

THE BAYOU TIMES

LOUISIANA CHAPTER

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 4

JUL/AUG/SEP 2023

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Happy 
 Fall y'all

UPCOMING EVENTS

Southern Officers Conf

Myrtle Beach, SC
October 5-8, 2023

LA UPMA Fall Meeting

Lafayette, LA
October 26-27, 2023

Legislative Summit

Washington, DC
March 17-20, 2024

2024 Nat'l Convention

Orlando, FL
August 24-30, 2024

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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THE BAYOU TIMES

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President - Tracy Johnson

NATIONAL CONVENTION 2023



The National Board and the Denver Chapter put on an outstanding Convention and your Louisiana Chapter was there to represent you. We had a big group of active, retired and guests from our state totaling about 21 people. I didn't realize that we had a first timer in our group until we got there. James Sayles jumped into our organization with both feet last year and I just assumed he had been to a National Convention before but he had not. I think he had a great time and hopefully he can motivate some of our new recruits to come next year.

The Louisiana chapter made the national membership goal for 2023. Our current goal standings for recruiting active new members are 109.30% and for associate members, 176%. Recruiting new members is extremely important and I am really proud of everyone who worked to exceed our goal. Our Editor, Karen Boudreaux and The Bayou Times walked away with 3

awards; Best Cover, Best use of Photography and Best Feature or Special Interest. We are so grateful for Karen and all her hard work.

Postmaster General, DeJoy, brought the same exact message that we heard last year. We are 2 years into his 10 year "Delivering for America Plan" but he is confident to reach his goals. Doug Tullino and Dr. Joshua Colin's speeches didn't change much from last year either. The only change I saw was, thanks to President Carley, they did seem to be more interested in cost saving ideas, understanding that the data is not always accurate and more willing to listen and communicate with us. The break out training sessions were very informational and motivating. I really liked that you could choose the session that was the most interesting or beneficial to you and they were at various times.

I have to say that my favorite part of the whole convention was watching three of my dear friends begin

their next exciting adventures. Greg Nors was sworn in as the National Secretary Treasurer. He has wanted this position for a while and he stood with his right hand raised and accepted it proudly. Mr. Tony Leonardi announced his candidacy for our next National President. I don't know anyone more dedicated to the success of this organization than Tony and by the way, in case you are wondering, he's got my vote. And last but not the least, Mrs. Gerri Swarm, executive assistant to the national president! She retired after 42 years of service. Gerri is the perfect blend of powerful and kindness. She is the backbone of this organization and I am not sure if anyone can fill her shoes.

I know I have said this before but there is no way to describe the experience of attending the National Convention, you must go to understand what you are missing. So, get registered early for 2024, which will be in Orlando, FL.





Editor - Karen Boudreaux

HAPPY FALL YALL



HAPPY FALL YALL! I know many of you will be happy to see some cooler temperatures. It has been an unusually hot summer, or should I say a record-breaking one. It's time for chilly mornings, bonfires, camping, festivals, football, and tailgating. I am definitely ready for that.

In the fall season of our lives, it's a

time to reap the benefits of our hard work and set ourselves up to finish strong with whatever we've started in life. This is the time for you to be a mentor for those who are in the earlier season and instruct people from your mistakes and your successes. Autumn is a time to be open to inevitable changes in your family, health, life, and society.

You have an opportunity, as a member of UPMA, to mentor and teach others who are early in their careers. As UPMA retirees, you have the opportunity to have input in our organization to aid in the administration. Your knowledge from years of experience can assist the officers. For some of us though, it's

difficult to give opinions and past experiences without expecting the younger generation to follow it to a T. Just because you give input does not mean that things will be done as in the past. We must be in acceptance that the new members of the board and the organization have current ideas and many times choose to meld the old and the new. As seasoned members we should support the executive board.

There is one more issue of the Bayou Times to be printed and mailed this year. If you have any information to share and ideas for articles that you think may be of interest to the membership, please don't hesitate to contact me.



Good morning!

As many of you and your members have discovered, we migrated to a new website this past week. With this migration there has been a change to the login procedures. You no longer need to have two logins; one for the website and one for your membership information, the only login you need is your username and password that you previously used to access the "member login" portion of the website. The member number and first two letters of your last name and 12345, no longer works. So, if you have not set up a login with a username and a password previously, you need to do that now. Also, if we do not have a valid email address in our database, you will not be able to gain access to the website.

Please share as you see fit and if you, or any of your members, have any questions, just reach out and we will do our best to assist you from here at the National Office.

Have a great week!

Take care,

Dan

Daniel M. Heins

Executive Director

United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA)

www.unitedpma.org



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

MENTORING AND EDUCATING MEMBERS



UPMA is inviting you to attend our meeting in Lafayette this October 27, 2023. We would like for you to participate in our training session between 13:00 and 14:30.

Too often, the United States Postal Service comes out with new processes and programs. However, they often mandate usage without much explanation of how to use these programs. We have endless tools available to us. Unfortunately, no one in the USPS is teaching us how to utilize these tools. The Louisiana UPMA Chapter would like to help with that by mentoring and educating our members.

Moreover, at the UPMA National Convention in Denver, Colorado this past month we discussed with top brass within the USPS a process to test new programs in the field before they are implemented to work out any kinks to provide improvements and suggestions. This was agreed to by Joshua Colin, chief retail and delivery officer and executive vice president, himself.

Currently, we feel the field would really benefit from Non Delivery Indicators (NDI), Last Mile Indicators (LMI), and some additional RADAR or CRDO training. This is primarily the area I get most calls

requesting clarification and guidance. Keven Terry, Headquarters Delivery Support Specialist, is scheduled to present this training at the fall meeting in October in Lafayette. Join us for first hand information and to ask any questions you may have of him.

If you have any suggestions or request additional information or training, please reach out to us. If you have expertise that you would like to share with UPMA members, contact us as well.

We look forward to seeing you there at our next meeting.

Thank you as always.



*"The heat of autumn
is different from the heat
of summer. One ripens
apples, the other turns
them to cider."*

**—Jane Hirshfield,
*The Heat of Autumn***

Only America Calls it Fall

The season was originally just called harvest and autumn came around much later in the 1300s, according to *CNN*. When English poets started using the phrase "the fall of leaves" it became very fashionable to call the season fall. But by the mid-1800s, after the split of the colonies from England led to language change, England reverted back to Autumn and the American upstarts retained fall.





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

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

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

**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

UPMA National Convention Denver CO





Thank you to the members
attending the convention for con-
tributing pictures for this issue





VP/Membership Chair - Vicky Johnson

PO BOX 1, HARRISONBURG 71340

We recently had to close PO Box 1 in Harrisonburg, LA, for a precious lady, Mrs. Margie Beasley. Mrs. Margie didn't want to close her box; however, she had turned 91 years

old, and her family felt it was best for her to make the move to Alabama to be closer to family.

Mrs. Margie knew it was the right decision, but it was still a hard one to make. It was difficult for all of us at the Post Office to wish one of our most loyal customers and precious friends, farewell. It was always a joy to see Mrs. Margie when she came to the Post Office. She was never without a smile and exuded such a happy spirit; she is such a beautiful lady inside and out. You would never guess she was 91 years young, turning 92 in October. We always took the time to visit and catch up on any news when she came into the office. Mrs. Margie was very proud of having Box 1 and was always eager to share about how her husband, Mr. Shelby Beasley, inherited that box.

Mr. Shelby's uncle, Mr. Jesse Beasley, was Postmaster of Harrisonburg from May 26, 1928, until June 30, 1957. According to Mrs. Margie, when Mr. Jesse became Postmaster, he asked his brother Mr. George Beasley what box number he wanted. After considering that for a while, he told his brother he wanted Box 1. And so it was! Beginning sometime in the late

20's/early 30's, that box became Mr. George and Cora Beasley's PO Box. This was the beginning of a long family history for PO Box 1, Harrisonburg, La.

Shelley, one of Mrs. Margie's daughters, said she remembers Mrs. Cora checking that box faithfully every day after school. I'm thinking late 50's/early 60's. Shelley's grandmother was the second-grade teacher at Harrisonburg Elementary School, and she and her sister Charlotte

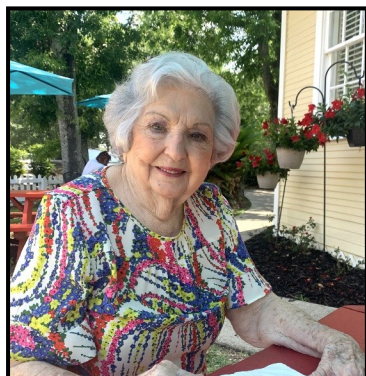
cause Mrs. Cora would have to go to the post office, as well as Beasleys Dry Goods, every day. Shelley and her sister would wait in the car with a Reader's Digest to keep them busy while she ran her errands. It is nice to know that some things never change. The Post Office is still a place where people come every day, to not only get their mail, but to see friends and visit.

Mrs. Margie stated, "Mr. Shelby had the box when we got married in 1950, so I guess his parents just passed it to him." Mr. Shelby and Mrs. Margie had that same PO Box for almost 75 years. Just to think they have had that box in their family for almost 100 years, and the Postal service has been serving that family all this time! This means something to us in Harrisonburg, LA. Community, family, and faith are what is most important. The Beasley family, as well as their extended families, have always been a very special part of our community and always will be. I also wanted to add another fun piece of information: Mr. Jesse Beasley was my husband's great Uncle. He was

married to my husband's grandmother's sister, Mrs. Lallie Beasley.

We are giving the old, worn key that Mrs. Margie turned in when she closed the box, back to her. We won't be giving it out again, so we wanted her to have it. She told

(Continued on page 11)



rode to and from school with her every day. Even though they didn't live far from the school, she remembers it would take them at least an hour to get home, be-

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- For EAS and those aspiring to lead



MEMBER BENEFITS

With all the benefits a UPMA membership provides, why wouldn't you join?

The United Postmasters and Managers of America invite all Postmasters, Managers, Supervisors and other USPS employees with the goal of being an EAS employee to join us. In these uncertain times it is even more important that you belong to an organization that is working for the rights of all EAS employees and that will keep the needs of all UPMA members at the forefront of its mission.

"Never jump in a pile of leaves with a wet sucker."

- Linus, *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*



(Continued from page 10)

us that Mr. Shelby had an old key collection, and this key would be the newest addition to his collected treasures. She said, "He would have liked that very much." It is a small world, and as we find out every day at the Post Office, if you take the time to visit with people, you never know what you might find out. Thank you to Mrs. Margie and her family for sharing your life stories with us.

I wanted to remind everyone that the membership incentive is still going on until the end of the year. Members and those who sign up get \$25.00 and EAS get a full year free membership. Also, a shout out to Tracy, Rosemary, Warren, and James for an awesome job at the Career Conference, they signed up close to 50 new members!! Look forward to seeing you the end of October in Lafayette. As always let me know if I can help you in any way!





VP/PAC Chair - Tessa Clark

PREPARE

Be prepared!

As I sit here and write this, I am just finishing up the couples shower I had for my daughter and future son-in-law. In preparation, we got some things early and had to wait and get some things last minute, such as bread, fruit, etc. We had a good turnout, but boy was it hot. As we are preparing for her upcoming wedding, I have many things on several lists of things to do between now and then. Preparing for a wedding and a daughter's wedding is definitely different than when my son got married.

Now this week, I am preparing to go to the national UPMA convention in Denver. I have a couple of lists made – things I can pack now and things I have to put in last minute such as medicine, make-up, toiletries, etc. As I am gathering things together for the trip, I am also preparing my office for my absence. My clerks are capable, but I can be OCD about some things and they know it and humor me. With the Mini Mail Survey starting while I am gone, I have all sheets

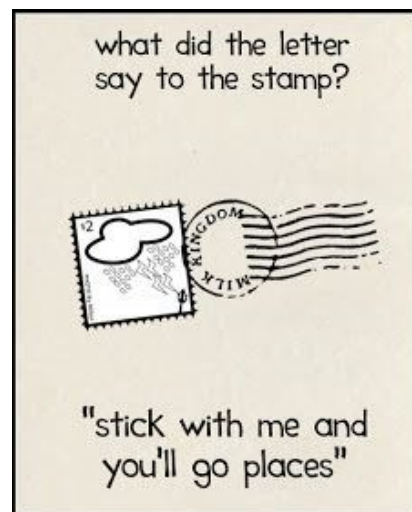
ready for them, trainings done for them, 1723's completed for them, notes on things to do while I am out, LTATS sheet completed, reminders, etc.

With the postal service, there is always a list. But for those wanting to move up such as to supervisor or postmaster, there are "lists" you should be making. As you create your profile, you should be adding to it or updating it as you go, so that if/when the posting comes along for the position you want, you are not creating a Profile last minute. Keep a list of things you want to do such as trainings for certain areas of the position, learning to complete reports, how to do financial audits, how to get access for many applications, how to do TACS, how to do street observations, how to handle grievances, how to do eERMS, how to reconcile FAMS (gas tickets), DCV, IVES schedules, the list could go on and on.

My point is PREPARE. Prepare for

the position you want. Don't wait till the last minute to write those KSA's.

As a UPMA member, you will connect with people who can help you. Trainings are offered at all meetings, usually the District has their people there to answer questions concerning our work or to fill us in on upcoming changes. Make a plan to attend the October meeting in Lafayette. Start your list to get the position you want or the help you need to succeed.



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Name: _____

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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



VP/Legislative Chair - Glen Forbes

ON THE LEGISLATIVE FRONT



I had a great time in Denver at the National UPMA convention. Lots of meetings, trainings, and fun. I encourage all members to make the National Convention at least once. I would also like to remind everyone to join us at our local meeting in Lafayette this October.

I want to share a perspective on my thoughts regarding House Resolution Bill #82. As I stand in the twilight of my journey as a postmaster, I am filled with countless memories and moments of service to my community. Yet, like many dedicated public servants, I've been all too aware of the challenges posed by the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions within the Social Security Act. These provisions, while well-intentioned, have cast shadows of uncertainty over my impending retirement. However, H.R. 82, the "Social Security Fairness Act of 2023" brings a glimmer of hope and a promise of a more equitable retirement for individuals like me.

For years, I've watched my colleagues and fellow public servants grapple with the unfair reduction of Social Security benefits due to these provisions. It's disheartening to see individuals who have dedicated their careers to serving their communities face financial hard-

ships in their retirement years. H.R. 82, introduced by a group of bipartisan representatives, symbolizes a collective effort to address these issues and provide a brighter outlook for future retirees like myself.

What's truly inspiring about this bill is the unity it represents. In a political landscape often marked by division, it's heartening to witness legislators from diverse backgrounds come together to advocate for fairness and justice. As I am getting nearer to my retirement, the bipartisan support for H.R. 82 reassures me that my years of service have not gone unnoticed, and that elected officials are committed to rectifying the challenges faced by retirees. Moreover, H.R. 82 underscores the power of advocacy and grassroots efforts. It is a reflection of the tireless work of individuals and organizations who have tirelessly lobbied for change. As a postmaster nearing retirement, I'm grateful for the voices that have raised awareness about the issues surrounding Social Security provisions, ultimately leading to the introduction of this bill.

In these uncertain times, H.R. 82 shines as a beacon of hope on my journey to retirement. It signifies, as I approach this significant life transition, there is a possibility for a

more secure and just financial future. The bill's progress through Congress serves as a reminder change is attainable, even in the face of complex issues, when individuals and lawmakers collaborate with empathy and determination.

H.R. 82 offers a glimmer of light on the path to retirement for postmasters and public servants like myself. It demonstrates that bipartisan cooperation, advocacy, and the commitment to fairness can lead to positive change within our democratic system. As I prepare to retire, this bill offers solace and optimism, knowing that there are advocates in the halls of government working to ensure a more equitable future for retirees like me.

As of this writing, we have 289 co-sponsors of this bill. For it to be brought to the floor of the House without sitting in the Ways and Means Committee we need to have 290 or more. Currently, all of the Louisiana Representatives are co-sponsors with the exception of Steve Scalise. I understand that he is dealing with a serious illness, but it wouldn't hurt to contact his office and let them know your thoughts and urge him to co-sponsor.

Hope to see you in October.



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Retiree President - Rosemary Lee

THE HONORABLE RETIRED ZONE



Greetings Retirees,

The Convention in Denver Colorado was just marvelous! I wish all of you could have been there to see it all! As the National Retired Chaplain, I enjoyed spending each day from Sunday through Thursday in the Retiree meetings except for on Tuesday (free day). On Monday, we had the opportunity to vote for our new National Retired President, Charlie Peters (who ran unopposed), and our new Vice-President, Kathy Frame. They will officially take office on January 1, 2024. At the same time, we'll miss our outgoing President, Mandy Heslep-Whitten who has done an outstanding job, and we look forward to our incoming board who will do even greater things! God keeps blessing us over and over again!

What really caught my attention at this convention was the retirees' session where we heard information concerning the Postal Service Health Benefit Program which was introduced to us over a year ago, soon after the enactment of the postal reform. Oh my, how quickly time goes by! We now have one year and 3 months before our health plans changes over from the Federal Employees Health Benefits plan to the Postal Service Health Benefits plan. We heard some very important advice on this health benefit plan and what we'll need to do.

Information regarding Postal Service Health Benefit program:

The Postal Service Reform Act was signed into law on April 6, 2022, which mandated the creation of a new Postal Service Health Benefits (PSHB) Program. PSHB is a new, separate program within the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program and will be administered by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). Since then, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), in conjunction with the Postal Service, has been working to implement the new Postal Service Health Benefits (PSHB) Program, as required under the new law. Coverage under the PSHB Program will be effective January 1, 2025. You should have received a trifold in the mail outlining important information about the plan.

Information enclosed in the trifold you should have received:

1. Enrolling in the Postal Service Health Benefit Program:

You are required to select a health insurance plan in the PSHB Program during the 2024 open season period, which will run from November 11 to December 9, 2024. If you do not actively select a PSHB plan, you will be automatically enrolled in a comparable PSHB plan.

PSHB plan options and premium information will be available in fall 2024. Information on how and where to enroll will be available as we approach the 2024 open season. (Please be mindful to give this your full attention).

2. Integration With Medicare:

The PSHB Program requires certain annuitants to enroll in Medicare Part B to continue PSHB coverage in retirement. If you are an **annuitant as of January 1, 2025, and did not enroll in Medicare Part B**, you **Are Not** required to enroll in Medicare Part B to continue your health insurance coverage in the new PSHB Program. Your participation in Medicare Part B is voluntary.

If you are an **annuitant as of January 1, 2025, and are already enrolled in Medicare Part B** as of that date, you **ARE** required to remain enrolled in Medicare Part B to continue coverage under PSHB.

3. Special Enrollment Period:

(If you are an annuitant entitled to Medicare Part A (typically at age 65) as of January 2024, and did not enroll in Medicare Part B, you and your covered, eligible family members may be able to participate in the special enrollment period (SEP) for Medicare Part B that starts on April 1, 2024.

Those who choose to enroll during the SEP will not need to pay a late enrollment penalty. Eligibility letters will be sent to annuitants and eligible family members in early 2024.

To learn more about Medicare and to enroll, visit www.medicare.gov.

For the latest information on the PHSB Program, email retirementbenefits@usps.gov. You can also receive information and updates by signing up for our text messaging notifications by texting "PSHBP" to 39369.

After 2025, no employee will be enrolled into the Federal Health Benefit Plan, it's going away. While Postal Service employees, Postal Service annuitants, and their eligible family members will remain in the FEHB Program, **for coverage effective January 1, 2025, they will no longer be able to remain in an FEHB plan.**

I took the liberty of inviting the Executive Manager from Headquarter (PSHB) Postal Service Health Benefits Plan to join us during our State Convention

in June. Whatever you do, please make sure you attend our State Convention in 2024.

I will keep you posted on the Postal Service Health Benefit Program. Before you know it, we will be in year 2024 and open season will open on November 11, 2024, to December 9, 2024.

REMEMBER, you are required to select a health insurance plan in the PSHB Program by 2024 open season period. If you do not actively select a PSHB plan, you will be automatically enrolled in a comparable PSHB plan.

Hope to see all of you at our next meeting to be held on October 26-27, 2023 in Lafayette Louisiana. Until then, please be careful and Stay Safe!



Derralyn Patterson
Supervisor

Latasha Laphand
Manager

Kevin Barnes
Supervisor

Devin Nolan
Associate Member

Jeremy Barber
Supervisor

Georgia Nelson
Supervisor

Robyn Sadler-Ingram
Supervisor

Jakel Moore
Supervisor

Brittany Johnson
Supervisor

Edward White
Associate Member

Tonia Peltier
Associate Member

Koya Holmes-Givens
Associate Member

Tara Hill
Associate Manager

Nikili Henderson
Associate Member

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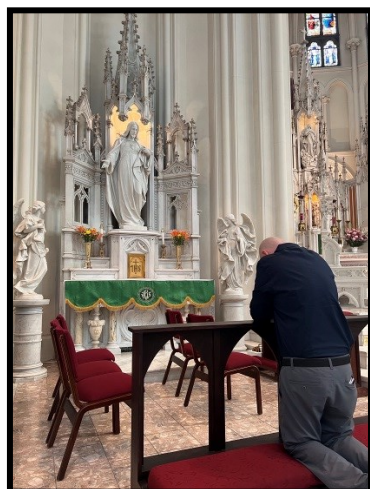


Chaplain- James Sayles



MICHAEL OF THE MORNING

It's always great to get away and spend quality time with friends and family. That's what the Louisiana UPMA chapter got to do when we went to Denver for Nationals this past August/September. We had a great time and hope to see your face there next year. While in Denver I got to attend mass at Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception with fellow friend Glenn Forbes. I am amazed at how beautiful this one of a kind construction truly is. The message was clear, and the mass was informative.



Sometimes we get caught up in the hustle and bustle of life. Just know, the Lord is always near and watching over you.

Life is full of incredible miracles. However, sometimes negativity finds a way to creep into our blessed lives. When you need an extra boost, and you feel the need for additional defense you can always call on Saint Michael. You can always recite this very short child's prayer in time of need;

"Michael, Michael of the morning, Fresh cord of Heaven adorning, Keep me safe today, And in time of temptation Drive the devil away. Amen."

The prayer works. If you don't believe me, read the short story below.

Remain blessed,

James Michael-Francesco Sayles



Dear Mom,

I am writing to you from a hospital bed. Don't worry, Mom, I am okay. I was wounded, but the doctor says that I will be up in no time.

But that's not what I have to tell you, Mom. Something happened to me that I don't dare tell anyone else for fear of their disbelief. But I have to tell you, the one person I can confide in, though even you may find it hard to believe.

You remember the prayer to Saint Michael that you taught me to pray when I was little: "Michael, Michael of the morning,..." Before I left home for Korea, you urged me to remember this prayer before any confrontation with the enemy. But you really didn't have to remind me, Mom. I have always prayed it, and when I got to Korea, I sometimes said it a couple of times a day while marching or resting.

Well, one day, we were told to move forward to scout for Commies. It was a really cold day. As I was walking along, I perceived another fellow walking beside me, and I looked to see who it was.

He was a big fellow, a Marine about 6'4" and built proportionally. Funny, but I didn't know him, and I thought I knew everyone in my unit. I was glad to have the company and broke the silence between us:

"Chilly today, isn't it?" Then I chuckled because suddenly it

seemed absurd to talk about the weather when we were advancing to meet the enemy. He chuckled too, softly.

"I thought I knew everyone in my outfit," I continued, "but I have never seen you before."

"No," he agreed, "I have just joined. The name is Michael."

"Really?! That's mine, too."

"I know," the Marine said, "Michael, Michael of the morning...."

Mom, I was really surprised that he knew about my prayer, but I had taught it to many of the other guys, so I supposed that the newcomer must have picked it up from someone else. As a matter of fact, it had gotten around to the extent that some of the fellows were calling me "Saint Michael."

Then, out of the blue, Michael said, "There's going to be trouble ahead."

I wondered how he could know that. I was breathing hard from the march, and my breath hit the cold air like dense clouds of fog. Michael seemed to be in top shape because I couldn't see his breath at all. Just then, it started to snow heavily, and soon it was so dense I could no longer hear or see the rest of my outfit. I got a little scared and yelled, "Michael!" Then I felt his strong hand on my shoulder and heard his voice in my ear, "It's going to clear up soon."

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

It did clear up, suddenly. And then, just a short distance ahead of us, like so many dreadful realities, were seven Commies, looking rather comical in their funny hats. But there was nothing funny about them now; their guns were steady and pointed straight in our direction.

"Down, Michael!!" I yelled as I dove for cover. Even as I was hitting the ground, I looked up and saw Michael still standing, as if paralyzed by fear, or so I thought at the time. Bullets were spurting all over the place, and Mom, there was no way those Commies could have missed at that short distance. I jumped up to pull him down, and then I was hit. The pain was like a hot fire in my chest, and as I fell, my head swooned and I remember thinking, "I must be dying..." Someone was laying me down, strong arms were holding me and laying me gently on the snow. Through the daze, I opened my eyes, and the sun seemed to blaze in my eyes. Michael was standing still, and there was a terrible splendor in his face. Suddenly, he seemed to grow, like the sun, the splendor increasing intensely around him like the wings of an angel. As I slipped into unconsciousness, I saw that Michael held a sword in his hand, and it flashed like a million lights.

Later on, when I woke up, the rest of the guys came to see me with the sergeant.



"How did you do it, son?" he asked me.

"Where's Michael?" I asked in reply.

"Michael who?" The sergeant seemed puzzled.

"Michael, the big Marine walking with me, right up to the last moment. I saw him there as I fell."

"Son," the sergeant said gravely, "you're the only Michael in my unit. I hand-picked all you fellows, and there's only one Michael. You. And son, you weren't walking with anyone. I was watching you because you were too far off from us, and I was worried."

"Now tell me, son," he repeated, "how did you do it?"

It was the second time he had asked me that, and I found it irritating.

"How did I do what?"

"How did you kill those seven Commies? There wasn't a single bullet fired from your rifle."

"What?"

"Come on, son. They were strewn all around you, each one killed by a swordstroke."

And that, Mom, is the end of my story. It may have been the pain, or the blazing sun, or the chilling cold. I don't know, Mom, but there is one thing I am sure about. It happened.

Love your son,

Michael

"WHEN ONE DOOR OF HAPPINESS CLOSES,
ANOTHER OPENS: BUT OFTEN WE LOOK SO LONG
AT THE CLOSED DOOR THAT WE DO NOT SEE
THE ONE WHICH HAS BEEN OPENED FOR US."

-HELEN KELLER

You can see the brightest full moon in fall

The full moon in the fall that occurs during the equinox is much brighter (almost orange) and rises much earlier than a typical full moon. This full moon (called the Harvest Moon) occurs sometime in September or October and it was very helpful for farmers who used the moonlight to help harvest their crops.



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

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Postmaster Member - September 10, 2023

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Monthly Membership Status Report

09/05/2023

STATE	POSTMR MBR PO	NONMBR P.O.	TOTAL LOCNS	MBR PO/ TOTAL=%	POSTMR MBRS	MGR/ SUPVR	ASSOC MBRS	PMR MBRS	RETD MBRS	COMP MBRS	TOTAL ACTIVE	TOTAL MBRS	
Louisiana	LA	187	64	251	74.50%	190	95	82	1	166	5	286	539

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The deadline for the next issue is November 1, 2023
Please have your articles and pictures in to the editor on time.

