

# The Hawkeye Heartlander



*National Convention Denver, CO Aug. 26-Sept. 1 2023*

July/August 2023

Volume 1/Issue 4

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Disclosure: UMPA is not a union. It's a professional association. It is an organization of people who hold proud titles. It does not discriminate by race, gender, or salary level. It is a vehicle, an avenue, a method, and a tool that can and does help, assist, benefit, and encourage members to be better Post Masters.



# President: Greg Snow

Hello Fellow Iowa UPMA Members! I can't believe it is August already and we are only a few weeks from National Convention in Denver! I am excited to see all who can attend and look forward to an exciting week. This will be my first as the Iowa UPMA President and I am so glad that Jeff will be able to help me through the learning process of being President. I have so much to learn and he is a wealth of knowledge. Thank you Jeff for all your hard work!

Convention time is upon us and there are a few things I want to make sure everyone knows so we do not leave anyone behind. First off Sunday night is Semi Formal attire for the banquet, a perfect time to dazzle us all with your beauty and grace!

Tuesday is the free day so make the best of it and enjoy your day with the group tours or on your own. It is a great chance to have fun with your fellow members and to get to know them outside of work! Denver will be absolutely stunning (and warm) so dress appropriately!

Wednesday night at 5:30pm we will have a dinner, to be determined where, and all are definitely encouraged to come and enjoy some time as the Iowa UPMA team!

Thursday night, last night of planned activities, is Western Night, Cowboy up and come enjoy a great final banquet. I am super excited and plan on being as western as I can pull off, may fail but not for lack of trying!

Start Planning for the 2024 National Convention which will be in the Florida sun in Orlando, the resort will be amazing!

Next up, local news, I am wanting to start a Postmaster Spot light feature in the upcoming edition of the Hawkeye Heartlander but I need your help. Let me know some of the Postmasters that you have been super influenced by and been given the support you may have desperately needed during your careers. Let's give them the kudos they deserve by letting them know we care and couldn't become who we are today without their help! Please email me at my personal email any information you can so I can work on an article. My email is [snowteam6@yahoo.com](mailto:snowteam6@yahoo.com). Please in the subject line include UPMA so I can find it quickly and don't overlook it! I look forward to hearing all the wonderful stories of our super members!

Next topic, I want to thank all of you for your hard work and dedication to the Postal Service and don't be discouraged by the negative news coming from everyone. Keep doing your best and do what's right, especially for your employees. We are faced with unsurmountable odds but we will prevail, and remember you are NOT alone. There are hundreds of us out here in your corner and ready to help.

I hope I see all of you at National Convention and I look forward to serving you as your Iowa UPMA President.

Thank you,

Greg Snow



## **Secretary/Treasurer:**

### **Kerry Nichols**

The first meeting of the new Iowa UPMA board was just last weekend in Council Bluffs. It is always at this meeting where we audit the financial records. I asked new President Greg and new Executive Vice President Sherri to be auditors simply for the fact that they were new to the board. If you have never been a secretary/treasurer or an auditor, it is difficult to imagine how much money moves in and out and how every single penny is accounted for. The audit went well, and they were able to sign off that every item was reconciled. There are always a few checks that have not yet been cashed. We again approved an unbalanced budget for this upcoming year. Last year we budgeted \$20,000 for the state convention. We were pretty close. We spent \$21,348. Next year's convention will be a 3 state convention. Members from the South Dakota and Nebraska chapters stopped by our board meeting for a tour of the hotel and meeting rooms.

Now that those books are completely reconciled, I have written the membership incentive checks. If you receive one, please deposit it. The new board has agreed to continue the incentives for the July to December time frame. You will receive \$100 for a new EAS member and \$25 for each Associate member.

On to some news from the National Office. When we met with DPMG Tulino at our board meeting in January, he mentioned that the special exempt pay when carrying mail was not likely to expire soon. As a matter of fact, he mentioned that he didn't really have a date in mind. As of this moment, the tentative expiration date is October 2023. Quick reminder: if you are swiping the clock because you are carrying mail, you MUST record it in the EAS Carry Survey. Make 100% certain you are contractually sound prior to going out yourself.

For those of us going to the National Convention in Denver, a couple of reminders. Officer training is scheduled on Sunday from 1:30-4:30. This training is not just for current officers. It is a great opportunity to learn what an officer does at the Chapter level. Every year the Iowa Chapter has 3 positions up for election. The Sunday night welcome dinner will be an awards banquet and semi-formal. Thursday night's final banquet will be casual and country and western themed.

One REALLY important reminder if you are coming to Denver. I need your banquet ticket at Monday morning's session if you are intending on dining with us Thursday night. The ticket will be in your registration. If you do not give it to me on Monday morning, you will not have a seat with us. I have to exchange those tickets for numbered seats and tables. If you wish to sit with another chapter at Thursday night's dinner, make sure you give your ticket to that state's Secretary/Treasurer on Monday morning.

# Chapter Member Rep:

## Words of Advice

First is a **very hot topic**: Due to all of our employee shortages, we may not be able to deliver all the mail for the day, if you cannot safely, make sure you are reporting your offices non-deliveries. You may get berated by your boss (which I hope is Not the case) but that IS the proper protocol given by Headquarters. The protocol is NOT to deliver all mail at all costs, safety should always be considered first, the safety of our Employees AND the safety of us as Managers are equally important. Without our Employees AND without US managers, we cannot function as a UNITED States Postal Service. Follow your SOP for reporting and if you are being berated, contact the Chapter Member Reps, we might be able to help.

Second best practice, and this is one I religiously follow: do your drawer and stamp counts correctly. This means EVERY count is done by 2 people independently, do not falsify the counts just to get off the list, it is not worth losing your job over a butt chewing. Take the time at the beginning of the quarter and count all of your accountabilities, both yours and your clerks. Don't wait until month 2 or 3 and then feel rushed because you are being pressured to get them done. DO THEM EARLY!

A Chapter Member Rep I want to make sure you know when to contact us to assist you in issues.

If you are contacted by your Manager and they want to perform an Investigative Interview with you concerning anything, request representation and call us.

If your manager wants to talk with you, and it's something out of the ordinary, you can ask, can this lead to corrective action against me or may lead to corrective action? If so, ask for representation and call us.

If you are contacted by anyone from the OIG and they want to interview you, ask for representation, and call us immediately.

If you have been given corrective action, contact us.

Below is the current Iowa CMR contact information:

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## **VP Education: Rich Springer**

### **Summertime is Funner time!**

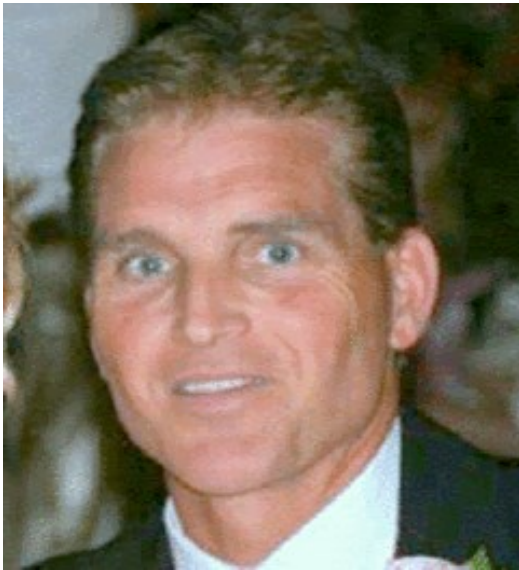
The 2023 UPMA National Convention is almost here. I'm sure we will all enjoy a great experience while staying at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel. I'm happy to report that this convention will have a free registration for anyone who has never attended a National UPMA convention in the past. It's not too late to start making your plans to attend now, walk-ins are welcome. You only need to go to attend a National Convention once to realize how great of an experience it is and that you won't want to miss anymore.

Start making plans for the 2024 UPMA National Convention to be held in Orlando Florida.

The Holiday Inn & Suites in Council Bluffs will host the 2024 Iowa/Nebraska/South Dakota UMPA Chapter Convention, April 26-28, 2024. The Convention Center sits on the banks of the Missouri River and is attached to the Ameristar Casino. Please let any board member of anything thing specific you would like for us to include at this convention. This is our first attempt at a Tri-State convention. What a great opportunity to meet and make friends with the chapter members from Nebraska and South Dakota. Watch for more information to come and start making plans now to attend.

The Iowa UPMA 2023 Fall Tour is just around the corner. More information will be coming out soon on the dates and locations. IA-NE-SD District Manager Lisse Garrett will be invited to attend all meetings. Please call a neighboring office and carpool, you won't want to miss out. Non-members are welcome, and I hope they consider joining UPMA while attending the meeting.

***Now get out and enjoy the summer weather- Rich***



# **Past President:**

# **Jeff Arment**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual UPMA National Convention is almost here and hopefully you have already registered and made your reservations. I can't wait to see everyone in Denver Colorado, August 26<sup>th</sup> – September 1<sup>st</sup>. This should be a great opportunity to network with our fellow Postmasters, Managers and Supervisors across the country and listen to many of our great leaders. We will be having our Chapter dinner for those attending on Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> shortly after the training has ended for the day.

We had our Iowa Board meeting in Council Bluffs IA on the weekend of July 15<sup>th</sup> to officially change over officer positions and to visit the site of our 2024 State Convention at the Holiday Inn and Suites. There were members of the South Dakota and Nebraska UPMA chapters present as well to provide input on what we will need to hold our 1<sup>st</sup> UPMA Tri-State Convention the weekend of April 26-28, 2024. We are planning on having our District Day of Training on Friday and then dinner and entertainment that night and then our normal business session on Saturday with our banquet and entertainment that evening. Room rates at the Holiday Inn and Suites in Council Bluffs are \$115 for King and \$125 for Two Queen.

One of our upcoming events that we have each year is Fall Tour and this year we are adding 2 more nights. We usually travel the 1<sup>st</sup> week of October and have meetings on all 4 evenings of Mon-Thurs but this year we wanted to add a couple of more stops so you would have a better opportunity to be at one of our stops. Instead of Mon-Thurs, we will be traveling Tues-Thurs for 2 consecutive weeks, Oct 17-19 and Oct 24-26. The six cities we will be stopping in will be Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Mount Pleasant, Mason City, Cherokee, and Red Oak. Please reach out to someone on the board if there are certain topics or training you would like to see when we are in your area. We will be inviting the District Manager and POOM's to attend to pass along any information or answer questions that you might have.

Everyone have a Great Summer and hope to see many of you in Denver!!!



# **Retiree President:**

## **Ellen Opperman**

I recently received a phone call from an unknown caller. I usually don't pick up these calls, but for some reason I did. When I answered, the caller said "my wife just died, what do I do?". Mind you, I had no idea who this was, but after a few questions, I realized this was the husband of a UPMA member. His daughter then got on the call and I was able to assist her with their needs. You see, she knew that her mother received a "check from the Post Office" every month but had no idea what to do. I was able to locate her CSA # for the daughter as well as a few other pertinent phone numbers to assist them. I am certain that this happens frequently when a USPS annuitant passes away and as it is a very difficult time for the family, I hope that by sharing the UPMA Survivor Resource, I can minimize the anxiety felt by so many. In this newsletter you will find a form that was shared with me from another State Chapter. Please take a minute to fill out this form and place it with your other documents available to your family in the event of your death. My hope by sharing this is that I never have to receive another call like this!

OK...on to happier things!! I just returned home from Iowa Executive Board Meeting in Council Bluffs in July and things are starting to come together for our 2024 Iowa State Convention! Of course, this is in the very early planning stages, but, since this will be our first ever TRI STATE convention it was wonderful to have representatives from both Nebraska and South Dakota join us to start the process.

In addition, the 2023 UPMA Retired veterans project is in full swing. The plan is to furnish veterans in the Denver Veterans Home with stamps (preferably Purple Heart or Flags) as well as stationary to allow these brave veterans to stay in touch with family and friends! I am also so pleased to announce that your Iowa Executive Board voted to donate \$300.00 to this wonderful project!!! Please bring your donations of stamps to National Convention in Denver and if you are unable to attend, please feel free to send them to me and I will be happy to take them to Denver for you!!! Checks will also be accepted and made out to UPMA retired Veterans Project.

Please continue to send death notifications to me and thank you to all that have done so in the past.

Hope to see many of you next month in Denver but for now I am headed North to Alaska!

Until next time.....Ellen



IOWA UPMA SURVIVOR RESOURCE INFORMATION

Member name \_\_\_\_\_ S.S.# \_\_\_\_\_ CSA# (if retired) \_\_\_\_\_

Active UPMA State Pres. Contact info. \_\_\_\_\_

Retiree UPMA State Pres. Contact info. \_\_\_\_\_

Office of Personnel Management: (1-888-767-6738) Website: opm.gov

Thrift Savings Plan: (1-877-968-3778) Website: tsp.gov

Military service branch (if any) contact info. \_\_\_\_\_

Friend / Family to contact in assisting notification:

\* \_\_\_\_\_

\* \_\_\_\_\_

\* \_\_\_\_\_

Location of computer / Phone password or pin list: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home safe combination number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Location of deeds / auto / home titles: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Safe deposit key location: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Location of your Living Will / Advance Directive: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Location of your Ethical Will / Letter to family \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Funeral home that you wish to handle your burial or cremation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Church for memorial mass (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Lawyer / Law firm that will handle your final affairs: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Life insurance policy: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Bank accounts: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Credit cards: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Final bills: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Contracts: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Retirement accounts: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Investment Accounts: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Past employer's benefits: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Credit union information: \_\_\_\_\_

**Things to remember:**

\*You will need multiple death certificates (it is less costly up front).

\*See if your Bank, Credit union or Credit card company offers a certificate  
of coverage as an active member at no cost to you.

\*Notify Social Security to claim death benefits.

\*List of storage unit or safe deposit location if any.

\*Most funeral directors can provide DMV forms to transfer titles of vehicles.



# **VP Editor:**

## **Merri Burgart**

Quick Reminder from Edmund:

UPMA Chapter Presidents, UPMA National Executive Board Re: Special Exemption- to deliver mail HRSSC has cut PS-Form 50s effective 12/31/2022, making all Exempt Postmasters 18-22 and all Exempt Station Managers Special-Exempt with a reason code allowing them to allowing them to be eligible for “additional pay when delivering mail.” After a long struggle by UPMA, a temporary modification to Postal pay policy will allow select exempt non-bargaining employees to be eligible for additional pay when those employees are needed to deliver mail due to staffing shortages. Based on a UPMA request and conversations at the St Louis UPMA National Convention, the Service has decided to temporarily modify policy and allow employees permanently assigned to the following positions to be eligible for additional pay at the straight-time rate if authorized to deliver mail.

The policy will provide extra compensation for the time a Manager or Postmaster delivers mail, provided the total work hours are more than 8.5 on a scheduled day or any hours on a non-scheduled day. This temporary pay policy is applicable only in those circumstances. Management must meet all contractual requirements before authorizing non-bargaining employees to deliver mail.

This temporary policy commenced on December 31st, 2022, and is now set to end on October 6th, 2023.

UPMA is hopeful this will continue to stay in place until such time as the staffing shortage is rectified. UPMA appreciates this change and looks forward to further discussions with The Service on this and other issues facing our members. This is another example of what can get done when we work together. Please share this with your Area/District Managers as you need to; no further announcement will come from the Service.

Together We Can

Edmund



# Iowa PAC:

## Harry Healey

Before I say anything about PAC let me tell about what I was up to a couple weeks ago. For that other Federal employee organization I belong to, NARFE, I was in on ZOOM meetings with legislative aides from both Senators Grassley and Ernst's offices as well as aides from Congress people Hinson and Nunn's offices. Apparently, times couldn't be worked out with the offices of Congress people Miller-Meeks and Feenstra.

We focused on three issues: First, HR 82, the Social Security Fairness Act, which would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset which have penalized Federal retirees and the amount of Social Security they receive since 1983. Both Congress people Hinson and Nunn have signed on as co-sponsors to this bill and we thanked them for their support in this issue. The Senate companion bill, S. 597, has not even been considered by Grassley's or Ernst's offices and probably will not get anywhere near their radars until such time as HR. 82 is passed in the House. So, when that happens it will be time to flood their offices with phone calls and emails.

The second issue we discussed was HR. 866, the Equal Cola Act, which, if passed would get FERS retirees a full COLA instead of a reduced COLA in most years. The most that reduction could be in a given year is 1%. Now 1% doesn't sound like much but just like compound interest makes your savings account increase exponentially, compounding a negative also makes that 1% reduction exponentially effect your retirement, but in a negative way. NARFE estimates, based on historical inflation figures, the current law costs the "average" FERS retiree \$7721 after 10 years, \$24,034 after 20 years, and for those blessed to live 30 years into retirement, \$88,282. Since most bills take several years to get passed after being first introduced, if I were a FERS employee planning to retire someday, I would start encouraging my legislators to get serious about this bill NOW!

Lastly, we talked about proposals that have been thrown out that would be detrimental to the earned pay and benefits of all Federal employees and retirees including Postal employees. At our convention in April and also in my last article I mentioned a congressional study group that has made such recommendations. The bad news is that three of Iowa's House members are members of that study group, Hinson, Nunn, and Feenstra. The good news is that they don't have to totally adhere to those recommendations as a whole as demonstrated earlier in this article by support for HR. 82 from Hinson and Nunn.

And that is what our PAC program does for us. It helps us educate our law makers on the effects upon us working people that proposed legislation can cause if passed, both good and bad. It also helps us remind them of our numbers in their districts and that we vote. So, start participating in PAC now and protect what you have earned. Go to <http://www.unitedpma.org> to get started.

# **Southern Officers Conference:**

## **October 5-8 2023**

### **Myrtle Beach, South Carolina**

The South Carolina chapter of UPMA invites you to the Southern Area officers conference in the great vacation location of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

SOC will be held October 5th-8th 2023. This is a great tie for a fall vacation. The rates on hotels/motels are cheaper in the off season than during the peak time.

Sheraton Hotel is in the conference hotel, which is only two blocks from the beach and the rate is excellent at \$149.00 per night.

We have planned an exceptional itinerary for this event. There will be great training as well as fun. Angela Curtis, vice president of delivery operations and Mike Chestnut from headquarters will be in attendance. Mr. Chestnut is the director of field operations support and the rural delivery subject matter expert. This is a great time to have all your questions answered.

All meals will be provided, starting with the opening of our hospitality room on Thursday night. We have planned two meals off site with transportation to and from each location. Each place will have music and dancing.

What a great deal for your money. Come and join us, let your hair down, receive great training and see old friends and meet new ones.

# Quick Thank you from Kevin Schwab

Thanks to the 15 retirees that showed up at Meskwaki on July 15th! It was good catching up with those in attendance and hearing what they have been up to since they retired. Linda Silverio was the winner of the door prize by getting 26 of the 50 acronyms correct. Mark your calendars for September 11, 2024 as that was the date chosen for next year's get together! Hopefully more will be able to attend as we plan on making this a yearly event, with more people attending each year.



Left to right around the table, Bob(with Mavis Lovig), Bruce Watnem, Rocky Hilton, Arlene(with Rocky), Dorothy(with Al Littrel), Dixie Bentley, George Flanagan, Al Littrel, Sandi Ellis, Tom McGuire, Sue Kibby Eggena, and Mavis Lovig



Left to right around the table, Al Littrel, Sandi Ellis, Tom McGuire, Linda Silverio, Harry Healey, Bruce Watnem, Rocky Hilton, Arlene, and Dorothy. (not pictured, Kevin Schwab)



# Seasonal Recipes:

## Zucchini Bread

3 Eggs

1 c oil

2 c sugar

3 tsp cinnamon

1/4 tsp baking powder

2 c grated zucchini

3 tsp vanilla

3 c flour

1 tsp baking soda

1 tsp salt

Beat eggs till foamy. Add oil, sugar zucchini, and vanilla. Beat lightly and add dry ingredients. Bake 350 for 1 hour or until done

## Spaghetti Sauce

40 Tomatoes

2 c onions

4 green peppers

2 cloves garlic

4 12 oz can tomato paste

2 cups sugar

1/2 c salt

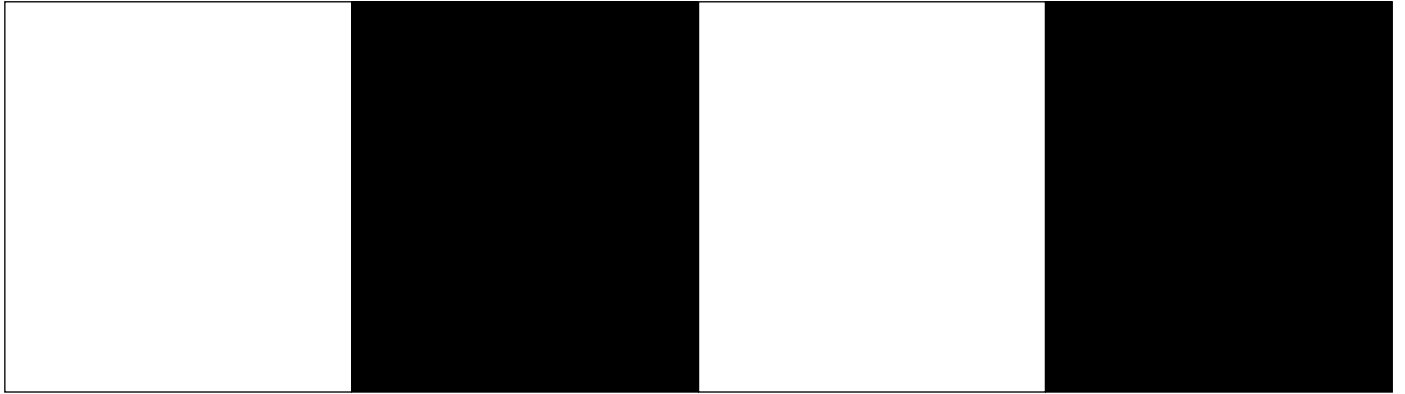
1/8 c pepper

Basil

Oregano

Parsley

Blanch/peel tomatoes, puree with the rest of the ingredients. Boil for 1 hour and then put in jars.



## **Sympathies to:**

**Sympathies to Wanda  
Christensen Retired Postmaster  
of Grundy Center IA on the death  
of BOTH of her parents.**

**Sympathies to the family of Joyce  
Warnke Retired Postmaster of  
Waucoma IA**

**Sympathies to the family of Bev  
Whitmore, Retired Postmaster of  
Lone Tree IA**

Kerry Nichols

IA Secretary/Treasurer

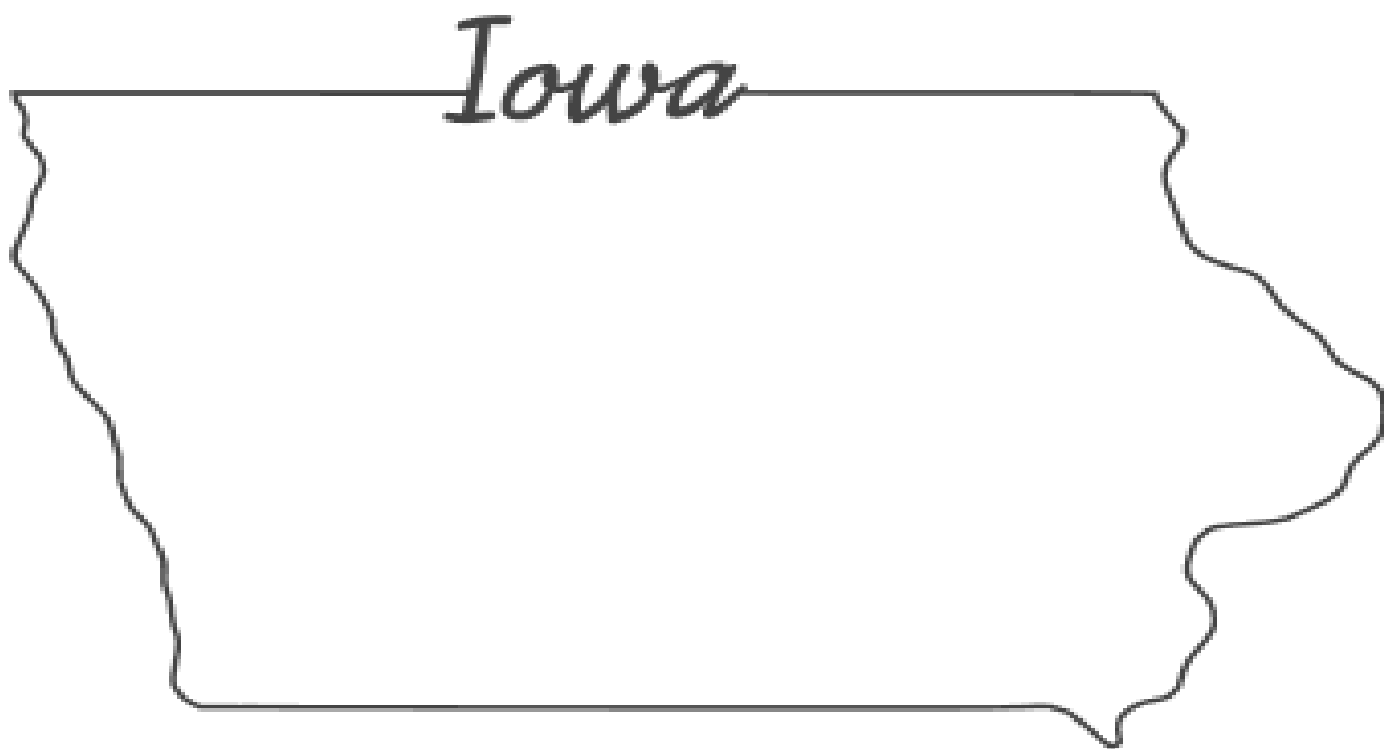
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DeWitt, IA 52742

**Periodicals**

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**Madrid, IA 50156**



**Looking Ahead:**

Articles for the Newsletter (Sept./Oct.) will be Sept. 15th, 2023.

Submit to: Merri Burgart at [iowaeditor2022@gmail.com](mailto:iowaeditor2022@gmail.com)