$109,619.16	Total Assets
\$ 0.00	Total Liabilities

VP Membership: Pauline reported: Postmasters: 268, Mgr/Super: 59, Associates: 36, PMR: 1, Retired: 269, total active: 343, total members: 656, at 81.96%. Need to work on associate member goal; sell the UPMA brand; send out items to new members; motion by Anita Pfiefer to have Pauline order padfolios and backpacks, packing material and postage to create new member packages no to exceed \$7000/passed.

VP Education/State Convention: Tony reported registration form should be ready for the January issue, maybe have board meeting and/or get together to fill new member packages.

VP Chapter Member Representative: Carey provided reported new CMRs attending Phoenix and Baltimore training.

VP Legislative/PAC: Jason Croshaw reported 2023 Legislative Summit will be March 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. Nothing happening with WEP GPO now during the election cycle.

Editor: Vanessa Nielsen reported next article was due October 31<sup>st</sup> but will be sending file on Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup> for those that still need to submit. Looking for guest column ideas.

Retired President: Greg reported for Margie.

Scholarship: Tony Terwey reported pictures of winners are finally ready for January issue.

Unfinished business: none

New business: new members like the desk name plates from the national office, discussion on cost to provide is \$30.

Other Business: none

Next board meeting is scheduled for January / February, Tony will check with the Holiday Inn in Lakeville for availability and rates.

Adjourn: motion by Anita Pfiefer to adjourn meeting at 8:11pm/passed.

Respectfully submitted, Anita M. Pfiefer, Secretary Treasurer



## **Proposed Change to the Minnesota UPMA Bylaws**

<b>Convention Year: 2023</b>	<b>Article: IV Meetings</b>
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**Description: This update to the Bylaws will allow different methods of communication to notify the Executive Board of upcoming meetings.**

**Rationale: due to inconsistent mail delivery in areas, it is increasingly difficult to provide timely notice using only the USPS mail delivery services.**

**Submitted By: Anita Pfiefer**

To amend UPMA National Bylaws, Article	
Existing Provision	Provision With Proposed Changes
<p><b>Article IV Meetings</b></p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph:</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>Article IV Meetings</b></p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph:</b> The Chapter Secretary/Treasurer shall <b>notify</b> members of the Executive Committee at least ten (10) days prior to the date specified for such meetings.</p>

Received

# MN UPMA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 2023

**Instructions:**

1. All applications must be returned to the address below and postmarked no later than MAY 1, 2023.
2. The application is limited to ONE attached sheet of paper.
3. All applications MUST include a certified copy of your High School Transcript AND the most recent college/technical school transcript if currently enrolled in a post-secondary program. No internet transcripts will be accepted.
4. Applicants understand that if selected, the scholarship is contingent to the submission of their PAID fall registration on institution stationery to the committee before DECEMBER 31, 2023.
5. Applicants age limit is 23 years old by June 1, 2023
6. Only ONE award per person. Previous award winners are not eligible to apply in future years for additional awards.

INFORMATION RELEASE; Waiver for release of any educational information needed to process this scholarship application, and allow the publication of your name, if you are a successful scholarship winner I have read and agree to the above.

---

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
APPLICANT'S NAME

---

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
PRESENT EDUCATIONAL STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_ HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR \_\_\_\_\_ POST-SECONDARY

SPONSORING MINNESOTA UPMA MEMBER:

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POSITION OF SPONSOR: \_\_\_\_\_ POSTMASTER \_\_\_\_\_ MANAGER/SUPERVISOR \_\_\_\_\_ RETIRED \_\_\_\_\_  
ASSOCIATE MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ PMR RELATIONSHIP TO APPLICANT: \_\_\_\_\_ CHILD \_\_\_\_\_ GRANDCHILD

---

UPMA Member Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

The above signature certifies that you are presently a Minnesota UPMA member, and the applicant is your child or grandchild.

NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL ADDRESS:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

GRADUATION DATE:

\_\_\_\_\_

POST-SECONDARY SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Please write about your school and community accomplishments, awards, degrees and activities: \*\*Please write about your educational and/or vocational goals: \*\*Please write about what you personally have done to make a difference in your community, in your school and at your work:

NAME OF SCHOOL YOU WILL BE ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed applications to **18374 Cedar Lane, Richmond MN 56368**

## Top things to do and see in Lakeville

-Mel Miller

Even though it has been 12 years since I retired as Postmaster in Lakeville MN, President Tony asked me to give my advise on things to do and see while at the UPMA Convention. Here are my choices in no particular order.

### Art Gallery and Art Classroom at the Art Center

The Arts Center gallery displays a variety of artwork by local artists. Previous exhibits have included various items such as hand-blown glass, paintings, pottery, mixed media, photography, and much more. In addition to providing local artisans with more public exposure, the exhibits add another dimension of art education to the entire community.

The Lakeville Area Art Center offers pottery and painting classes. The large art classroom is available for rent and provides a sink, countertop, flexible lighting, and a projection screen.

### Hot Sam's Antiques and Used Furniture

Hot Sam's is not a hot mess – this place is undeniably unique! It's part theme park, photo park, junkyard, artist's haven, and antique shop. How you perceive this place depends on your tastes and individual preferences. If you like the unusual, odd, and quirky, you will appreciate Hot Sam's.

Hot Sam's is a ten-acre antique junkyard along Interstate-35 in Lakeville. The owner uses his ardor for old and rusty discards then creates magic with them. The huge 24-foot high guitar was constructed from a hot tub originally in the Minnesota Vikings training camp. It is positioned on a trailer that can be moved to different locations for rental options.

Enjoy yourself by walking around and taking photos. Hot Sam's has gained notoriety as a spot where amateur or professional photographers can take pictures of clients against eclectic props. Visitors tour the grounds as they would a Hollywood set. Local groups, residents, and schools rent out various pieces for theatrical productions or parties.

Everything is for sale. Negotiations hinge on whether the owner likes the buyer's attitude! He feels that because most people do not know the story behind

Hot Sam's, they question what is really going on. They have never been to a place like this, and they are awestruck!

Hot Sam's has one of the largest and oddest collections of eclectic items and antiques anywhere, all mixed with the visual stimulation of old cars and both useless and useful "stuff." There are railroad



cars, old circus wagons, 50s cars in the woods, and SS Minnow stuck in a swamp. The weirdest assortment of items you have ever seen!

This is an amazing place to tour – just watch for the three-story-high guitar on the side of I-35 in Lakeville. Don't forget your camera!

### Angry Inch Brewing

Combine the taproom with the beer, and you've got the result of one big dream that turned into one small business—a brewery in beautiful, historic downtown Lakeville that serves great beer to great people.

Angry Inch Brewing makes full-flavored malt beer that suits everyone's palate. This owned and operated craft beer brewery makes Belgian-inspired brews with their own twists. They strive for a balance of tradition, flavor, and craft, ranging from traditional to experimental.

Enjoy a day with family and friends on their dog-friendly patio to enjoy beer the way Mother Nature intended!



You can bring in any food you desire. Make sure you bring your own utensils, napkins, etc., as they

cannot provide them. Then after your meal, dispose of unused items in the proper bins.



### MINNESOTA ZOO

The Minnesota Zoo is open from 10 am to 4 pm. Members have the opportunity to get special members-only tickets from 9 - 9:30 am. **Members:** Members must also reserve tickets online ahead of time for the selected date and time. With our significantly increased capacity and members-only hour at 9 am, this should allow for more flexibility to visit the Zoo when you want. When checking in, the Zoo reserves the right to check photo identification for adult cardholders.

Guests will enter through the Lower South entry for ticket scanning. Upon entry, guests can directly access all outdoor trails or visit the indoor trails first. All non-member ticket purchases must pay for parking at time of ticket purchase.

Maps are displayed throughout the Zoo grounds, however printed maps will not be available to guests. A digital map outlining the trails is available for you to print.

The gift shops are open! Guests are asked to maintain social distancing practices while visiting. Food options are available throughout your visit. Please call 952.431.9200 for details on availability. If the food selection does not meet your needs, please plan to pack a snack that you can eat on the go.

### Willingers Golf Club and Legends Golf Club

If you know anything about me, you know that I know most of the golf courses at any convention site in the state. And I would remiss if I didn't talk about a golf course near convention time.

I will have to say that I have played each of these 2 courses numerous times. I usually play the Legends Golf Club, once or twice per year. It is a sister course to Willingers Golf Club and it is only about 5 miles from the convention hotel.

Willingers Golf Club is about 10 miles from the hotel. I consider this course my home course. I usually will play this course 3 times per week in the summer months.

I started working here the spring after I retired and I still work here 3 days per week. (It has a great perk to work here, Free Golf!!)

I consider this course one of the most challenging golf courses in the state. It does have a moderate price (under \$60) Monday through Thursday.

**Well, there you have it. Several things to do and see near Lakeville. If you come early or stay after the convention, there is plenty to do and see.**



## PAULINE LAMBRECHT, EXEC VP MEMBERSHIP

Postmaster of New Prague MN

Office phone: 952-758-7678 Cell phone: 612-702-2941



### “An Eagle”

**I remember when** I went to take the three-hour test to apply for the Postal Service 20+ years ago. One of the questions that were on the three-part test was; what was on the poster next to the table that you signed in on when arriving to the test site? It was an Eagle, the symbol of the United States Postal Service.

Throughout my years with the Postal Service, I understand why I believe we have that symbol. To me the Eagle is the sign of strength, integrity, and sheer survival.

All of which are the qualities it takes to be a Postmaster/EAS. **Strength** because no matter what task at hand, or what is put in front of us daily, we take the challenge, rise above it, no matter how insurmountable it seems to be, we get it done. **Integrity:** because in order to be a great leader we need to put ourselves at the highest standards and live by them. **Sheer Survival,** because the Eagle was very close to extinction, and they found a way to come back ten-fold.

This is how I feel where we are at. Close to extinction, with no employees to manage, deliver routes and perform our own duties, with many new responsibilities coming at us daily. We will survive and come out stronger, we just need to dig deep inside, pull out that fighter and believe we can do this.

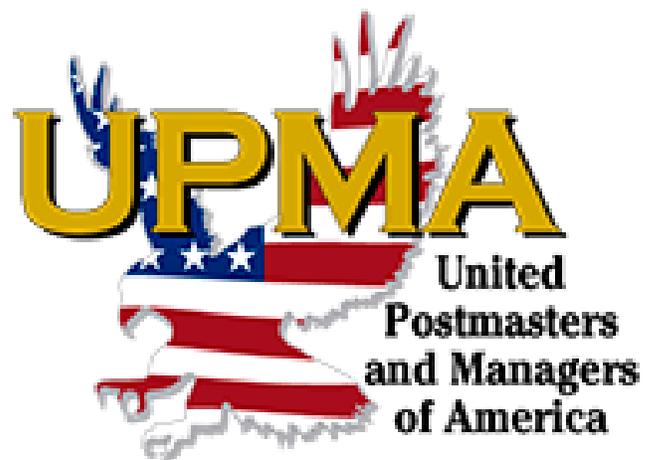
**We got this,** whatever it takes, but we do need each other to pull through. That is why I am so proud to be a part of UPMA, so we can band together and find strength to improve our flight. I have met so many people that have helped me with my journey, and I do my best to help other members in their flight. Don't be afraid to reach out, no question is dumb, no one knows it all, and some are better at some things than others. It's ok to be human, even if we are expected to give 110%. We have many new members this year, which is awesome. Remember we are like family.

**I have an Eagle** head trophy on my desk because of all the hard work that was put into Membership this year. Everyone who has brought a new member, I want to thank you. We are a great organization, which sticks together when the water is rough. We will have your back; we have the greatest representation team there is. As of February 1<sup>st</sup>. Minnesota is sitting in the second place for new members.

**Our next goal** is to try to convince you to come to our State Convention this year. It would be great if Minnesota had the most new members at the State Convention. The Holiday Inn in Lakeville is a really nice facility; you get training, some networking, and fun.

Bring your family, the pool area is awesome, we need you. Reach outside of your box and come, relax, and learn. Next month we are planning on being #1 for membership, so bring your postal friends. I really do hope to meet some of the new members. You will get a free night's stay voucher in your gift packet that you will receive shortly, if you haven't received it already. **Take advantage, and spread your wings, so we can soar TOGETHER.**

I hope to see you there.



## Laissez les bolles rouler

If you have never played Rolle Bolle, you might want to consider joining fellow UPMA Postmasters and retirees in Lakeville for the upcoming State Convention May 17-19 2023. Information and a registration form for the convention can be found in this current copy of the Postmark. **First timers who form a team don't pay the \$15 per person entry fee to play Rolle Bolle.** We play Thursday evening May 18 after the afternoon session of the convention is over. Prizes are awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place with the remaining funds split evenly between PAC and scholarship funds. Contact myself or Mel Miller to register. The following info from Wikipedia is provided as an intro to Rolle Bolle but you really need to Rolle to get the full understanding of the game. Hope to see you in Lakeville.

-Greg Geheren

**Rolle Bolle** is played on a flat court typically made of natural soil, crushed limestone, or pavement. Two stakes (or "pegs")[2] are placed a distance apart on either ends of the court, typically 30 feet (9.1 m). Courts are typically 12 feet (3.7 m) wide.[7] Stakes can be between 1 to 3 inches (2.5 to 7.6 cm) in diameter and are made of wood (such as a baseball bat pounded into the ground),[1] but other materials are also used.

**The balls, or bolles,** are typically 6 to 8 inches (15 to 20 cm) in diameter and 4 inches (10 cm) thick.[8]

Traditional bolles are made of wood, however other materials can be used such as hardened rubber or molded plastic. Bolles are machined with a taper, which causes them to roll in an elliptical fashion.

**Rolle Bolle is played by two teams of 3-4 players each.**

Games are broken up by rounds; each round is an opportunity for a single team to score points. In a round, players from opposing teams take turns rolling their bolle towards the stake at the far end of the court. At the end of each round, when all players have rolled their bolles, points are awarded to the team with the closest bolle(s) to the stake. The next round then begins in the same manner, aiming for the other stake.

The first team to score a set number of points (typically 8) is the winner.



## THE RULES

1. Each team assigns their players a rolling order 1-3
2. To start, one team captain will flip a bolle while the other calls "big" or "little" f.1
3. Whichever team wins the bolle flip will be team 1
4. Both teams start on the same end of the court
5. Players must roll from behind the stake line
6. A bolle must finish inside the alley boundaries or it is dead and must be removed before the next roll
7. Player 1 from team 1 rolls first
8. Player 1 from team 2 rolls next
9. The team with the closest bolle leads, so the other team rolls (in order) until they place a closer bolle or have all rolled
10. Scores are calculated at the end of each round f.2
11. The team with the closest bolle scores 1 point
12. If the winning team also placed the next closest bolle(s), they receive an additional point per bolle up to 3 points per round

*Get ready for fun!*

## CAREY WELDER, VP CHAPTER MEMBER REP

Postmaster of Chatfield MN

Office phone: 507-932-4552 Cell phone: 507-525-3750



**You have a right to representation.** If the OIG visits you and starts to question you, you have the right to have a representative present. Even if the OIG says it's no big deal or they are in a hurry, request a representative to be with you. Try and stay calm, always be polite and cooperative, and request that you want to have a representative present. The rep does not have to be an official UPMA rep, it can be any UPMA member close by you trust. It can be in person preferably, or by phone. If you cannot get a rep immediately, then work with both the OIG and a rep to set up a time at the earliest convenience for all parties.

If you are called in to do an Investigative Interview with your manager, you also have the right to have a representative present. Hopefully these can be scheduled in advance but if not, stay calm, be polite, and request a rep. If you are removed on an emergency placement, call a UPMA representative immediately to discuss the situation. There will usually be a meeting with the manager a day or two later to discuss the specifics of the removal.

The representative will be with you to help keep you calm and provide advice. The rep will also take notes and help facilitate communication. We will make sure that everything is done with the upmost professionalism. We can ask the hard questions and make sure the process is followed correctly and that whatever may happen, it will be done fairly and transparently. It is your right and can help you, so make sure to ask for representation in any instance you think you need it.

### Useful Links

[United States Postal Service LiteBlue webpage](#)

[United States House of Representatives](#)

[United States Senate](#)

[The White House](#)

[United States Postal Service](#)

[Postal Regulatory Commission](#)

[USPS Office of Inspector General](#)

[United States Office of Personnel Management](#)

[FirstGov -- The U.S. Governments Official Web Portal](#)

[Postmaster Finder - USPS](#)

[Library of Congress Internet Resource Page](#)

[Federal Times](#)

[National Postal Museum](#)

[Arago - On-Line Database of the National Postal Museum](#)

[National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association](#)

[Keeping Posted - Site for Retired Postal Service Employees](#)

[PostalRelief.com](#) Postal Employees Relief Fund provides disaster funds in situations of natural disasters such as floods, tornadoes and severe storms, as well as fires. Forms and information are available at [www.PostalRelief.com](http://www.PostalRelief.com)

Postal/Federal/Retiree Benefit Programs

[Thrift Savings Plan](#)

[United States Office of Personnel Management- Insurance Programs](#)

## MARGIE JACOBSON, RETIREE PRESIDENT

Area 9 Retired Area Rep

Postmaster Retired of Waterville MN

Cell: 507-649 -1034 Email: margiepm@yahoo.com



### WHY ATTEND STATE CONVENTION???

I am often asked why should I attend State Convention and for me the question would be why not? There is so much to gain by going. I have attended State Convention of a Postmaster/Management Organization every year since I became a member in April of 1990.

**At first** I attended as my mentor, Postmaster Dick Farnell, told me that it was valuable and that I should attend. I did not realize at that time how valuable it was. It is not only the in-person training sessions and meeting other members that are living with the same opportunities and frustrations but the enormous amount of information that you can gain and use in your present position. The comradery that is gained from other members is invaluable. It always seemed that if I was having an issue in my office there was another member that had already lived thru that issue and talked about their successful outcome.

**I gained so much** on how to handle employees, both star employees and rewarding them and troubled employees and issuing discipline. I also had the opportunity to meet other SMEs, Subject Matter Experts, from other areas so I could contact someone when I had an issue. Everyone has different skills that they excel at whether it be accounting, labor relations, contracts, etc. but whatever it is there is always someone who can assist you if you need help in almost any area.

The **resources and training** that you gain by attending the State Convention will make your daily life in the Post Office so much easier. One of the best things that I did for my career was to join and be a part of our organization.

I also gained a lot of **information** on how to build the best retirement that would work for me and I am very happy with the outcome of that retirement. I believe a lot of the decisions I made on the job and toward my

retirement were due to training at Conventions and in talking with other members.

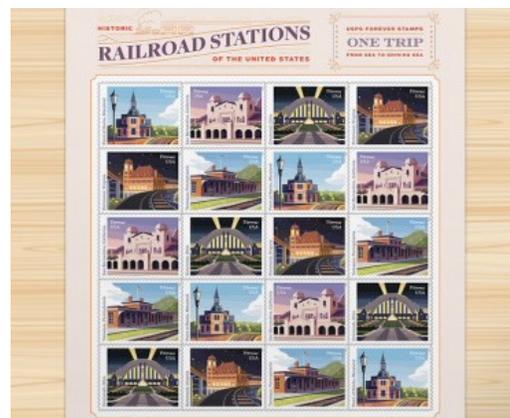
I am also asked by retirees “Why should I attend State Convention?” First, if you have been attending for some time or if you are able to attend your first Convention as a retiree, there is a lot of value in becoming part of the UPMA family and really feeling a sense of belonging.

The **members will become like a second family** to you. Also, there are so many things in our retirement that are not guaranteed. Things can change by congressional decisions. As you know our health insurance will be changing in 2025. Staying abreast of those changes so we can make the right decisions for our health care and to get the actual information on those changes will be invaluable.

Also, there are **bills before Congress** such as H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act of 2023 which would repeal WEP (Windfall Elimination Provision) and GPO (Government Pension Offset). We have been working on the repeal of WEP and GPO for a long time but hopefully we will get some movement on it this year as they are unfair provisions.

**There are so many reasons to attend a State Convention**—too many to list here but I challenge you to attend this year’s State Convention in Lakeville at the Holiday Inn and Suites and see for yourself.

See you in May at the State Convention.



# Retiree's Page

To: [mnapmaeditor@gmail.com](mailto:mnapmaeditor@gmail.com)

VANESSA

218-280-0366

I have been retired for over 14 years, but still attend all state conventions and even the national conventions. I find it's nice to meet old friends to catch up. It's also nice to hear about the issues or problems that postmasters or the postal service are having currently.

I know that the USPS will always be changing, but I can't help but think in my mind how it has changed our postmaster organization.(NAPUS and The League joined to form UPMA).

Back when I became a postmaster EAS11 all PM's were entitled up to 10 days per year convention leave, using it for state, national or legislative convention. Then it changed to 5 days per year and of course, now it is zero.

The thing about not having PM's in many smaller offices has not helped membership in UPMA or for people who want to make a career of the USPS. I wish that these things had never happened or if our old postmaster organization could have done more to prevent changes in these areas. Just my own retiree thoughts and I certainly enjoyed my 30 years in the USPS.

For those of you who know me, I still go to Arizona with my wife Carol for the winter. I still have my classic car hobby and it has grown to 10 again. If you would like to stop in anytime, just call 218-371-5307. I will see a lot of you at the state convention this May in Lakeville, MN.

1963 Pontiac  
Bonneville Convertible



1956  
Thunderbird  
Convertible

A few items  
I've added  
to my  
collection



My American Graffiti Babe  
"She's the most beautiful, exciting thing  
I've ever seen in my life."



1969 Dodge Coronet RT Convertible

I thought maybe there might be interest in Minnesota Convention sites. Granted until recently these were NAPUS events, but it's interesting to see where we've been over the past 34 years.

- 1989 Marshall
- 1990 Bemidji
- 1991 Rochester
- 1992 Willmar
- 1993 New Ulm
- 1994 St Cloud
- 1995 Bemidji
- 1996 Austin
- 1997 Mankato
- 1998 Willmar
- 1999 Duluth
- 2000 Shakopee
- 2001 Willmar
- 2002 Marshall
- 2003 Bemidji
- 2004 Austin
- 2005 Moorhead



- 2006 St Paul
- 2007 Duluth
- 2008 Brainerd
- 2009 International Falls \*\*
- 2010 Red Wing
- 2011 St Cloud
- 2012 Detroit Lakes
- 2013 Duluth
- 2014 Elk River
- 2015 Mankato
- 2016 Alexandria
- 2017 Walker UPMA
- 2018 Rochester
- 2019 St Cloud
- 2020 Arrowood Baxter Cancelled Covid
- 2021 Arrowood Baxter
- 2022 Duluth
- 2023 Lakville



\*\* designates....400 attendees!!!! Largest ever

-Barb Barret

**Retiree's Get together February 9, 2023 Florence AZ**



## KATHY FRAME

### RETIRED POSTMASTER NEFFS PA 18065 ANNOUNCES HER CANDIDACY FOR UPMA NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT RETIRED

I am announcing my intention to run for UPMA National Retiree Vice President. I have been an active member of the management organization since 1992.

The day I was promoted to Postmaster at Green Lane, PA in 1992, I was approached by a neighboring Postmaster, Argie Frank, Postmaster in Walnutport, who came to congratulate me. She told me that I needed to join the management organization to help me be successful in my new role as Postmaster. I looked her straight in the eye and said, **“OK!!! Sign me up.”**

I have been blessed since that day and have been surrounded by many valuable mentors and resources which has helped me reach my dreams and goals. I am thankful for that one visit which has been one of the main reasons I have stepped in a leadership role with the active and now the retiree organization. I would like to be that person who will help every one of our members succeed in all they do.

**I believe that our members are our top priority** and that we need the best leaders in the right places for our organization to grow and remain viable. I have told many retirees that while we may be retired from the USPS, we will always be connected. We need to ensure that all legislation that affects our pay and benefits should always be monitored by a strong legislative presence. UPMA provides access to opportunities for communication that is shared with you through “The Gold,” “In the Mailbox,” the UPMA Leader, and all state publications. These resources will always keep you updated on any events, issues, or happenings within our entire country. I know that our expertise and experiences as retirees are vital to help our active members achieve success and get them to our happy place – Retirement!!!The best part about our organization is the forever friendships that we have made and will continue to make as retirees. I will offer you my commitment to make sure all our goals continue to be reached should you elect me as your UPMA National Vice-President Retired.

I have listed my positions in which I have served in both the active and retired organizations. They have allowed me the knowledge, experience, confidence, and certainly the passion to bring success to run for National Retired Vice President.

I ask for your vote to elect me at our National convention in Denver this year as the next UPMA National Vice-President of the Postmaster Retired. May God Bless All of You and God Bless America.



#### Pennsylvania State Active Positions

Active Member 1992-2021

PA Convention Chair 2009/2022/2023

PA District VP 2008-2009

President PA (2 Terms 6 years) 2009-2015

Executive VP PA (2 Terms 6 years)2015-2021

Chapter Member Chair 2010-2011/2015-2021

#### National Positions

Active National Vice President (2 Terms) 2014-2017/2018-2021

Active National Membership Chair 2018-2021

Active National Membership Representative East 2021- Present

National Retiree Membership Chair (2021-Present)

#### Postal Career

PTF Clerk (1985-1989) Canton Ohio and Allentown Pa

FT Finance Clerk (1989-1992) Lehigh Valley Pa

Postmaster Level 18 (1992-2021) Pennsylvania Retired 2021

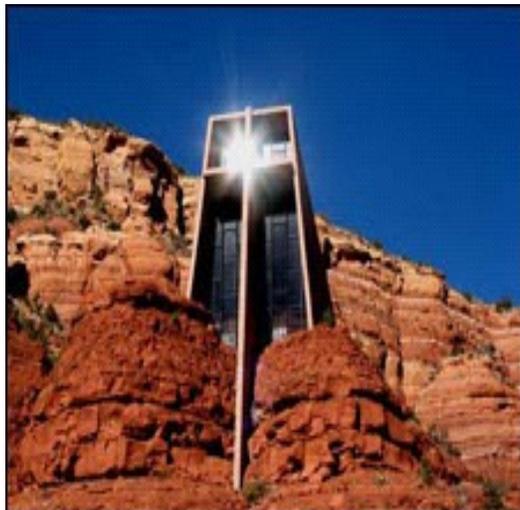


ANN JOOS, CHAPLAIN

The lad told of his

Business Development Specialist, Minneapolis, MN

Cell: 952-212-5669 Email: akjoos@gmail.com



"Too Big a Change"

February 15, 2014

... He (Jesus) saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and He said to him, "Follow Me." And he rose and followed Him. And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when He heard it, He said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ... For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." Matthew 9:9b-12, 13b

Not so long ago a friend sent me a story about a professor who was teaching at a large state university.

With classes being rather large and impersonal, the instructor began each semester by having the students introduce themselves. The girls in the class paid special attention when one young man, a man whom they described as a "hunk," stood up and shared his name. (Some of the girls wrote his name down.)

hometown (the girls wrote that down, too), even mentioned he loved family life. (The girls smiled at that one.) Here was a guy who was simply too good to be true. The young man continued, "I guess that's because of my mother. She's very special. I hope to find somebody like her."

If the boy had sat down then, he could have dated every girl in the freshman class.

But, he didn't sit down. He said "I hope to find somebody just like my mother. She did a great job raising 16 children."

The girls stopped writing; one after another crumpled up her paper. The girls liked what they saw in that young man, but he was asking them to make a change they weren't ready to make.

That is I imagine how a great many people feel about Jesus.

From what I've seen, most people enjoy the carpenter's Son. "After all," they say, "what's not to like?" Jesus loved little children; He healed people. He helped those who were hurting. All in all, it's pretty easy to like Jesus.

It's easy until ...

until people realize Jesus came to change *them*. Those changes begin with a call to repentance. That means a person must admit he is a sinner, and he's helpless to fix things on his own, and he needs a Savior. That's a lot of changes.

All those changes explain why some people prefer to live in sin's darkness rather than the Savior's light. The change Jesus wishes to bring about is too much for them.

How sad.

It's sad because their souls remain lost, and heaven's door stays shut. It's sad because their present and their eternity would be so much better if they hadn't stopped the Holy Spirit.

And how do I know their lives would be better with the Holy Spirit's changes? I know because Matthew the ex-tax collector tells me how wonderful it was for him when Jesus called him, changed him, and saved him.

**THE PRAYER:** Dear Lord, I give thanks for the changes the Holy Spirit can bring in the hearts of humankind. May I give thanks for the opportunity to follow Jesus who not only loves us, but also gave up His life, so we might be changed for the better. In His Name. Amen.

In Christ I remain His servant and yours,

Pastor Ken Klaus  
Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour®  
Lutheran Hour Ministries



Minnesota United States House Representatives

District, Name, Party, Office Room, Phone

1st, Finstad, Brad, R, 1605 Longworth HOB, (202) 225-2472

2nd, Craig, Angie, D, 2442 Rayburn HOB, (202) 225-2271

3rd, Phillips, Dean, D, 2452 Rayburn HOB, (202) 225-2871

4th, McCollum, Betty, D, 2426 Rayburn HOB, (202) 225-6631

5th, Omar, Ilhan, D, 1730 Longworth HOB, (202) 225-4755

6th, Emmer, Tom, R, 464 Cannon HOB, (202) 225-2331

7th, Fischbach, Michelle, R, 1004 Longworth HOB, (202) 225-2165

8th, Stauber, Pete, R, 145 Cannon HOB, (202) 225-6211

Attention Active and Retired Members. We need to take action now to push our Representatives to pass long overdue legislation regarding WEB and GPO. Contact your representatives now, MN still has four who have not signed on to HR 82-where does your rep stand?

**180 Co-sponsors**

## VANESSA NIELSEN, EDITOR

Postmaster Retired Onamia MN Cell phone: 218-280-0366

Email: [mnpmaeditor@gmail.com](mailto:mnpmaeditor@gmail.com)



**One small positive thought in the morning can change your whole day.**

Three years ago I went on a Caribbean cruise with my daughter Dawn and my granddaughter Amelia. Four year ago I picked up a pair of (not so Mini) mini pigs in Foreston and drove them in the back of my Subaru to my daughters place in Breckenridge, MN. (I was already going there for a birthday party.) I really like the Time-hop App on my phone-It gives me a daily reminder of past years captured in pictures.

We all need to look back at where we've been in order to look forward to where we are going.

**Life is like a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving. –Albert Einstein.**

**Spring is coming (eventually) to Minnesota, it's time to look forward to making summer vacation plans. Be sure to include the Minnesota State Convention in Lakeville in May and the National Convention in Denver in August.**



Please send funeral notifications to the editor and Anita Pfeifer.

All articles are the opinion of the writer and do not necessarily represent the views of Minnesota UPMA.

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Postmark Minnesota (ISSN 25785796)  
published Monthly: MAR, APR, MAY, JUNE  
AND COMBINED JAN/FEB, JUL/AUG,  
SEPT/OCT AND NOV/DEC by United  
Postmasters and Managers of America.  
1071 130th Ave, Ogilvie, MN 56358-3571.  
Periodicals postage paid at Onamia, MN and  
additional mailing offices.

**Postmaster:** Send address changes to  
Postmark Minnesota, 1071 130<sup>th</sup> Ave,  
Ogilvie, MN 56358.



**Article Deadline**  
**March 24th, 2023**

**Dates to Remember**

**Events**

- March 19-22, 2023      Legislative Summit  
Washington DC
- May 17 – 19, 2023      Minnesota State  
Convention  
Lakeville MN
- August 26-31, 2023      UPMA National Convention  
Denver, CO
- September 22-24, 2023      Central Area Officers  
Summit  
Indianapolis Indiana
- March 17 – 20, 2024      Legislative Summit  
Washington DC
- August 21-30, 2024      UPMA National  
Convention Orlando, FL



Lakeville Holiday Inn-make your reservations today! Reserve your room for National Convention in Denver too!



**Lakeville** is an [exurb](#) of [Minneapolis-Saint Paul](#), and the largest city in [Dakota County, Minnesota](#). It is approximately 20 miles south of both downtown Minneapolis and downtown St. Paul along [Interstate Highway 35](#). Starting as a flourishing milling center, its agriculture industry and other major industries are still in operation. Lakeville is one of the fastest-growing cities in the [Twin Cities](#) area. The population was 69,490 at the [2020 census](#) making it Minnesota's tenth most populous city.