

THE BAYOU TIMES

LOUISIANA CHAPTER

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 3

MAY/JUNE 2023

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UPCOMING EVENTS

LA District Career Conf

New Orleans, LA
August 13, 2023

National Convention

Denver, CO
August 26-31, 2023

Southern Officers Conf

Myrtle Beach, SC
October 5-8, 2023

LA UPMA Fall Meeting

Lafayette, LA
October 26-27, 2023

CONGRATULATIONS 2023 MEMBER OF THE YEAR

PEGGY FOLSE

Retired PM, Lockport



UPMA Email list

The Louisiana UPMA Chapter has a personal email list to disseminate information quickly to its members. If you would like to be included on this email list please send your personal email address to Karen Boudreaux at cajunpostmaster@Cox.net



www.unitedpma.org

Fill out an 1187
and
JOIN TODAY!

Retired?
Fill out an 1187R

The Bayou Times

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Postmasters and Managers of America.

THE BAYOU TIMES

LOUISIANA CHAPTER
UNITED POSTMASTERS AND MANAGERS OF AMERICA

PRESIDENT

TRACY JOHNSON
WALKER LA 70785
LA_UPMA@yahoo.com
225-603-1027

SECRETARY TREASURER

DONNETTE ELLIOTT
BALL LA 71405
Ms_dle@hotmail.com
318-715-3607

EDITOR

KAREN BOUDREAU
laupma2@gmail.com
337-789-3766



VICE-PRESIDENTS

LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

GLEN FORBES
LIVINGSTON LA 70754
papere97@yahoo.com
225-324-5361

PAC CHAIRMAN

TESSA CLARK
COTTONPORT LA 71327
tdclark1427@suddenlink.net
318-359-2209

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

VICKY JOHNSON
HARRISONBURG LA 71340
Vicky.lynn.johnson3@gmail.com
318-403-0812

EDUCATION CHAIRMAN

JAMES SAYLES
ROBELINE LA 71469
James.sayles@gmail.com
315-527-7314

RETIREE PRESIDENT

ROSEMARY LEE
tyrwlee@att.net
318-751-5686

CHAPTER MEMBER REP

BENNY DAIGLE
benny.b.daigle@gmail.com
225-335-5111

CHAPLAIN

JAMES SAYLES
ROBELINE, LA 71469
James.sayles@gmail.com
315-527-7314





President - Tracy Johnson

ONE OF MY FAVORITE CONVENTIONS



The 2023 Louisiana State Convention was one of my favorites. Our Convention Chairman, Benny Daigle, worked with the City of Natchitoches, the Convention & Visitors Bureau and our Vendors to host one of the best State Conventions ever. Everyone seemed to enjoy The Sports Hall of Fame, the Cane River Boat Ride and the LaCour Trio entertainment. We also had five 1st timers that attended, made some needed changes to the Bylaws and elected four new 2024 Executive Board members. The Executive Committee will be appointing a new VP-PAC Chairman and a Parliamentarian to fill the vacancies on the Executive Board.

Larry Darsam, Torrey Harris and Beca Book did a great job, providing information, answering questions and training us on how to use the newly required postal tools like Power BI and CRDO. Peggy Folse was chosen as Member of the Year for her years of service to this organization. James Sayles presented a beautiful Memorial Service

honoring our membership and their loved ones.

There are really only two reasons that this meeting was a success. First being, the Executive Board. For most of the board our priorities are God, Family, Work and then UPMA. You each devote a lot of your time, talents and money to ensure that this organization is viable and available to help our membership. Second being, the membership that shows up in support. You spend your time and money to be a part of what we are doing and support us with your presence. Thank you all!!!

Next, you will see the Louisiana UPMA at the Career Conference in New Orleans on August 13th. We will have a booth there, so come by for your free gift. We will be there offering support to members and potential members on career opportunities. So, get registered for that.

Then we will be attending the National Convention in Denver, CO. We still have three available spots for an active 1st timer that has never attended a National Convention to go. Louisiana UPMA will pay your registration and give you a \$500.00 stipend towards your trip. Please contact me ASAP if you are interested.

Louisiana UPMA is a growing organization with many available opportunities so get involved today!!!

Newly elected officers

2024-2025

President—Glen Forbes

Secretary/Treasurer—Tessa Clark

VP Legislative—Vicky Johnson

VP Membership—Alisha Woods

Tell your peers about UPMA

Dear UPMA Members,

We are excited to announce that the UPMA National Executive Board has authorized a special incentive for those who sponsor new EAS Members in July 2023. If you sponsor a new member and they sign up during this time, you will be eligible for a \$25 reward! To be eligible, you must be registered for and attend the National Convention in Denver. We hope this incentive will encourage you to spread the word about our organization and help us grow our membership.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to UPMA.

Best regards,

Edmund Carley, National UPMA President





Editor - Karen Boudreaux

INCENTIVES AND REWARDS



The Louisiana Chapter and the national organization are both offering cash incentives for signing up new members and for attending the national convention next month in Denver. Pay attention to the information posted in this issue. Membership is a top priority and the life blood of the organization.

You will find several registration forms in this edition of the Bayou Times. You have several opportunities to take part in UPMA functions throughout the year. The Southern Officers Conference (SOC) is a forum of state officers and any members, active and retired, from the southern states to attend. There are speakers as well as officer training available. If you are thinking about becoming an officer anytime in the future, this is a very informative conference. The registration form is on page 18. If you have any questions about the conference, don't hesitate to ask one of our officers.

I had a family commitment that kept me from attending the entire convention in Natchitoches. I would like to give a special thanks to all the members that submitted photos for this edition of the Bayou Times.

Scholarship Fund 50/50 Winners

\$500—Melenea Fruge

\$250—Joan LeBouef

\$100—Betty Baker

welcome

"NEW MEMBERS"

Chanel Marie Anderson
Associate Member

Brandi L Mangham
Postmaster

Terrence L Miley
Postmaster

Veronica Lenise Harrison
Associate Member

Delores Freeman
Associate Member

Alica K Veach
Associate Member

Sandy Hammons
Associate Member

Cary St. Angelo
Manager

Sheba N Green
Supervisor

NaTorya B Merritt
Postmaster

Bryan S Abadie
Supervisor

Mary L Roggerson
Retired Member

Sandy Williams
Associate Member

Vernon R Bush
Manager

Judy K Smith
Postmaster

Verna Deen Brashear
Postmaster

Lydia C Patterson
Manager

Stephanie McCorkie
Postmaster

Christie G Blanco
Supervisor

Shannon Denise Clark
Supervisor

Brenda G Dupree
Retired Member

Abbie L Davis
Associate Member

Derrick T Campbell
Postmaster

Tabatha Richardson Bailey
Postmaster

Steve Werkheiser
Postmaster

Richard V Cottrell, Jr
Postmaster

Natasha A Spivey
Supervisor

Trina Dunn
Supervisor

Shaquita L Herrin
Associate Member

Patricia Harding James
Postmaster

Jeffrey S Barnes
Associate Member

Cassandra Tomlin-Johnson
Supervisor

Jocelyn Robinson
Associate Member

Adam W Wolleson
Postmaster

Angela Spain
Postmaster

Teresa K Lilly
Associate Member



VP/Membership Chair - Vicky Johnson

UPMA SCHOLARSHIPS



We had a great State Convention this year. Beautiful decorations, the food and entertainment were awesome, and the training was just what we needed. We also had several first timers which was very encouraging and since last year our membership has increased more than 50 members. Special thanks to Tracy, Benny, Tessa, Karen, James, Glen, and Rosemary for all

they did to make it a wonderful success. You guys are the best!

It is always an honor when I get to present the scholarships at the State Convention. This year as always, we have two very deserving students who were the winners. These two young people are hard-working, talented, and according to those that know them best, kind

and compassionate people. As one of their teachers said, the world needs more of these kinds of people with this brand of character. We are proud to present scholarships to Peyton Dunn and Landon Gage Godina. It was a pleasure meeting Gage and his family and we wish them all the best and much success.

LOUISIANA UPMA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



PEYTON DUNN

Peyton Dunn is the daughter of Latasha Lewis, Postmaster of St Francisville. Peyton graduated from Baton Rouge Magnet High School with a 4.08 GPA, scored 31 on her ACT and completed 10 Advanced placement courses in preparation for college. Peyton not only excelled in Academics but in sports as well, she lettered in gymnastics and track and field. Peyton was voted Prom Princess by her peers and is very involved in school and community activities. Peyton plans to attend LSU and major in Sports Management and Administration. Peyton says her mom has always told her to follow her aspirations and strive for excellence. Peyton also said that she appreciates the sacrifices her mom has made, and she will forever be grateful for her support! Peyton and her mom were not able to be with us, but we wish you both the best, and continued success.



LANDON GAGE
GODINA

Landon Gage Godina, (Gage to his family and friends) is the son of Bobby and Brandi Godina and grandson of Boone (Richey) Brantley, Postmaster of Monroe. Gage has numerous family members that work for the postal service, and there were several who attended the banquet. Gage has attended D'arbonne Woods Charter School since Kindergarten. He has maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout that entire time and graduated as one of the schools Valedictorians. Gage says that his caring teachers and the love and support of his family have encouraged him to always do his best. Gage says that along with his academic achievements he was especially proud of making it to the district basketball championships and to the football playoffs this year with a 6-4 winning season. Gage has completed several dual enrollment classes with top grades which ensures he graduated with several hours of college courses successfully. Gage plans to attend Louisiana Tech and major in Cyber Engineering.



Secretary Treasurer - Donnette Elliott

WE ARE FAMILY



The **LA UPMA** State Convention in Natchitoches was well attended and very diverse, made up of HQ & District personnel, Postmasters, Managers, EAS employees, and most importantly, the **1st Timers!!** We were graced by the retired Postal Legends in attendance and grateful for our event vendors, who are known for being the best at what they do. One vendor, the late Greg Edwards with Horizon Benefits Group, a popular hospitality host, was surely missed at this year's convention. Greg passed away suddenly last month after suffering a heart attack. He left behind a postal family that will always remember his welcoming smile, sense of humor and his generous pours!

This year's convention was full of fun activities; with a reception at the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame, a Cane River Cruise and a Friday night dance featuring entertainment by the LaCour Trio.

We all come into the workplace with strengths and weaknesses, it's our active

involvement into **UPMA**, where our weaknesses are strengthened, and our strengths are sharpened.

UPMA is our Postal family; like our traditional family, we have those that it's hard to admit we're related to, but that's just life. Even so, at family reunions (a.k.a. UPMA meetings & conventions) when we learn of another's challenges and struggles, we try to assist them and when we can't, we direct them to someone who can. Then we celebrate their wins, because their wins empower the entire family, keeping it strong and sustainable.

I hope you enjoyed this year's convention; we welcome you and need you to get involved with the family business. All hands are needed for its success.



The Louisiana Chapter of UPMA has extended the membership incentive through December 31, 2022. All new EAS members signed up through the end of the year will receive a \$50 incentive as well as a Chapter Padfolio. Any sponsors that sign up new EAS members will also receive a \$50 incentive.

Louisiana Chapter of UPMA Financial Statement

Checking balance	\$ 35,514.01
Savings balance	\$ 11,642.01
CD balance	\$ 10,864.92
Total	\$ 57,123.68
<hr/>	
VISA Credit Card Balance	\$ 897.26



National Convention Incentive

The Louisiana Chapter of UPMA is offering a stipend to five First Timers attending the upcoming National Convention in Denver in August. The Chapter will pay your registration fee and \$500 toward Room and Board to attend. Be one of the first five to contact President Tracy Johnson.



DENVER

COLORADO

7th UPMA National Convention

Aug. 26-Sept. 1, 2023

Official Registration Form

Registration also available at www.unitedpma.org

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

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Title:

- ☐ Postmaster/OIC
☐ Supervisor
☐ Manager
☐ EAS Professional
☐ Associate
☐ UPMA Retired
☐ Spouse
☐ Guest

First Name (for your badge): _____

Post Office You Represent City: _____ State: _____

Your Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP+4 _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Active First-Timer?

☐ Yes ☐ No

UPMA Retired First-Timer?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Convention Registration (only one person per form):

Please circle the appropriate fee:

	8/26/22- 3/31/23	4/1/23 6/30/23	After 6/30/23
Postmaster/Manager/Supervisor/ Associate/OIC/EAS Professional	\$165	\$200	\$250
Daily registration is available at \$75/day.			
First-Timer*—Active	\$95	\$95	\$95
UPMA Retired or Guest* (UPMA Retired Luncheon included)	\$133.75	\$160	\$197.50
Auxiliary/Spouse/ Postmaster Guest	\$155	\$190	\$245
(Does NOT include UPMA Retired Luncheon)			

Children (17 and under) \$80; includes child's meal at the Grand Banquet.

*First-timers must pay their registration fee in advance using this form; online registration not available. After attending the convention, they must submit a form to the National Office to be reimbursed.

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

Grand Banquet: Aug. 31, 2023

Payment Information

Convention Fee: \$ _____

Additional tickets for UPMA

Retired Luncheon @ \$35 each \$ _____

Total Payment: \$ _____

☐ Check payable to UPMA

☐ Visa/MasterCard

Card number: _____

Card security code: _____ Expiration date: _____

(3- or 4-digit code
imprinted on card)

Signature: _____

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

Hotel Reservation

UPMA has a special rate at the convention hotel beginning Sept. 3, 2022. You must call the hotel directly to make a reservation. The National Office will not handle room reservations. **To make a reservation, you must make a deposit to the hotel in the amount of your first night's lodging; this deposit is non-refundable after July 24, 2023.** All room cancellations must be made directly with the hotel. To secure the special UPMA rate, you must identify yourself as part of the UPMA convention. The rate is available only until July 24, 2023, or all rooms in the block are sold, whichever comes first. The group rate is available five days pre- and post convention based on availability.

Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel

1-888-627-8405

\$159—single/double/triple/quad

Be sure to request the
UPMA group code: UPMA 2023

Registration Cancellation Refund Policy

Requests for cancellation refunds must be made in writing to the UPMA National Office. Requests must be postmarked by June 1, 2023; no refunds after that date. All refunds are subject to a \$40 handling fee.

Registrations are non-transferable.

Questions?
Call 703-683-9027



Chapter Member Rep - Benny Daigle

WORKPLACE ATMOSPHERE

ADVERSE ACTION

Printed below is the UPMA Adverse Action Legal Defense Plan. This plan is available to all active EAS members after one year of membership.

I am here to help you should the need arise. If you are called in for an Investigative Interview please contact me immediately. It doesn't mean you're about to lose your job.

Investigative Interviews can be positive; often to air out differences or misunderstandings.

Cut out the box below and keep it in your office. If a Postal Inspector or OIG comes to your office and the questions are related directly to you ask the question 'AM I UNDER INVESTIGATION?' If they say yes, tell them you will not talk to them

until your Chapter Member Representative is present. You are to call me immediately.

If you have an EEO filed against you contact me immediately. If you think you have an EEO call me and we will discuss. You can contact me @ 225-335-5111.

Adverse Action Legal Defense Plan (AALDP)

EAS with MSPB Appeal Rights:

Adverse Action (Removals/Demotions/Suspensions).....\$3,000 up front. The claimant will be responsible for 25% of the total cost with a \$3,000 maximum cap. UPMA will pay 100% of the additional costs beyond \$3,000 thru the end of the MSPB Initial Decision. Claimant will be responsible for the full cost of appealing beyond MSPB Initial Decision.

EAS without MSPB Appeal Rights (Administrative Appeal under ELM 652.2):

Removals/Demotions/Suspensions.....\$3,000 up front. The claimant will be responsible for 25% of the total cost with a \$3,000 maximum cap. UPMA will pay 100% of the additional costs beyond \$3,000.

Eligibility.....To be eligible for AALDF benefits, you must be an active EAS member of UPMA for at least one year prior to the date of an initial proposed adverse action. Membership effective date is determined by date Form 1187 is processed at UPMA National Office.

If attorney fees are awarded by a percentage (i.e. 50%), the same percentage will be used when refunding the members used portion of their retainer.

IF YOU RECEIVE A VISIT FROM THE INSPECTION SERVICE OR THE OIG

Statement to be read to Postal Inspectors or OIG:

I request to talk to my UPMA representative before answering any additional questions. If I am a suspect in a criminal matter, please so advise me. If so, I wish to contact my attorney.

Chapter Member Rep: Benny Daigle

Phone: 225-335-5111

If I am under arrest, I request you to so advise me and inform me of the reason or reasons. I will not resist arrest.

I do not consent to a search of my person or property. However, I will not physically resist or obstruct such a search. If you have a search warrant I request to see it at this time.

I will cooperate with you fully, but I will not sign a waiver-of-rights form. I will not admit or deny any allegations, I will not make any written or oral statement unless my attorney and/or UPMA Representative are personally present and so advise me.



VP/Education Chair - James Sayles

PHENOMENAL WEEKEND



What a phenomenal weekend I had at the Louisiana UPMA state convention held in Natchitoches. This experience was full of great moments and opportunities. We kicked off the weekend with the LA Sports Hall of Fame followed by a Boat Cruise on Cane River. It was nice to view all the city in its beauty while having some of the greatest conversations with our fellow UPMA family members. As always, I soaked in as much knowledge as I could from our strongest members and backbone of UPMA, the retirees.

Next, we got to spend some time with the Mayor of Natchitoches. Despite 90% of the city being without power, due to an unforeseen storm, the mayor held to his word and came out to support his close UPMA friends. The mayor talked about his admiration for all postal workers and the essential labor they do day by day. We had some boundless training by a few first timers that was highly informative for our ever-growing line of work. Training and development will always enliven me. We ended the night with some feel good music by the LaCour Trio. What a crew! We

got to see who can dance, and those willing to let it all out on the dance floor without a care or shame.

I was honored to serve as Chaplin and give a Memorial service for twenty of our loved ones that recently are no longer with us physically, but always in spirit. Thank you, Mrs. Peggy, for doing your best to prepare me for what turned out to be a great service. Lastly, we mingled some more and later said our goodbyes. Until Next Time! See you all soon. God bless.



VP/Legislative Chair - Glen Forbes

ON THE LEGISLATIVE FRONT



Greetings to all. We had a great state convention last week in Natchitoches. Aside from the meetings, we had a cruise on the Cane River Lake and a live trio band to entertain us. Hats off to Benny for his hard work at making this state convention one of the best.

I would like to let you all know the status of House Resolution bill 82. First of all, this is a bi-partisan bill. This bill repeals provisions that reduce Social Security benefits for individuals who receive other benefits, such as pension from federal, state or local governments. This would include civil service retirees, police officers, teachers, railroad workers, and firemen. It is unfairly penalizing civil servants, and this bill would repeal it.

The bill eliminates the Government Pension Offset (GPO) which in various instances reduces Social Security benefits for spouses, widows, and widowers who also receive government pension of their own. The bill also eliminates the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) which sometimes reduces SS benefits for individuals who also receive a pension or disability from an employer that did not withhold Social Security taxes.

Currently it is in the House and Ways committee. Fifteen of the 42 members of this committee are co-sponsors. It was introduced back in January by Representative Garrett Graves. We currently have 284 co-sponsors, including all the Louisiana representatives, with the exception of Steve Scalise. He was a

co-sponsor in the 117th congress but has not agreed to co-sponsor the same bill in the 118th congress. When we get 290 sponsors it is supposed to be forced to the floor of the house for a vote. Contact Representative Scalise's office and urge him to co-sponsor.

There is a sister bill in the Senate, known as the Social Security Fairness Act, introduced by Congressman Ed Markey. This is cosponsored by Congressman Bill Cassidy but not by Congressman John Kennedy. There are 25 cosponsors of this legislation. Contact Senator Kennedy's office and urge him to cosponsor this bill. President Biden has agreed to sign this bill into law if it reaches his desk.



UPMA is urging members to get involved. Our next meeting is in Lafayette, LA. October 26th- 27th

Location: Holiday Inn North Lafayette
2219 NW Frontage Rd, Lafayette, LA 70501
Phone # 337-706-8199
Room Rates: \$96.00 (includes breakfast)
Deadline for room rate is Oct 16th.
Room Code: UPM

Tentative Agenda:

October 26th:

2:00 PM -Executive Board Meeting
5:00 PM – Hospitality

October 27th:

8:00 AM – Business Session
10:30 AM – Training
12:00 PM – Lunch
1:30 PM– District Panel

**PLEASE EMAIL ANY QUESTIONS THAT
YOU WOULD LIKE ANSWERED TO
LA_UPMA@YAHOO.COM**

In order to prepare in advance and for meals **there will be no on-site registration.**
Registration Deadline is Monday, October 16th.

Name Badge should read: _____

Position / Office / Zip Code _____

Check all that applies:

_____ **First Timer** _____ Guest Name _____

_____ Postmaster _____ Retiree / Office Retired From _____

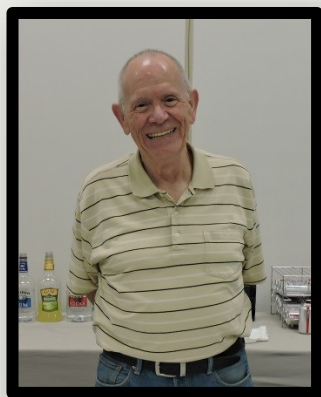
_____ Supervisor _____ PMR

_____ Manager

_____ Associate Member

Send Registration to **LA UPMA** & mail
to: Tracy Johnson
PO Box 743
Pine Grove, LA 70453
You may also email it to:
LA_UPMA@YAHOO.COM

Registration Fee \$25.00



Memories of a dear friend of Postmasters, NAPUS and UPMA



Gregory L Edwards

November 15, 1948—May 20, 2023

Married to Angie Beth Hoag Edwards since August 30, 1969. Gregory Layne Edwards died at 4:56 pm Saturday, May 20, 2023 after suffering an unexpected cardiac event while working in his yard that he loved so much. He is survived by his loving wife Angie, and his two sons, and their families, Spencer, Jennifer and Maxwell, and Warren, Paige and Hutson. He is survived by his sister Vanda Edwards-Jones and his brother-in-law Jack Jones. Preceded in death by his parents Francis Brooks Edwards and Olive Jo West Edwards. A native of Texas City, Texas, he was a proud graduate of Baylor University and had resided in Baton Rouge with Angie since 1972. The three great pillars in his life were his family, faith and community. He was a deacon and Sunday School teacher at Broadmoor Baptist Church and was Chairman of the Baton Rouge State Fair Foundation. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Heart Association or Broadmoor Baptist Church.





Retiree President - Rosemary Lee

THE HONORABLE RETIRED ZONE



Greetings to our Beloved Louisiana Retirees,

If you missed our 2023 UPMA State Convention in Natchitoches this year, you really missed a wonderful, blessed and emotional time during our retirees' meeting! It was really something to behold.

I would like to thank each of you that was there, and I must say, "It was something to behold!" We'll get to that later. **Congratulations to Peggy Folsie, our UPMA Retired Honoree for 2023.** Peggy was the recipient of the **'Member of the Year'** award and also a Certificate of Appreciation was given for her service.

As Chaplain, Peggy would always bring an inspirational message during our Memorial Services at the State Convention, a message of inspiration and encouragement. Peggy decided last year to pass the gavel to someone else, but upon request and in obedience to God's will, she was asked to do the service one more time, and she did! I'm reminded of what **Jesus said in John 12:32, "If I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."**

Peggy had an awesome message, and she will truly be missed, but she's leaving us in good hands with our new Chaplain, James Sayles, who will do a fantastic job bringing us words of inspiration. We wish Peggy and her husband many blessings throughout life as she continues to lift our Lord and Savior up.

Karen Boudreaux didn't miss a beat, as she put together one of the most astounding and beautiful videos of our deceased members ever from this time last year! **Thank you, Karen, for the magnificent job you always do for UPMA members in the State of Louisiana!**

During our retirees meeting on Friday, we had the opportunity to do something a little different. Kathy Herring introduced our beloved friend from the

state of Mississippi, **Mandy-Heslep Whitten, our UPMA National Retired President**, who gave the retirees a brief update on H.R. 82 and the PSHB plan. Afterwards and before the meeting was over, I suggested that if each of us could leave an encouraging word to the retirees there, what would it be! As each one pondered over what they would say, we started going around the room to each retiree. Each one had something very unique to offer about how they have coped with life and what they do to keep going, and many talked about how important family is. Every retired member in the room had an open-hearted testimony and felt comfortable in the presence of friends and colleagues; and through it all there were times where we laughed, and we cried; we laughed and we cried. You must believe me when I say, we had one of the best **"Retirees' Roundtable Chat Sessions"** ever.

We intend to come back again and get updates on how we can help one another, because that's what it's all about. Reaching out to check on each other, going to visit, calling or just sending a card of cheer will do more than we could ever imagine. We have got to do something to pull members out of their dark places when they are sick, lonely, and have no one else to depend on.

I want you to know, Benny Daigle did an awesome job on the entertainment. The band he secured was one of the best! I was so elated and happy to see many of the retirees get up and dance. They danced and laughed the night away; you really should have been there!

Please remember, if

you know of a member who is sick or who has passed away, please don't hesitate to let me know! You are the people we depend on to let us know about our members, especially those in your nearby vicinity. I send out get well cards as well as sympathy cards to our members and members family, but you must let me know who they are. My email address is tyrwlee@att.net, and my cell number is (318) 751-5686. Please feel free to contact me at any time. Wishing each retired member and their family many, many blessings until we meet again with much love always.

*Humbly submitted by,
Rosemary W. Lee
State Retiree President*





Deceased Members honored at the convention memorial service

Kenneth "Wayne" Rebelle, Sr
Retired PM, Pitkin, LA

Faye Vincent
Retired PM, Hackberry, LA

Jack T. Milligan
Retired PM, Vidalia, LA

Judy Choate
Retired PM, Perry, LA

Annie Rosie Trabeaux
Retired PM, French Settlement, LA

Coy Hughes
Retired PM, Vivian LA

Royce W. Richmond
Retired PM, Pitkin, LA

LaTonya Duncan
PM, Coushatta, LA

Donald Augustus, Sr
Retired PM, Denham Springs, LA

Margaret "Bonnie" Robillard
Retired PM, New Roads, LA

Jessie Champagne
Retired PM, Rayne, LA

Harold "Tuffy" Jackson
Retired PM, Gretna, LA

Deceased family members

Donald H. Cowart, father-in-law of
Glen Forbes, PM Livingston, LA

Joyneen Lassere Forbes, mother of
Glen Fores, PM Livingston, LA

Lawrence Albert, brother of Karen
Boudreaux, Retired PM, Loreauville,
LA

Freddie Woods, Sr, father of Alisha
Woods, PM Baker, LA & grandfather-
in-law of Karla Woods, Rural carrier
Zachery, LA

Brian "Corky" Herring, husband of
Kathy Herring, Retired PM, Scott LA

Dr Kemp Nelson, son of Bobbie Nel-
son, Retired PM, Pollock, LA

Loretta Chauvin Vizzini, mother of
Danny Vizzinni, Retired PM, Luling,
LA

Greg Edwards, Horizon Benefits, hos-
pitality host



VP/PAC Chair - Tessa Clark

SHOUT OUT TO GREAT PEOPLE



As I write this article, I am just returning from our state convention in Natchitoches. I had a great time. There was a Cane River boat ride, a tour of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame, GREAT food, great company. As with every meeting, we wish we had more members take an interest in UPMA and come to the meetings. But we had a fair turnout. Benny did a wonderful job as always. We are already planning next year's meeting in Alexandria, and I would encourage postmasters, supervisors, 204B and associates to please make plans to

attend. We need you.

I would like to give a shout out to a great group of people. The ones who show up again and again and again to give their support. The ones who served in many ways and now feel less useful. The ones who give and give and feel like they get nothing in return. The RETIREES. The knowledge you pass on is priceless and I appreciate all you do to contribute to UPMA.

Now to say a little something about PAC. Remember PAC is your voice in Congress. Please consider do-

nating to PAC on a regular basis. Give them the support so that they can succeed on Postmaster and UPMA's behalf. Right now, they are needing more votes in Congress to get HR82 and S597 to the floor to be voted on. These bills will help our CSRS retirees and maybe our future retirees. Consider giving today. Thank you all for your PAC donations at the meeting. And congratulations again to our 50/50 PAC winner.



Why a UPMA PAC?

UPMA PAC helps elect members of Congress who will support legislation that will benefit active and retired Postmasters and Postal Managers. UPMA is legally permitted to communicate with members of Congress, postal regulators and employees of the Executive Branch, and to provide political education to UPMA members.

However, federal law prohibits UPMA from making campaign contributions to candidates for fed-

eral offices. Membership dues are not permitted for such use. Consequently, UPMA offers its members a means by which they may provide financial support to candidates for federal office. This is achieved through a "separate, segregated fund" known as a political action committee (PAC). A solicitation from PAC discloses to its contributors a clear explanation that the funds will be used for political campaign contributions.

(Continued on page 15)



THANK YOU FOR RETURNING THIS FORM WITH YOUR PAC CONTRIBUTION

Date: ____/____/____

I'll do my share! Enclosed is (check one): ____\$20____\$50____\$100____\$200 Other: \$____

Name: _____

Clip this remittance
Form and mail your
Donation today to:
Tessa Clark
PO Box 352
Cottonport, LA 71327

Home Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

My Contribution is by (check one): ☐ Check (made out to UPMA PAC) ☐ Money Order

(Continued from page 14)

Although UPMA PAC was created November 2016, the two PACs from which it emerged were recognized within the political community as stable performers with an outstanding success record. Our PAC is far more effective than Postmasters and Postal Managers making individual contributions to particular candidates. Postmasters, Postal Managers, retirees and their families are encouraged to participate in the political process through the strength of their pooled contributions. The results have a greater impact than small, scattered efforts UPMA PAC allows employed and retired Postmasters and Postal managers to make one, coordinated effort to

support their allies in Congress and to candidates we believe will be agreeable to legislative issues. The fact that the contributions are made to candidates in the name of UPMA PAC nurtures positive identification between the candidates and UPMA.

Also, UPMA PAC complements our lobbying efforts, providing an additional avenue of access to members of Congress. UPMA officers, UPMA members or staff may attend fund-raising events where our PAC has made contributions on behalf of the incumbent or candidate.

Your UPMA member ID number can be found on the address label on your copy of the UPMA Leader. Your member ID, along with your password (your last name), gives you the ability to update contact information, including your mailing address, phone number and email address. To access the site, click on the "Member Logon" icon in the upper right-hand corner of the www.unitedpma.org home page.



Delivering Your Best Louisiana - August 13

Career Conference

Higgins Hotel New Orleans

Join us for a fun-filled, action-packed educational day, "Delivering Your Best" career conference, for craft and EAS employees.

\$30 registration fee until July 23, 2023
\$40 registration fee from July 24 - August 6

Session Topics

- Developing Your Career
- Opportunities at the USPS
- Navigating eCareer and KSAs
- Interview Tips
- Spotlight
- What to Expect from the Supervisor Role



Register Now!

[<https://www.rsvpbook.com/evs>]

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Please Recycle

Louisiana UPMA State Convention
Natchitoches, LA



FIRST TIMERS: Wendy Courville, Ron Lumar, Ed Novak (not pictured: Lisa Crockett)



2023 Southern Officers Conference

October 5 – 8, 2023

Myrtle Beach, SC

Name _____ Title _____
Address _____ State/Zip _____
Email _____ Phone _____

October 31, 2022 – May 31, 2023 - \$150.00

June 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023 -- \$175.00

September 1, 2023 and on-site- \$200

(Includes all meals)

SHERATON HOTEL

2101 North Oak St., N. Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Make reservations at or call 1-800-325-3535. Be sure to identify yourself as a member of United Postmasters and Managers of America group to receive the special discounted rate.

Room Rates \$149

Rooms must be booked by Sept. 5, 2023 to secure the group rate.

Return Registration and fee to:
Lori Trinh
102 Belvedere Drive
Spartanburg, SC 29301

Cancelation Policy:
100% until June 30, 2023
50% July 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023
0% after August 31, 2023

One registration per page

LORI TRINH
102 BELVEDERE DRIVE
SPTBG., SC 29301
(Vendors must register to participate in
hospitality room, meals and events)

\$ _____ SOC Registration

Watch for updates on our Facebook Page:

UPMA SOC 2023 – SC

More information contact

Missy Livingston- 803-924-2905

kgliving@yahoo.com

or

Lori Trinh- 864-590-9159

loritrinh@yahoo.com



GERRI SWARM

Candidate for Signature FCU Board of Director's

My career with the National Association of Postmasters/United Postmasters and Managers of America began in July 1981; the span of my career has included more

than twenty national presidents. As the Executive Assistant to the National President, I fulfilled all aspects of running and managing a government association.

As national meeting planner, I facilitate the site selection process for Leadership Summit/National Convention/CMR Academies. Duties include budgeting, contract negotiation for hotels, convention

centers, audio visual, decorators, food & beverage suppliers, tour companies, transportation, and the golf tournament. I process registration fees by check as well as the PayPal virtual terminal. I maintain registration excel reports. I liaison with national officers on travel arrangements, room reservations, oversee the master account.

I have served as Chair/Financial Chair/Executive Board member of the Postal Employees Relief Fund (PERF) for twenty years. As a senior member of the Board, I actively participate in their bi-monthly Board meetings. As Financial Chair I am involved in day to day activities, including investment of PERF funds and meet regularly with finan-

ONLINE TRAINING SCHEDULE

Since we are so limited in our ability to do face-to-face meetings and training, UPMA will be offering you online training opportunities throughout the year. UPMA will provide the training sessions via Zoom, with USPS providing subject matter experts. You will need to register and be logged into a zoom account to attend. The Online Training can be found under the "Events" tab on www.unitedpma.org.

Video Recordings of Past Online Training

UPMA offers you online training opportunities throughout the year. Training sessions are provided via WebEx in partnership with FedPoint. Video recordings of past online training are available below for review and reference.

- Topic: **UPMA National President Edmund Carley covers all things NPA. From how to mitigate last year's score, salary ranges, and pay increases to goals and metrics for next year.**
- Topic: **How to Achieve Effective Leadership Skills and Retain Employees**
- Presentation Title: **Leading with Heart**
- Presentation Title: **The New APWU Contract and Your Office**
- Presentation Title: **The New Rural Contract and Your Office**

The Bayou Times
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The deadline for the next issue is September 5, 2023
Please have your articles and pictures in to the editor on time.

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS INSTALLATION

Secretary/treasurer—Tessa Clark, President—Glen Forbes
VP/Membership—Alisha Woods, VP/Legislative—Vicky Johnson

