

LONE STAR LEADER

JULY - AUGUST 2023



UPMA PRIDE

TEXAS PROUD

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All views expressed in *The Lone Star Leader* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official UPMA opinion. Articles, editorials and other submissions are welcome but must be signed. Names can be withheld upon request. Please email items for potential publication to the Editor of *The Lone Star Leader* at txlonestar.leader@usa.net.



From the President

Darwin Adams, TX UPMA State President

Visit the

Virtual Benefits Fair >>

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Live Chat Available

NOV 14 | NOV 21 | NOV 30 | DEC 7



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Postmaster Tina Young being sworn in by MPO Bobby Eubanks for next article





A-PLUS- Eastern Region

Lou Curry · 3h · 🧑🏿

UPMA again supporting A-PLUS. We appreciate your presence.



NEW POSTMASTER PROMOTIONS

PROCESSED IN JULY

TEXAS DISTRICT 1

Karen Clark	PM, ELKHART
Greg Nors	PM, GRANBURY
Gary Hall	PM, KIRBYVILLE
Brandie Bogart	PM, ELECTRA

TEXAS DISTRICT 2

Maria Murphy	PM, MCALLEN
Elias Mendez	PM, SANTA ROSA

TEXAS DISTRICT 3

Caesar Brannon	PM, MIDLAND
Janice Richardson	PM, IRRAN
Brent Blassingame	PM, SEMINOLE
Donny Cornelison	PM, PERRYTON
Jason Powell	PM, SALADO
Esteban Lassick	PM, CAMERON
Duston Wolfe	PM, COLUMBUS

PROCESSED IN AUGUST

TEXAS DISTRICT 1

Robert D. Stewart	PM, TEAGUE
Samantha K. Garcia	PM, GORMAN
Angelia E. Rojas	PM, ATHENS
Michelle D. Banton	PM, SUNSET
Kerrie T. Edblad	PM, HILLSBORO

TEXAS DISTRICT 2

Ray A. Kelly	PM, BRAZORIA
Marian F. Ferrell	PM, PORT BOLIVAR
Takysha R. Gardiner-Mcdani	PM, HARDIN
Latisha Robinson,	PM, WINNIE
Larry Thornton,	PM, EDNA

TEXAS DISTRICT 3

Cruz Rivas	PM, ODESSA
Arnulfo F. Gonzales	PM, WINTERS
Timothy M. Knowles	PM, TEMPLE
James H. Longfellow	PM, BIG SPRINGS
Marc A. Weaver	PM, SPICEWOOD
Brett Heinen,	PM, CACTUS
Ritchie M. Tabet	PM, SHALLOWATER
David Gutierrez	PM, BELTON

Congratulations



United Postmasters and Managers of America

8 Herbert St

Alexandria VA, 22305

Phone 703-683-9027

Fax: 703-683-0923

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
Alabama	AL	251	30	281	89.32%	254	99	97	3	176	12	356	641
Alaska	AK	68	109	177	38.42%	70	9	2	3	24	1	82	109
Arizona	AZ	98	56	154	63.64%	99	78	22	0	66	4	177	269
Arkansas	AR	150	36	186	80.65%	150	98	72	4	135	7	252	466
California	CA	406	399	805	50.43%	406	374	102	0	247	17	780	1146
Colorado	CO	138	71	209	66.03%	136	83	24	1	98	9	220	351
Connecticut	CT	106	60	166	63.86%	107	72	46	0	57	5	179	287
Delaware	DE	35	7	42	83.33%	35	20	2	0	19	0	55	76
District of Columbia	DC	0	1	1	0.00%	0	35	0	0	3	1	35	39
Florida	FL	284	67	351	80.91%	287	733	367	0	184	14	1020	1585
Georgia	GA	306	44	350	87.43%	309	428	83	0	194	19	737	1033
Hawaii	HI	37	29	66	56.06%	36	17	14	0	29	1	53	97
Idaho	ID	82	50	132	62.12%	80	17	7	0	55	3	97	162
Illinois	IL	359	158	517	69.44%	361	258	78	2	291	14	621	1004
Indiana	IN	254	38	292	86.99%	256	213	137	5	210	12	474	833
Iowa	IA	235	29	264	89.02%	238	128	80	5	228	14	371	693
Kansas	KS	136	64	200	68.00%	136	33	19	3	162	2	172	355
Kentucky	KY	178	69	247	72.06%	180	56	56	2	201	8	238	503
Louisiana	LA	187	64	251	74.50%	190	95	82	1	166	5	286	539
Maine	ME	102	88	190	53.68%	104	18	39	1	115	10	123	287
Maryland	MD	120	117	237	50.63%	120	64	28	2	59	5	186	278
Massachusetts	MA	254	83	337	75.37%	256	156	24	0	155	13	412	604
Michigan	MI	280	175	455	61.54%	279	79	34	1	213	13	359	619
Minnesota	MN	288	39	327	88.07%	291	109	35	1	257	10	401	703
Mississippi	MS	157	30	187	83.96%	155	103	94	1	111	10	259	474
Missouri	MO	231	74	305	75.74%	236	226	85	2	218	14	464	781
Montana	MT	88	90	178	49.44%	88	27	15	1	73	2	116	206
Nebraska	NE	118	33	151	78.15%	118	24	24	4	125	9	146	304
Nevada	NV	38	29	67	56.72%	39	15	8	0	29	3	54	94
New Hampshire	NH	120	46	166	72.29%	118	38	10	0	72	9	156	247
New Jersey	NJ	277	163	440	62.95%	278	129	29	1	139	9	408	585
New Mexico	NM	91	58	149	61.07%	91	16	16	0	56	0	107	179
New York	NY	507	337	844	60.07%	509	196	84	2	491	13	707	1295
North Carolina	NC	336	153	489	68.71%	338	176	119	0	210	17	514	860
North Dakota	ND	78	16	94	82.98%	77	9	10	2	100	3	88	201
Ohio	OH	302	212	514	58.75%	301	226	164	6	312	11	533	1020
Oklahoma	OK	142	101	243	58.44%	143	45	69	2	139	6	190	404
Oregon	OR	133	93	226	58.85%	136	44	18	0	101	2	180	301
Pennsylvania	PA	624	178	802	77.81%	622	268	117	5	377	23	895	1412
Puerto Rico	PR	75	18	93	80.65%	76	66	19	0	20	1	142	182
Rhode Island	RI	26	11	37	70.27%	27	6	1	0	9	0	33	43
South Carolina	SC	170	45	215	79.07%	171	134	44	3	90	5	308	447
South Dakota	SD	74	27	101	73.27%	73	16	19	4	93	6	93	211
Tennessee	TN	163	103	266	61.28%	164	120	35	0	102	4	284	425
Texas	TX	521	303	824	63.23%	524	470	255	3	359	18	997	1629
Utah	UT	86	24	110	78.18%	88	46	10	0	47	1	134	192
Vermont	VT	71	48	119	59.66%	72	8	6	0	90	4	80	180
Virginia	VA	204	175	379	53.83%	202	67	54	0	169	8	269	500
Washington	WA	222	67	289	76.82%	223	155	50	1	145	5	379	579
West Virginia	WV	90	84	174	51.72%	90	22	29	1	147	3	113	292
Wisconsin	WI	195	138	333	58.56%	196	101	67	2	238	12	299	616
Wyoming	WY	52	34	86	60.47%	52	8	9	0	39	4	60	112
Totals:		9545	4573	14118	67.61%	9587	6033	2910	74	7445	401	15694	26450

Priscilla A Brown, Supervisor
Romie L Britton, Manager/Other EAS
Roberto Ramirez, Supervisor
Martin D Fierro, Manager/Other EAS
Monica M Ortega, Associate Member
J'Khyra Z Waller, Associate Member
Jessica A Simpson, Manager/Other EAS
Pammie Harris, Supervisor
Gregory A Newby, Associate Member
Christina A Moreno, Manager/Other EAS
Jessica L Duran, Associate Member
Benito G Barreto, Associate Member
Adam C Kern, Supervisor
Erica Washington, Associate Member
Tiffany Brewer, Associate Member
Shandra K Hall, Associate Member
Stephanie Schlesinger, Supervisor
Redrick B Jones, Manager/Other EAS
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Maryana Rosario, Associate Member
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Alisha P Glover, Associate Member
Esteban Lassich, Postmaster
Serena Leah Moriarty, Supervisor
Sotonye Dikibo, Associate Member
Kyioka Rahim, Manager/Other EAS
Carlos D Villarreal, Associate Member
Billy Cano, Associate Member
Adela M Benitez, Manager/Other EAS

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Darel E Roy, Manager/Other EAS
Charlene A Payne, Associate Member
Alma Martinez, Manager/Other EAS
Richard L Leyva, Supervisor
Kijiana R Cornelius, Associate Member
Jaysen L Waters, Supervisor
Felisha D Grijalva, Associate Member
Jan A Caughey, Associate Member
Marshay T Turner, Associate Member
Magnolia Boyce, Manager/Other EAS
Lydia Garza, Associate Member
Keith D Mayes, Associate Member
James Billings, Manager/Other EAS
Joshua Haggerty, Associate Member
Estella M Ortiz, Associate Member
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Lina Castro, Supervisor
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Nedra L Cameron, Associate Member
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Mohammad Alqadhi, Associate Member
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Wiley A Cousins, Associate Member
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Erica S Derby, Associate Member
George Williams II, Associate Member
Cynthia A Moore, Manager/Other EAS
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Aaron P Barcuch, Supervisor
Nina N Heath, Associate Member
Joseph M Wright, Associate Member
Jessica Rubio, Manager/Other EAS
Emmanuel Calderon, Associate Member

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Lawnmowing

Sherry Bridges, TX UPMA State Vice President

Let me preface by saying this article isn't about the

National Convention or the latest Career Conference or anything UPMA really. I spent my Sunday afternoon on the lawnmower, but that job wasn't always mine. I've been doing it about a year now and it's amazing how you just get on it and mow and think... and think.

Today I thought about human kindness and compassion the value each person has in this world. And sometimes I see things through the

eyes of my youngest. He doesn't even know it but he says something that makes me rethink how I behave or act.

There are so many ways and instances that I can be better. I can really listen when I'm in a conversation with him. Just because he's a young man doesn't mean his thoughts aren't valuable and worth listening to.

We should all try that. Sometimes I say insensitive things and he calls me out on it. That also makes me pause because he's right. We should all do that. There are times I do insensitive things and he reminds me, hey that's

not nice. He's right, too. We can all do better.

There isn't room in this world for us to look down on one another, we should lift each other up. There's no room in MY world for judgement, I will lift you up. I don't care who you are, where you came from, or where you're going, you deserve kindness and you are valuable.

So the next time you get on the lawnmower and have that time to think, remember that you are valuable and deserving. Or maybe think about ways you can be a light instead of dark for someone.



New Website Login

Dan Heins
UPMA National President

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.



State Convention Vendor Update

Sharon Janicek
TX2 VP & Legislative Committee

Thanks to Nicole Standly Federal Employee Service Association

Nicole was not listed in my last article as a vendor for the Texas UPMA state convention. FESA/Nicole Standly sponsored the golf tournament, donated funds for Texas scholarship, gave away a bag full of money, and supported the scholarship auction. Throughout the year, FESA/Nicole Standly also provided meals at the district meetings. FESA/Nicole is a friend of Texas UPMA and a great supporter of Texas UPMA and I apologize for not

recognizing FESA/Nicole.



Picture donated for Retiree Scholarship Auction by Nicole Standly, FESA, (center) with organizer Molly Williams and National Scholarship Chairman Steve Auffbarger.





Who Is Ron Mason...

Ron Mason, *Texas UPMA Secretary/Treasurer*

Air Force Career

January 9, 1987 – January 10, 1997

Basic training -

Lackland Air Force

Base, San Antonio Texas

Technical Training – Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi Mississippi

AFSC - Radio Communications/Communications Security

First assignment - 3rd Herd Combat Communications Unit - Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. Trained on Combat Field Tactical Communications. Active within the community, Habitat for Humanity, Disaster Preparedness.

Second assignment – 1956 Communications Group – Yokota Air Base Japan. Airborne Communications within Japan and Korea. Active within the overseas base community, Pacific Air Force Volley-

ball Team three years. Also got to climb Mount Fuji, and traveled to local Naval bases and was able to tour my first and only Submarine.

Third assignment – 552nd AWACS – Airborne Communications Unit – Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. Airborne Air Traffic Control, provided cryptographic material to the air crew to provide secure communications. Traveled to detachments in Saudi Arabia, Panama, and Turkey to provide same support in the five years that I was assigned to AWACS. Received two Achievement Medals and two Accommodation Medals for support during conflicts in Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

POSTAL CAREER

January 7, 1998 – Present

Began my Postal career as a City Carrier in Norman, Oklahoma.

Transferred back to Texas in 2006 to Cle-

burne Texas where I 204B for the first time.

First OIC assignment - Frost, Texas in 2007. I believe it was a level 14 or 15.

First Postmaster assignment – Groesbeck, Texas 2014 Level 18.

Second Postmaster assignment – Italy, Texas 2015 Level 18B.

Texas UPMA Secretary Treasurer – 2021- Present.

Headquarter Delivery Support Specialist – Waco Texas October 2022 – Present.

From 2007 – Present I have acted as OIC and 204B in various offices throughout Central Texas, West, Hillsboro, Valley Mills, Mc Gregor, and Marlin. I have also been on the Route Count Inspection Team, and the Hurricane Relief Team. I have been nominated for National Secretary Treasurer of the Year 2021 – 2023.

Congrats Ron Mason on winning Runner-up award for Best SecretaryTreasurer



Stacy Taplin, Dr. Joshua Colin, Chief Retail and Delivery Officer and EVP, USPS, And President Darwin



District 1 Career draws in new members throughout the District.

Working the table this time was Sherry Bridges, Vice President, Darwin Adams, Texas State President Stacey Taplin, District 1 V-P, and Angela Hicks, Incoming District-At-Large for next year.



Inclusiveness is the Key to Membership Growth and Success

Rosa Gonzales, TX UPMA State Retirees President & Scholarship Chair

Well, we are back for the Denver National Convention, and it was wonderful as always. Steve and I went a few days early and we checked hot air balloon ride off our bucket list. It was awesome seeing the Colorado mountains 1000 feet up in a balloon. It was very tranquil floating above everyone in the sky.

I hope that all of you that went to Denver had an opportunity to enjoy something special outside of the convention that will be a forever memory for you.

It was great seeing old friends and making new ones. The membership drives have been very successful. With all these new members comes a great responsibility. For all old and new members, it is our responsibility to ensure they feel welcome and included. I know the hardest thing when you're new in any organization is feeling that you belong. Some individuals find it easy to fit in and others need someone to make them feel like they're part of the activities. I know that sometimes we have certain friends we want to hang out with but remember we all want to feel included, and this is how you get and keep new and long-time members as well as grow your own personal friendships. Remember when you are at

a function if you see someone whether they are a long-time member or new member greet them, give them a hug and if you and some friends are going to dinner or other function include them also. I have found over the years I have created new and long-lasting friendships not just in Texas but across the United States by reaching out to those around me. To effectively grow our UPMA organization, it is our job to mentor new members to lead us in the future. Those of us that have been around for a long time know that having members is not necessarily the key to success, it is helping the ones we do have to be the best they can be, if we do that then growing the membership will take care of itself! How do I know this you ask well when I joined the organization over 31 years ago, I was encouraged to come to the meetings, to get involved and be a leader. I did that by running for offices which led me to be a District Director, Vice President, Executive Vice President, and President for two different terms. I have continued as a retiree as Vice President and President. I would never have tried to do any of those things if it was not for the encouragement of other members who saw that I had the ability to help the organization but most of all I had the

good of the members at heart. We need individuals that really care more about the organization and what they can do to help improve Texas UPMA. All you new people if you truly want to be more involved speak to an officer and ask questions. We are here to help! It is time right now when putting in for your vacations next year to plan on coming to Amarillo June 20-23.

Now on to the Texas Scholarship. Please remember that we accept memorials for any reason as a donation to the Scholarship fund. I received several after coming home from Denver. Some were just a thank you to someone, some were congratulations or happy birthday, and some were memorials in memory of someone. You can wish someone happy anniversary or a just because also. You can find my mailing address in the front of the Lonestar Leader.

I want to personally thank everyone for the memorials and cards in memory of my sister Wynell Chesney. She was a special lady and thinking of her makes me smile.

Thank you and remember together we can accomplish great things.



Legislative News, Sharon Janicek, TX2 VP & Legislative Committee

The 2024 Legislative Summit is scheduled for March 17-20, 2024 at the Hyatt Regency, Crystal City, in Arlington VA. Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Summit. You will be able to hear from PMG Louis DeJoy and meet representatives in DC who work to govern our nation. You will have an opportunity to influence representatives that can vote for legislation that benefit the USPS and UPMA members.

There are many sites to see in our nation's capital. This is a perfect chance to mix business and site seeing. If you have any questions about the Summit, please let me know.

Currently, HR 82, WEP-GPO Repeal bill has 289 co-sponsors, but has not been released from the House Ways & Means Committee to put the bill on a calendar to be voted on, debated or amended. If your representative is not a co-sponsor of HR 82, please contact them and urge them to co-sponsor HR 82.





Thought About What To Do

George Finley, *National Adverse Action Councilor*



My name is George Finley and I'm one of the 10 National Adverse Action Councilors. When you join UPMA one of the best things you will find is that they care about you. Each year the UPMA main office spends money to train new and trouble. This is one of those things like insurance, you hope you never need it but it's good to know if you need it's available. If you have a problem or a question or just want to visit about something, please pick up the phone and call. No question is too dumb or problem too small. If it's bothering you, then it's big enough that it needs to be addressed and that is one of the things we can help with. We will listen and give suggestions, and if not sure of something we will call someone who will know the answer. It helps just to hear another person's thoughts and ideas. The adverse action counselor is comprised of state and national reps. Your case will most likely go to a state rep first, then if it's a removal or downgrade it will move on to the national reps.

The first thing we are seeing that is causing the most trouble is **sharing passwords**. If you share your password and someone does a report for you, it has your initial saying you did it. That is hard to defend saying you didn't do it. Play like

the only way to access your information is by touching the screen on your computer. Make sure an authorized person has permission to do the report while you're gone. If this involves getting them training, do so. Request it and document it and keep a copy of where you did this. Document everything. If you have a question about something that doesn't seem right but you have been instructed to do it, e-mail your boss back and ask, "per your earlier call, you want me to do _____." If they call you back print out the e-mail, write the time, date and what they said on the e-mail and take it home. Documentation is very important and can go a long way to helping defend you, but **take the paperwork home with you**. You may be walked out of your office and will not have access to your computer.

Another big thing is **being too friendly** with your fellow employees. If you were lucky enough to be promoted within the office you started, that can be good and bad. You are management and you are on a different level to them. You're the boss now not a fellow employee. That doesn't mean you can't still be friends, but you're not one of the boys.

Another is **using the Postal Service as a bank**. If you get in financial trouble, ask a friend or bank for help. Is your job

worth a house or car payment? Don't kite money orders. Using Post Office money will sometimes get you in criminal trouble. This also covers using the Post Office credit card for personal use. If at all possible, leave the credit card in the office. Don't take it with you and you will not have the possibility of using it.

Some things may be a misunderstanding and they just need to talk to you. **Always ask if you need to have representation with you** and if so, **always** do so. If your not sure who your rep is contact your state president and they will make sure you have one. Take the lead of the rep. They have done this before and can help you. Just answer the questions that is asked and don't elaborate.

If you're not getting your state paper, contact the state editor and they will be glade to add you to the list. When you do there will be a list of the officers in your state and possible the reps for that state. Contact one of them soon as you get notice to come in or a letter to appear.

These are just a few things that may help you in the future. The best thing to do is not be a proud manager (it's my office I can handle this) and if you have a question call. We will always be there to assist any way we can.

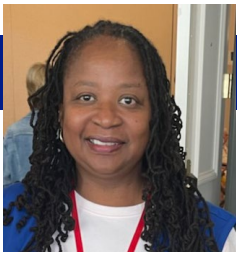


NEW MEMBER
JOHNNY BETHUNE, PM, CISCO TX
SIGNED BY GEORGE FINLEY

District 3 Career Conference

President
Darwin Adams,
VP Sherry
Bridges,
Stacy Taplin,
Latunia Hughes,
Deanna Fotjik
and
Angela Hicks.





CMR Academies, Stacy Taplin, District 1 VP

UPMA has had Chapter Member Representative Academies around the country for the last four years. The most recent was held the weekend of September 15- 17, 2023 in Philadelphia, PA. This was an opportunity for new CMR's and refresher trainer for some to be able to represent our UPMA family when discipline has been issued or to represent a member. This is for representation for EAS only associate members have to utilize their craft unions. CMR's are also available for investigative interviews when given a reasonable amount of time to be available, not a last minute request.

Current CMR's in the State of Texas for Texas 1, Texas 2 and Texas 3 are as follows:

Darwin Adams	Sherry Bridges
Stacy Taplin	Kate McCartney
Deanne Fojtik	Sharon Janicek
Angelia Hicks	Ron Mason
Gregory Nors	Elizabeth Butler
Anthony Atkinson	Geoffery Johnson

These are few things you should always remember:

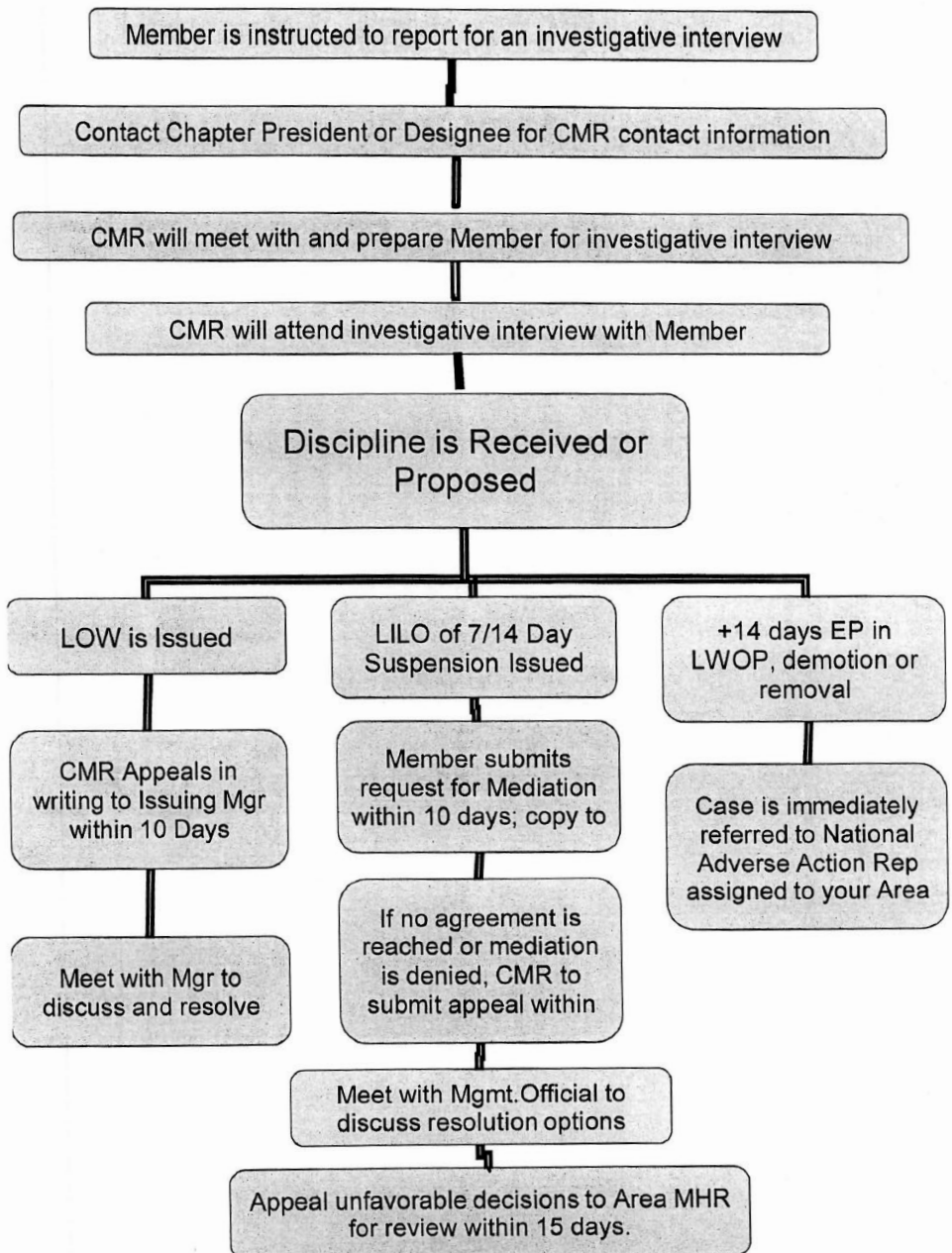
1. Did you follow the instructions that was given to you by your immediate manager?
2. Are you reading the emails that your boss has sent you?
3. If a response is needed was did you respond and timely?
4. Are you reading your bosses' boss emails?
5. Do you know were to seek help if you are in trouble?
6. Do you know who your executive team members are for the Texas Chapter?
7. The List of Executive Members can be found on the Texas UPMA Facebook website also in *The Texas Leader*.

Things you need to act on immediately:

1. Have you received discipline and threw it to the side and said I'll seek advice later?
2. Did you receive discipline and felt ashamed to seek guidance/help?
3. Have you contacted someone when you are issued discipline?
4. Did you get a LOW in lieu if a 7-day?
5. Did you get a LOW in lieu of a 14-day?
6. Did you get a removal?

Do not wait - seek help before it's too late

UPMA CMR Flow Chart for Disciplinary Actions



CMR Training in Philadelphia

Edmund Carley speaks at CMR Training while Dan Heins and John Sertich look on



Angela Hicks & Deanna Fotjik enjoyed CMR Training



Geoffrey Johnson has a question at CMR Training



Anthony Atkinson, Stacy Taplin, Geoffrey Johnson & Angela Hicks



Deanna Fotjik & Elizabeth Butler

Pictured below is Stacy Taplin receiving service award from District 1 Manager, Scott Hooper.





Thanks to Texas UPMA Members Who Donated to the 2023 Veterans Project

Eva Finley, *Texas UPMA Editor / 2023 Retiree Veterans Project Co-Chair*

The 2023 Veterans Project sponsored by the UPMA Retirees was an amazing success. We collected stationery and stamps which we took to the Aurora Veteran's Home in Denver and presented to the Veterans there. People also wanted to donate money which we put into a fund to purchase items needed.

Fifteen state executive boards and/or state retiree chapters participated, and many sent an incredible number of stamps and stationery to us. **We received over 200 books of stamps and over 160 packages of stationery for those Veterans.** We also collected around **\$10,000** to be added to our Veterans Fund. My

hope is that next year, we can honor the Veterans who attend the national convention in some special way.

My Grandmother always told us, "If you're going to give me flowers, give them to me while I'm alive. I've rather have them now than them sent to a cemetery." And I agree. We have so many honorable and courageous Veterans among us - let's show them how much we appreciate their service to our country now.

Thanks to all the Texas members who contributed!!! You are the BEST TEAM ever!!! One of the most Patriotic Groups I have ever seen!!! May God Bless You and God Bless Our Veterans!!

Texas Chapter \$1,000 are:

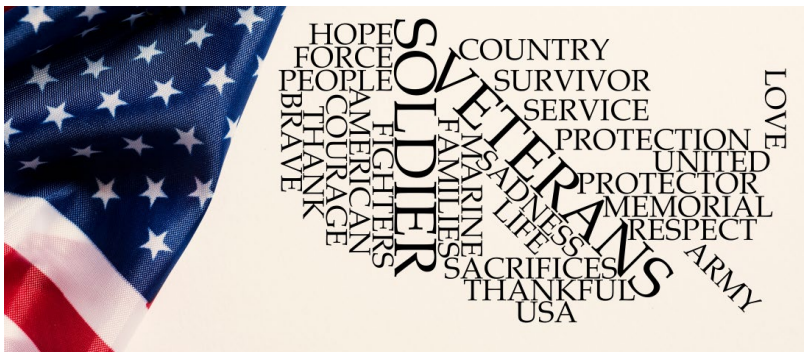
Steve Auffbarger	Kay Maxon
JoAnne Barnhart	Nat Maxon
LeAndra Beckemeyer	Ann McDorman
Jerilyn Black	Greg Nors
Monica Broeche	Sam Pantoja Jr.
Eva Finley	LaRue Rainwater
Trish Fisher	Edith Renrice-Kelly
Rosa Gonzales	Jenness Rogers
Steve Gonzales	Larry Tomlinson
Marsha Griffis	Douglas Westendorf
Sharon Janicek	Molly Williams

Thank you



Steve Vanderhoof, Keith Miner, Aleshia, Eva, and Richard Skaggs presenting Stamps and Stationery to Aurora Veterans Home.

Eva collects donations for veterans project





National 2023 was Fantastic, Kate McCartney, TX3 VP/CMR

We had a great time in Denver this year at national. If you have never been to national start planning to go to Orlando 2024 it really is something you need to experience.

This year Texas won the Star Chapter award and the bid to host National in Dallas 2025. On Sunday night we had an awards banquet where Eva Finley and Deanna Fojtik won awards. On Monday the PMG spoke to us and I have to say was received better than last year. He spoke about the S&DC and NOT taking any Postmaster positions away. We

had tons of training available to us to choose from and the trainers were excellent and leaders in their fields. Chapter/States night is when we get to set up a booth and hand out stuff from your state. This year Deanna and Ron decorated our booth and we handed out key chains and of course they were all TEXAS theme and we took pictures in front of the back drop Deanna made. Let me tell you it was a big hit and everyone loved them and had a blast taking silly pictures with our props lol.... The mechanical bull was the only competition we had and it was hilarious!!!

We got to fellowship with other UPMA

member from other states and other parts of Texas. I have to brag, Texas has a great leader in Darwin and he is running for National Executive VP Southern Area and we need to support him. Greg Nors is now National Secretary-Treasurer. Look at the leadership we have been blessed with coming out of Texas and it is now time for you to step up and take part in this great organization.

Participate in your district meetings, state conventions, help your fellow Postmasters, Supervisors, and 204b's as they grow in their careers. We are stronger together.

One Year Free Membership has been extended until December 31, 2023. Sign Up New Members Today!



New National UPMA Website

Ann McDorman, *UPMA Retired Webmaster*

Wow! What an experience! Recently, we all woke up to a brand new UPMA website with no warning. To most people it didn't really matter except that they had to create a new "login" to get on the website at all. By now, I'm sure everyone has accomplished that task.

However, it was a different experience for me as your Webmaster because most all the information listed under the UPMA Retired tab was outdated. None of the information on the previous website was transferred to the new one after January, 2023. In a nutshell, all the information I have updated this year was not on the new website, and I could not get into the system to start making corrections.

After contacting Dan Heins in the National Office, he arranged for me to communicate with Mr. Joe Lewis, the new website Senior Account Manager from EmoryDay. He was very helpful in walking me quickly through how to update our information. It is a completely different system than our previous one. They use Word Press, and I was introduced to the Beaver Builder. Beaver Builder is a handy platform that makes editing easy.

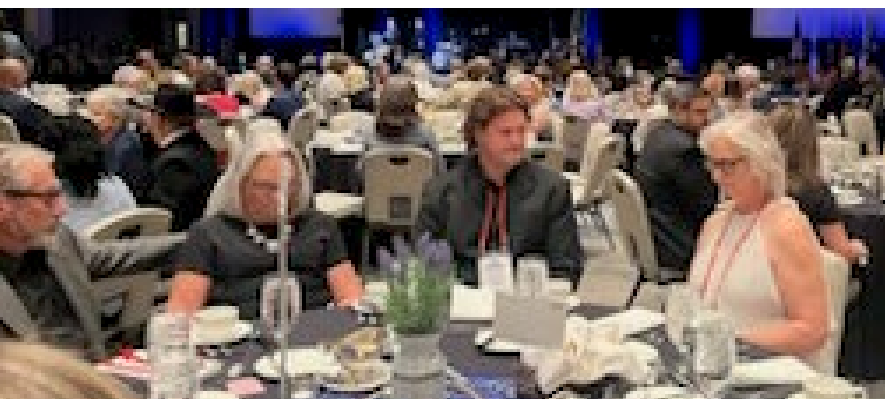
I explained to Mr. Joe the problem that none of the information from the old website since January was transferred. He sent me a link to the old website and I was able to update our Documents and Forms page. He also created a new page for Minutes. Under the old system, I could create new pages. No so

with this new one. As a result, updating both of those pages took a day, maybe more!

After updating the Documents and the Minutes pages, I discovered that none of the new state officers I had entered into the old webpage were transferred to the new one. Mr. Joe is supposed to teach me how to transfer the info on this page from the old system on Monday. So, by the time we are at the National Convention in Denver, it should be current.

Another item you will discover as you scan through our tab is that the handy "State Listing" at the top of the Area Reps page is not there anymore. The Area Reps corrections for 2023 are also not on the new website. Hoping to update before Convention.

Awards NIGHT





LeAndra Beckemeyer won 3rd place for Best Written Article and Eva Finley, Editor



Deena Fotjik received an award from Karen Young, Publisher of *The Leader*, for her winning photo in the 2024 Calendar Contest



Sharon Janicek and Edmund Carley during the pledge of allegiance at General Assembly



Our New National Secretary / Treasurer



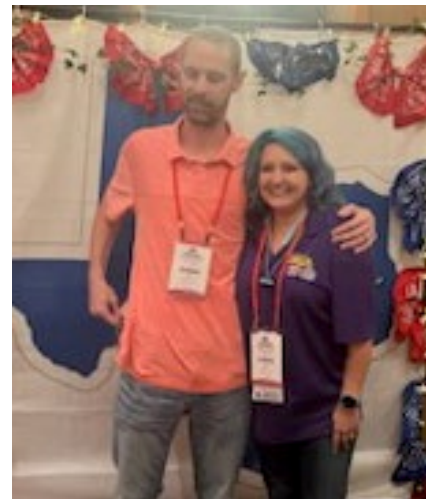
Greg Nors, Postmaster Granbury, TX, was elected as our National Secretary Treasurer to begin his term of office on January 1, 2024. Greg worked very hard to obtain the votes needed to secure the nomination. There were countless flights and miles of travel that brought Greg's campaign to victory.

Receptions were held at the Legislative Summit and the National Convention in Denver. Supporters visited with Greg during the receptions to provide encouragement and wishes for his success in his new position.

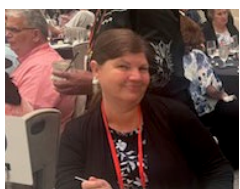
The Texas UPMA chapter provided support to Greg throughout his campaign. A big Texas "Thank You" to all that helped with his campaign, with the receptions and provided their vote of confidence in Greg.



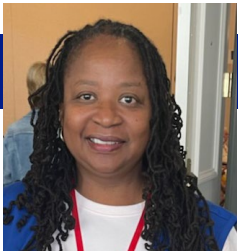
STATES' NIGHT



WESTERN NIGHT BANQUET







Write Now, Stacy Taplin, *District 1 VP*

USPS Operation Santa is accepting letters now

USPS Operation Santa allows people and organizations to adopt letters to Santa Claus and anonymously fulfill holiday wish lists from children and others who are less fortunate. The Postal Service made the announcement on Sept. 18 that the program is accepting letters from people in need as the "man up North" gets a headstart fulfilling wishes this holiday season.

The 111-year-old program provides an online way people can safely and securely help children and families have a magical holiday when they otherwise might not have the means. Employees, customers and others can adopt letters to Santa Claus and send gifts anonymously. The Postal Service is hoping the extra time to send letters will result in more letters available to adopt on Nov. 20 at the USPS Operation Santa website.

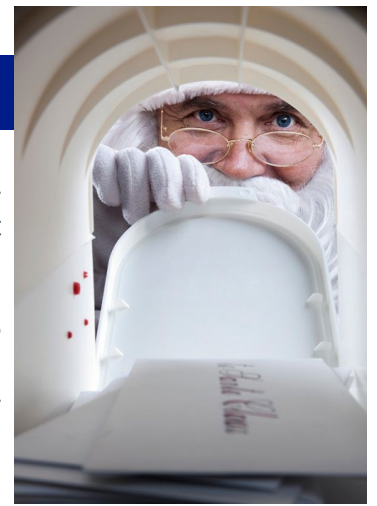
Letters are opened and reviewed, and personal information is redacted, before they are uploaded for adoption. There is no age limit for letter writers. Letters are accepted from everywhere in the country and can be adopted by anyone who has successfully registered for the program. Parents can write letters for their young children.

Letter writers must include a first and last name and a complete return address (street address; apartment number, if applicable; city; state; and ZIP Code). Envelopes must be regular or business-size and have a First-Class Mail postage stamp to travel through the Postal Service network.

Multiple letters can be sent in the same envelope, but each letter must include a full name and address. The envelope might require additional postage. **Letters should be addressed to: Santa Claus, 123 Elf Road, North Pole 88888. Letters received without last names and correct return addresses cannot be uploaded. Letters to Santa need to be postmarked by Dec. 11.**

Letters should be legible and include specific gift details, including game and book titles, clothes and shoe sizes (infant, toddler or teen), colors and styles. This information makes it easier for the letter adopter to know what to purchase.

USPS Operation Santa is not a guaranteed gift-giving program and relies solely on the generosity of others.



When You Fall Off that Horse (or Bull) -- Get Up and Try Again!!!



Rosa, Steve and Eva worked hard placing Texas stickers on candy





List of Scholarship Donations

Rosa Gonzales, TX UPMA State Retirees President & Scholarship Chair

Les & Lilly Yauck, in memory of Delores Auffarber, mother of PM Retired Stephen Auffarber

Larry & Beverly Tomlinson, in memory of Delores, mother of PM Retired Stephen Auffarber

Steve & Rosa Gonzales, in memory of Delores Auffarber, mother of PM Retired Stephen Auffarber

Billy & Ginger Buzan, in memory of Delores Auffarber, mother of PM Retired Stephen Auffarber

Jenness Rogers, in memory of Delores Auffarber, mother of PM Retired Stephen Auffarber

Sharon Janicek, in memory of Delores Auffarber, mother of PM Retired Stephen Auffarber

Paula Slade, in memory of Delores Auffarber, mother of PM Retired Stephen Auffarber

Marsha Griffis, in memory of Delores Auffarber, mother of PM Retired Stephen Auffarber

Greg Nors, in memory of Delores Auffarber, mother of PM Retired Stephen Auffarber

LeAndra Beckemeyer, in memory of Delores Auffarber, mother of PM Retired Stephen Auffarber

Eva Finley, in memory of Delores Auffarber, mother of PM Retired Stephen Auffarber

Anonymous, In memory of Delores Auffarber, mother of PM Retired Stephen Auffarber

Jenness Rogers, in celebration of Lewis Hill's birthday, husband of PM Retired Donna Hill

LeAndra Beckemeyer, in memory of Wynell Chesney, sister of PM Retired Rosa Gonzales

Steve Auffarber, in memory of Wynell Chesney, sister of PM Retired Rosa Gonzales

Greg Nors, in memory of Wynell Chesney, sister of PM Retired Rosa Gonzales

Jenness Rogers, in memory of Wynell Chesney, sister of PM Retired Rosa Gonzales

Sharon Janicek, in memory of Wynell Chesney, sister of PM Retired Rosa Gonzales

Ginger Buzan, in memory of Wynell Chesney, sister of PM Retired Rosa Gonzales

Eva Finley, in memory of Wynell Chesney, sister of PM Retired Rosa Gonzales

Theresa Peebles Retired PM Arkansas, in memory of Wynell Chesney, sister of PM Retired Rosa Gonzales

Anonymous, In memory of Wynell Chesney, sister of PM Retired Rosa Gonzales

LeAndra Beckemeyer, in appreciation of **Ron Mason** for all of his hard work as Texas Secretary/Treasurer

Steve & Rosa Gonzales, in appreciation of **Ron Mason** for all of his hard work as Texas Secretary/Treasurer

Steve & Rosa Gonzales, a thank you to everyone that helped to make the Texas Hospitality Room successful in Denver

Steve & Rosa Gonzales, in appreciation of **Jenness Rogers & Molly Williams** for your hard work in the TX Hospitality in Denver

LeAndra Beckemeyer, in appreciation of **Jenness Rogers & Molly Williams** for your hard work in the TX Hospitality in Denver

Steve & Rosa Gonzales, in honor of **Eva Finley**, Texas Editor for all your hard work allowing Texas to win the 2023 STAR AWARD

Steve & Rosa Gonzales, wishing a speedy recovery to Retired Postmaster **Patsy Blevins**

Eva Finley, wishing a speedy recovery to Retired Postmaster **Patsy Blevins**

Sharon Janicek, wishing a speedy recovery to Retired Postmaster **Patsy Blevins**

Anonymous, Wishing a speedy recovery to Retired Postmaster **Patsy Blevins**

Sharon Janicek, wishing a speedy recovery to **Fidel Gonzalez**, Postmaster Hockley, TX

Sharon Janicek, wishing a speedy recovery to Retired Postmaster **George Finley**

Steve & Rosa Gonzales, wishing a speedy recovery to Retired Postmaster **George Finley**

Steve & Rosa Gonzales, Congratulations to **Greg Nors** as our new National Secretary/Treasurer

Donations to the Texas Scholarship Fund should be sent to

Retiree President

Rosa Gonzales

2843 Private Rd 3778

Wills Point, TX 75169

You will get a thank you from the Texas Chapter for your donation and a card will be sent to the family/person of the donation.

TEXAS WINNERS FOR THE 2024 UPMA CALENDAR CONTEST



Two Texas Members have been selected to have their winning photos to appear in the 2024 UPMA Calendar!! Both are former winners, so we're not surprised at their lovely photos. The entries of **Kay Vaughn Maxon**, Postmaster Retired and Dallas MPOO, and **Deanna Fotjik**, Postmaster of Granger and presently Vice-President-At-Large were selected from many photos nationally. We're proud to have not one, but two winners from our Chapter.

I know there are many of you who can take fantastic pictures!!! Prepare now for next year and take those photos when you can snap a clear picture and interesting subject. I will post the deadline in the *Lone Star Leader* in time for you to submit your entries.

We congratulate Kay and Danna for making us PROUD!





Healthy Tip for Retirement

LeAndra Beckemeyer, Retired Texas PM Howe TX

Get your finances in order.

It is less expensive to be retired overall; if you have managed to pay down or pay off your debt it will be much easier. Optimally, you should have no more credit card debt than what you can pay each month, no car notes and low housing costs. The amount you have saved for retirement in your TSP may be needed for future health care costs. The good news is that although you aren't adding to it anymore, in most cases it will still grow.

Are you concerned that your annuity (pension) may impact your Social Security retirement benefit? If you are a CSRS employee born after 1956, your Social Security benefits will be affected due to the Windfall Elimination Provision. The Windfall Elimination provision does not apply to FERS employees because Social Security taxes are withheld. **For more information about Social Security, call 1-800-772-1213 or use the website at <https://www.ssa.gov>.**

Eat well. Make sure you eat regular meals. Take advantage of the extra time on your hands and explore healthy cooking options.

Develop a routine. You may find that it feels more normal to continue getting up, eating and going to bed at roughly the same time each day. Plan for regular activities, such as volunteer work, exercise and hobbies.

Exercise your mind. Use your free time to challenge yourself mentally, such as learning to play an instrument, a new language or getting a certification.

Keep physically active. We should all strive to do 150 minutes of moderate physical activity a week. If you were not able to do this previously, now is the perfect time to create a new habit.

Seek social support. Work can be a huge part of your social life and retirement may have you at loose ends. Join clubs or groups, like a sewing circle, walking club or pickle ball group. There are meet up groups on Facebook to find common interests.

Make peace and move on. Don't spend your retirement dwelling on your working days. Accept that you have done all that you can do in the job and focus on your next challenge. You still have a lot to achieve.

Go for a health check. Prevention is better than a cure and now is the perfect time to get checked out medically. Your schedule is now wide open for all those hard to keep appointments.

Keep in touch with friends from work. Attending UPMA conventions, conferences and meetings is a stress free way to keep up with everyone with no work calls to interrupt your great time. Make sure you have filled out an 1187-R when you retire so that you continue your membership in UPMA into retirement. The dues are reduced considerably. You will continue to get the latest information on changes to TSP, Social Security and other retirement information in the newsletters (state and national, including *In The Mailbox*, a newsletter edited by Eva Finley specifically for retirees) as well as online. If you haven't already signed up online to get the UPMA Gold, contact Linda Carter at upmagold@gmail.com or call 919-323-6595.



Pamper yourself. After decades of hard work, you are due for some "me time". Whether your idea of indulgence is a day trip to the spa, going to a theater or dining out, spend some time on yourself for a well deserved treat.

Give back to the community. There are not enough words to explain how vital volunteerism is to a community. Animal shelters, homeless shelters, hospitals, schools, your church-the list is endless on organizations that rely on volunteers. You will be richer for it.

Travel more. Visit the wine country, state parks or take a cruise. Even if the best you can do is a mini break, you will not regret the time spent.

Take up a new project. This is the perfect time to finally grow that garden, map your family tree or de-clutter your house. You may find yourself at odds with not knowing where to be or what to do. There are endless projects out there that you have always wanted to try and you finally have time to do them!

Congrats!

**Stacy Taplin
celebrated 35 years
with USPS**





Lack of Communication

Jenness Rogers, *Postmaster Retired, Harper TX*

We speak so often about the lack of communication, but nothing seems to change. We expect people to read our minds or just figure it out on our own.

If it gets done great if not, no big deal. It is a big deal when the burden gets put on one person who hasn't been mentored in what to do. We don't mentor any more either. It is a selfish world, and one person may want all the glory but that doesn't help the next person filling those positions. It needs to be a team effort.

The new members who want to fill an officer's position need guidance and most of the time welcome it with open arms. They haven't been taught the procedures or steps to their position and how things should be done.

With that said I know there are many retired postmasters and active that have held the position as president when

we were NAPUS and we had a "President's book" that was handed down each time it changed. It was your "bible" on how to conduct a meeting, the whole state convention and gave you guidance in every area. That book seems to have gotten lost along the way and I'm asking those of the past who relied on that book to get them through to please get together and write up another one for our brand-new officers who need some guidance, and it will help them feel more comfortable in their roll as a president or executive vice president coming up the ranks. I know several of you put a lot of work into it and I do believe it is a needed asset.

We need to communicate months before an event, not a week before or on the day of the event and make clear as to what you expect of your team. Don't just think it will get done and wing it. Organize and be prepared. I hope we can start communicating better and work as a team.

General Session



Texas State Convention Golf Tournament

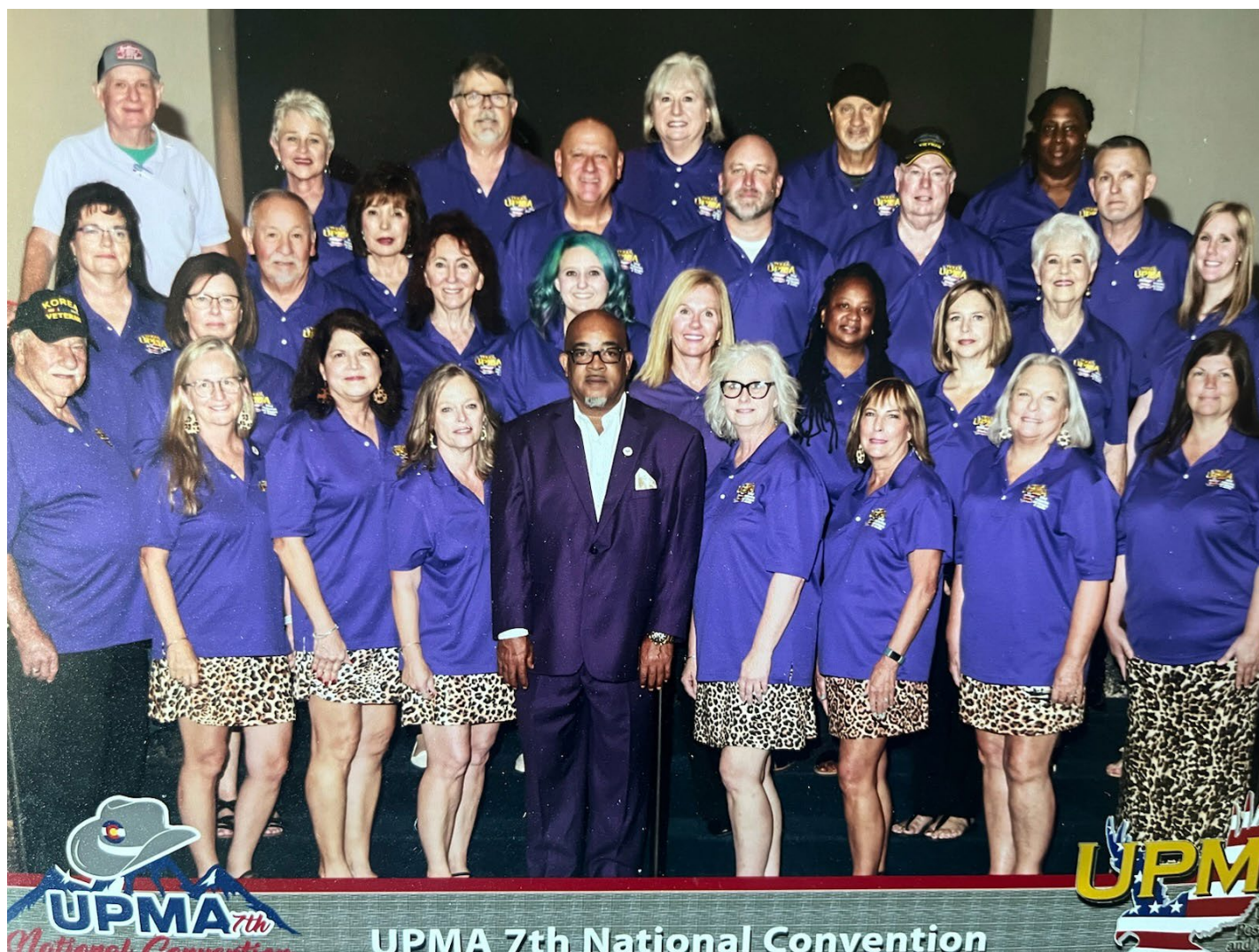


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txlonestar.leader@usa.net
Editor Eva Finley: 512-569-4680



The deadline to be included in the next issue of the *Lonestar Leader* is October 30, 2023.
Email your photos, news and articles to Eva Finley, Editor at the information above.