

# **Ohio Post Scripts UPDATE**



ISSUE 32

*Ohio Chapter UPMA*

April 2024

Another ***SUCCESSFUL*** year in  
Washington D.C.



# Ohio UPMA Executive Board and Officers

## *A word about our COVER:*

The OHIO Chapter came away from the Legislative trip to Washington DC with some great dialog held at our national Congressional offices.

Much was gleaned on the various bills in Congress affecting WEP/GPO and other important acts under consideration affecting the postal service and our members.

Each year, our efforts reflect the positive movement forward towards progress being achieved with everyone volunteering of their own time to do so. Read on in this edition of the strides made.

The cover photograph is courtesy of Postmaster Patty Schag.

*Paul Joseph - Editor*

## **Retiree Officers:**

**President: Lou Stuckey**  
419-215-2227  
stuckey31@msn.com

**Vice President: Sara Kreitzer**  
937-538-0478  
Shkreitzer@yahoo.com

**Secretary: Deb Justice**  
Email: tydebj@gmail.com

**Treasurer: Tracie Gebhart**  
Email: tgebhart@fuse.net  
513-435-0573

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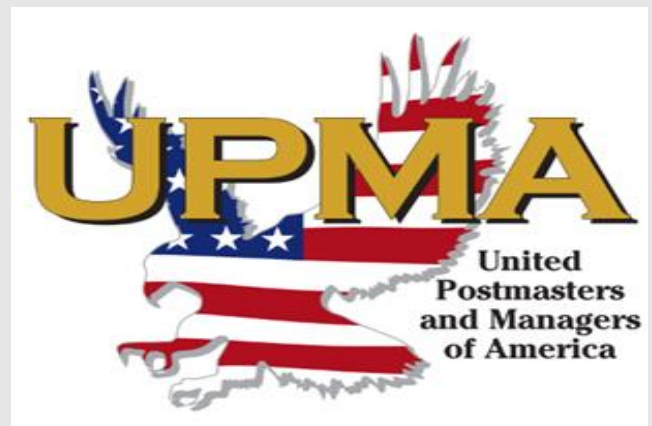
**Ohio Chapter UPMA**  
<http://www.ohioUPMA.com>

**UPMA National**  
[www.Unitedpma.org](http://www.Unitedpma.org)

**UPMA Federal Credit Union**  
[www.signaturefcu.org/](http://www.signaturefcu.org/)

**Thrift Savings Plan**  
[www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov)

**UPMA Postmasters Retired**  
<http://groups.yahoo.co/group/pmretired>



# UPMA Executive Board Information

Mari Beth Kirkland Middlefield OH 44062 440-821-4667 [mari\\_kirkland@yahoo.com](mailto:mari_kirkland@yahoo.com)  
Ohio Chapter President  
Adverse Action Committee Chair  
National Vice President - Central Area

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Ohio Chapter Immediate Past President - Membership

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UPMA Retired President

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Parliamentarian

Ted Gedeon Retired 440-279-7040 [tgedeon@windstream.net](mailto:tgedeon@windstream.net)  
Legislative Chair

Paul Joseph Retired 419-236-0166 [repins@bright.net](mailto:repins@bright.net)  
Editor/CMR

## Committee Chairs

Scholarship Rita Schemmel 937-726-5817

Convention Lou Stuckey & Andrea Leyes

Sunshine Betty Major 330-612-0368 [badatvs@gmail.com](mailto:badatvs@gmail.com)

# ***OHIO UPMA President Mari Beth Kirkland***

By the time that you receive this, we will have all experienced a once in a lifetime event with the total Solar Eclipse. Amazing. There is so much going on with UPMA, I do not know where to begin.

We have had a change on the Executive Board for Ohio UPMA. A vacancy occurred and the Executive Board appointed Luis Rosado. Luis is the Postmaster of Arcadia, and currently the OIC in Fostoria. I am very anxious to welcome him to the Board. He will be a true asset to the Ohio Chapter. I'd like to thank Steve Rogers for his service to Ohio UPMA. Your time was very well served.

Preparations are underway for our State Convention. Lou Stuckey and Andrea Leyes have been hard at work planning the perfect convention. They are awesome convention chairs, and we so appreciate them. Please look through Postscripts for further information, and plan to attend.

We held our Executive Board meeting at the venue, Salt Fork State Park, and I was amazed at the beauty of the place. The Board has approved a stipend, and special provisions for first timers. Please see additional information in this edition.

I attended the National Executive Board meeting in Washington DC, prior to the Legislative Summit. During the two-day meeting we had the privilege of Tom Blum, HR Labor and Bruce Nicolson, HR manager speak to us. Folks there is a lot of change coming on in the USPS. I will add good change.

During the Monday meeting, Postmaster General Louis DeJoy addressed the body. His vision is amazing, and **I truly feel he is doing what is right for the good of the organization.** You can only be stagnant for so long. We need to modernize.

Ohio is doing well gaining members. Please remember that UPMA has one-year free membership to any EAS new members. This is a great opportunity for them to see what we are all about. Membership is important to any organization, but what we do with our membership is far more valuable. ***We must continuously mentor, coach and develop.***

We have two Ohio Career Conferences this year. Ohio 2 is May 5<sup>th</sup> at Vandalia-Butler High School. Ohio 1 is August 11<sup>th</sup> at Case Western Reserve University. Both have great venues and so much planned for our districts. This is a great opportunity to build our bench in the Postal Service, but we must build our bench in Ohio UPMA as well.

If you need assistance with this, please reach out to any member listed in Postscripts. We are here to help.

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CAOS will be here before you know it. CAOS stands for the Central Area Officers Conference. It will be held in Canton Ohio September 21<sup>st</sup>. All members in the Central area are invited to attend. It will be a spectacular day of training and networking. Please see further information in this edition of Postscripts. There is no doubt that Ohio will host a very engaging, memorable event.

Representing our membership is, and has always been a passion of mine. I have developed a good rapport with most Leadership in the State of Ohio and most all are very willing to work with Ohio UPMA. I have represented employees that I never thought in my career I would have to represent. You honestly never know what little infraction can blow up and lead to discipline.

A few words of advice are to follow instructions, document everything, and get confirmation in writing. Back to the beginning of my career all those years ago, I was told to document everything. I have lived by that, and it has saved me many times in my career.

**DOCUMENT, DOCUMENT, DOCUMENT.** I have a fellow Postmaster friend that literally has a backpack stuffed full of emails and documentation. And we have used her backpack files on numerous occasions.

If you are given an instruction that you know or suspect does not follow policy, return an email stating, "I understand you are instructing me to (state the instruction)". If you get a response, follow instruction. Then reach out to a CMR rep, and we will deal with it after the fact. No response is a response. Follow what you are being instructed to do, and question later. Get it in writing. Even if it is unethical do it.

You can always email or call ethics and they will get back with you within 24 hours. If there is a discrepancy, share with the person that is giving you the instruction.

Always hold your integrity. It can take years to build and a simple act to destroy.

In closing, "Trust yourself. You've survived a lot and you'll survive whatever is coming.

Stay Strong!!!!

See you in Salt Fork,

**Mari Beth Kirkland**  
**Ohio UPMA State President**  
**Central Area National Vice President**



# ***Retiree's Corner***

## ***Lou Stuckey, Ohio Retiree President***

### **JUST THE FACTS!**

This year includes a big change in our health insurance due to the passing of the postal reform bill we worked very hard to get passed.

Unfortunately with changes comes confusion. Part of that is due to the fact that information has been rolled out to us slowly. New information is always interpreted differently. I am not going to try and explain everything in this article. I am going to tell you where to go to get the facts.

First, I would encourage you to attend our state convention at Salt Fork State Park on May 30 - June 2nd. Our Retiree President Charley Peters will be there to give us the facts. He is a part of the group that has the best information on this change. He will be able to answer and explain your questions.

We also have a presentation from Karla Kirby who is the Executive Manager for the Postal Service Health Benefits Program, with the correct information. I believe it is always important to attend the convention but the board believes it enough to offer anyone who attends the entire convention \$400.

First timers will get free registration and \$500. There is also other great training that includes eCareer, KSA, and more!

National Convention in Orlando, FL, August 24 - 30th is also a great learning experience. You will receive \$1,000 if you attend the entire convention to offset your costs.

If you are not able to attend either of these events, there are some other ways to get good information. President Charley encourages all employees and annuitants to sign up to receive text messages that provide updates on PSHBP and available information seminars.

Parts of the actual message are often repeated, but the Q&A's at the end are always different, and are actually employees/annuitants who have questions. Every session is different.

Text any of the following code words to 39369:  
PSHHBP, Seminar, Retiree

You can go to [www.keepingposted.org](http://www.keepingposted.org) for up to date information.

The UPMA Gold is run by retirees but has great info for everyone. To subscribe, send an email to: [\*\*upmagold@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:upmagold@gmail.com) that includes your full name, email and state. There are also videos available on the National UPMA website to view.

Just remember that when you read something you may interpret it differently than intended. It happens.

**I recently was told that some people were retiring before the end of the year because if they didn't, they would no longer have health insurance.**

***This is NOT true, but it is just an example how facts get twisted and passed on. Get the facts!***

The best place is in person.

See you at the convention!

## **Lou Stuckey**

### **Ohio Retiree President**



## ***Bill Judge - Secretary Treasurer***

We have finished the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2024 and “Budget” is the word. The PMG has a Delivering for America Plan. In typical fashion we sometimes take shots at it to reaffirm the cynicism that is part of human nature. We can either “Make Progress or Make Excuses”.

Yes, circumstances can cause setbacks. We put those in our experience portfolio and move forward. Don't let the negativity drag you into the quicksand. Sometimes we must work a little harder to catch up. We need to put our personal 10-year plans in motion to reach our end goal. In the current environment we must keep trying to improve.

This is where UPMA comes in. Everyone has their own skillsets. Membership in UPMA gives you a network. Maximizing our network of fellow managers, we can put together personal teams to accomplish all the things we need to get done.

We need to re-evaluate our team's individual responsibilities to help cover all the daily requirements, so our offices get off and stay off the non-compliance radar (From what I remember very important to your POOM). None of us is as smart as all of us. Start with short conversations with your fellow EAS.

The rapport you establish can benefit all of you.

### ***The one Postal constant is change.***

Working that into your daily juggling act of responsibilities is an art. If a neighbor seems to have a better handle on something reach out for support. There is a Career conference coming up. Take a little time and go and interact with the District Leadership. Then come to the state convention and network with everyone there. It could make your work life a little more palatable.

Remember these 4 things – treat your employees with dignity and respect, follow the financial guidelines (UPMA can hook you up with a SME), report with accuracy, and be at work as scheduled.

We will get through together.

Reach out to someone (even a retiree) for help when you need it.

## ***Ted Gedeon - Legislative Chair***

I must admit that before attending this year's Legislative Summit I felt that getting a Windfall Elimination Provision/Government Pension Offset relief Bill passed in Congress was becoming almost impossible.

But after speaking with several Congressional aides, my hopes were refreshed for passing some form of reform that would eliminate all or some of the penalties suffered by retired CSRS beneficiaries and their spouses. I received no push back about passing reform from anyone I met. HR-82, the bill that would eliminate all of the reductions of WEP/GPO, has plenty of co-sponsors in the House of Representatives allowing it to pass. The problem all along has been getting enough co-sponsors in the Senate to pass it there.

The bill in the Senate which is titled S-597 has 52 co-sponsors — 41 Democrats, 3 Independents and 8 Republicans. If 2 more Republicans can be persuaded to sign on to the bill, it would form a filibuster-proof two-thirds majority that would ensure passage of the legislation. It is still an uphill battle, but very attainable. We can be proud that both of our Senators from Ohio are sponsoring the bill.

The current legislative session lasts until January of 2025, so there remains nearly a year to accomplish our goal. Remember, Federal retirees are not the only group affected by WEP/GPO.

Retired police, firemen, EMT's, teachers, state employees and their families are also affected. We are not the only group trying to pass these bills. There is a very loud voice also campaigning along with us to get this relief passed.

And I would be remiss if I didn't thank everyone from Ohio who attended this year's Summit. We had 14 UPMA members from Ohio participate.

You ALL did a fantastic job visiting the Congressional and Senate offices and communicating our message.

***THANK YOU for giving your time to help promote our cause!***



*Salt Fork Park Lodge, Lore City Ohio,*

*May 30-June 2, 2024*

*We are ready for Ohio UPMA  
2024 Convention!*

***There is So much we have planned for you! Don't hesitate to join us at your Ohio State Convention!***

Your Ohio Chapter Convention is the best time to get to know your Ohio Executive Board and National UPMA leaders and to meet up with friends and colleagues. We are planning the informative agenda along with good food, good music, fun activities, and entertainment all while creating memories throughout the weekend.

We will have classes from beginning your career in management, (*eCareer, KSA*) through benefits affecting your retirement. This is an extremely important year for changes in Health benefits once you retire. We plan a presentation with Karla Kirby who is the USPS Executive Manager for the Postal Service Health Benefits program, plan options and open season.

Our very own National Retiree President, Charley Peters will be offering a Q&A session about the changes to PSHB and what you need to know and act on for your Health Benefits. Vendors representing the different PSHB health care plans will be available for specific information on many of the individual plans. ***Ohio UPMA State Convention 2024*** will be at the Salt Fork State Park Lodge. The Salt Fork Lodge is like a resort inside of a beautiful state park near Cambridge Ohio. It is located east of Columbus and south of Cleveland and will be held May 30 - June 2, 2024. Join us for a Presidents Welcome Reception at 7:00 pm on Thursday, May 30, 2024, with fun and food followed by evening activities in our Hospitality Room. Friday night will be the anticipated PAC Auction. Please bring any items from your spring cleaning or gifts that aren't 'quite your style'!

Then, put your boots on for our "Old West Theme". Make sure to bring your western attire for our Saturday night banquet and entertainment.

## ***Why stay at Salt Fork Lodge?***

Besides being surrounded by lush woods and natural beauty and as one of the Great Ohio Lodges. The rooms are well-furnished, including the lakeside cabins.

The lodging prices are very reasonable for the amount of activities included. The property offers rustic timbers décor on all four floors with grand stone fireplaces on every floor. It is alongside the shores of nearby Salt Fork Lake. This lodge is also pet friendly in specific accommodations. The lodge offers something for all!

## ***Onsite Activities at the Lodge***

Spacious heated Indoor Pool, Large Outdoor Pool & Hot Tub  
Fitness Center, Court Sports, Lawn Games, Disc Golf, Campfires  
Game Room, Activity Room, Board and Parlor Games

Timbers Restaurant is an impressive space, with rustic ambiance and historic murals, with a view of Salt Fork Lake from the floor-to-ceiling windows.

The New Wildlife Lounge provides seating for 200 guests and is available with music on the weekends. Open Daily at 11 am, hours may vary. *Scheduled entertainment is country rock Ruff Creek, 7 – 10 pm, May 31 and classic rock Matt Frampton, 7 – 10 pm, June 1.*

## ***Activities in the State Park***

14 wooded Hiking Trails, Guided Nature Hike, Bigfoot Night Hike, Horseback Trails

Kennedy Stone House, Stonehouse Trail Wildflower Walk

71 par 18-hole Golf Course, Pro Shop Cart Access, Whitetail Trails Disc Golf  
Gem Mining, Nature Center, Archery Range

**Sugartree Marina & Salt Fork Marina** offer Boat and Pontoon Rental, Canoe, Kayak Rental, Water Tubes, Lund Fishing Boats, Bait and Tackle, Snacks  
Public Beach on Salt Fork Lake

## ***Places of Interest Nearby***

Mosser Glass factory with tours till 2:30 pm, Cambridge

National Museum of Cambridge Glass, Cambridge

Deerassic Park Education Center, Cambridge

Historic Roscoe Village, Coshocton

The Wilds, Animal Park affiliate Columbus Zoo, Cumberland

Dinner is on us...and lunch! Your Ohio Chapter is providing free meals and entertainment with your registration. For UPMA Members, your registration fee will be refunded to you at the end of Convention and attending all business sessions.

**Ohio UPMA is also offering this year a \$400 stipend to any UPMA Member attending all business sessions of 2024 Convention at Salt Fork Lodge.**

***Also, for our First-Time attending UPMA Members***, we will reimburse the registration fee and **offer a \$500 stipend**, for attending all business sessions of the 2024 Ohio State Convention, May 31 – June 2, 2024 at Salt Fork Park Lodge.

The Convention standard room rate for Salt Fork Lodge is May 30, \$119, May 31 -June 2, \$159.

Standard **cabins** are available May 30 for \$169 and May 31-June 2 for \$262.

Salt Fork Lodge has 148 rooms all with a balcony or patio, mini fridge, microwave and coffee maker.

There are 53 cabins that include 2-bedroom chalets, lakeside, and hillside cabins. All cabins have a full kitchen, fire ring, AC and wi-fi.

**To book your reservation, call 800-282-7275 with group code United Postmasters and Managers, UPMA. 14755 Cadiz Rd, Lore City Ohio 43755.**

Rooms held until April 30, 2024.

***We will see you there!***

If you have any questions or need more information, please give us a call.

***Lou Stuckey, 419-215-2227  
Andrea Leyes, 513-702-1630  
Convention Co-chairs***



# 8th Annual UPMA OHIO Chapter State Convention



## Registration Form

Please complete one form per person attending  
May 30 - June 2, 2024

**Salt Fork Park Lodge, 14755 Cadiz Rd, Lore City OH 43755**  
**saltforkparklodge.com 1-800-282-7275**

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

Postal Position \_\_\_\_\_ Office, City State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a UPMA Retired Member?                    **YES**        **NO**

Are you an Associate Member?                    **YES**        **NO**

Are you bringing a Spouse or Guest?           **YES**        **NO**

**(Please complete a separate registration form and separate payment for each person)**

**Will this be your first time attending an Ohio UPMA Convention?   YES        NO**

(\*Accommodations information below\*)

**All persons and guests must be registered to attend any meals and events.**

**Registration Payment information: \$50.00 Check Payable to: Ohio Chapter UPMA**

**Mail Registration Form and all payments to:**

Andrea Leyes  
994 Hampton Ct  
Lebanon OH 45036

**Hotel Reservations:** To secure the special UPMA discounted group rate, you must reference United Postmasters and Managers UPMA when booking your room. UPMA rooms will be held until April 30, 2024, or until sold out.

Room Rates: May 30, 2024, \$119, May 31 - June 2, 2024, \$159. Cabins Rate May 30, 2024, \$169, 2024, May 31 – June 2, \$262. Please call the Hotel to reserve your room, 1-800-282-7275.

\*A **\$400 Stipend** and reimbursement of registration fee will be paid to any Ohio UPMA Member attending all business sessions of Ohio Convention at Salt Fork Lodge.

\***First Time Attending UPMA member** will be paid a \$500 stipend and reimbursement of registration fee, for accommodations at Salt Fork Lodge, for attending all Ohio UPMA business sessions May 30 – June 2, 2024.



**VENDOR REGISTRATION FORM**  
**UPMA Ohio State Convention**

The Ohio Chapter UPMA, United Postmasters & Managers of America will be holding their 8th Annual State Convention at Salt Fork State Park Lodge located at 14755 Cadiz Rd, Lore City OH 43755, from May 30 - June 2, 2023. We invite you to join us as a vendor at our state convention. Table set up will begin at 6:00 am on Friday, May 31 with the General Business Session starting at 8:00 am. The free participation is one table per vendor. Each vendor will be preassigned their tables.

We welcome any donations to advertise your business, such as gift bag items, door prizes and/or sponsorships of events such as a meal, outing or sponsorship of the Member and Retiree Awards. If you are interested or need information, please contact Patty Schag at 419-565-2685. Thank you for your participation.

We welcome you to enjoy Salt Fork Park Lodge with us!

**Business Name**\_\_\_\_\_ **Product/Service**\_\_\_\_\_

**Name**\_\_\_\_\_

**Address**\_\_\_\_\_

**City**\_\_\_\_\_ **State**\_\_\_\_\_ **Zip**\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of tables needed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check if electricity is requested** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attend # for Friday Lunch \$15** \_\_\_\_\_ **Saturday Lunch \$15** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attend # for Friday Dinner \$30** \_\_\_\_\_ **Saturday Dinner \$30** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed \$**\_\_\_\_\_

*Please make check or money order payable to Ohio Chapter UPMA.  
Mail Registration Form and complete payment to:*

**Patty Schag**  
**2089 Pavonia Rd**  
**Mansfield OH 44903**

**Hotel Info:** Standard room rate, May 30, 2024, \$119, May 31 - June 2, 2024, \$159. For cabins or other rooms available, please call Hotel for Room Rates. Call 1-800-282-7275 or visit online at [saltforkparklodge.com](http://saltforkparklodge.com) to reserve your rooms. Call in guests must reference United Postmaster and Managers UPMA to secure the discounted group rate. UPMA rooms will only be held until April 1, 2024, or till sold out. Check in is 4:00 pm on arrival and Check out is at 11:00 am on departure.

# Leader Leading Leaders

As UPMA members our mission is to identify employees that have the potential to grow. It is imperative that you have a bank of talents in your office. As we hear about all the retirements that may occur in the District, we need to stay ahead of the game so we can help the Postal Service hire quality EAS.

How can you identify a potential candidate?

You need to check your employee's behavior. There are going to be employees that have:

**Great attendance**  
**Customer driven**  
**Compliance driven**  
**Helpers/ doers**  
**Leaders**

**(or more than just one of these qualities)**

The following is a list of things that I do in identifying a potential leader:

- **Have a career conversation.** See what their goals are or if they don't have goals, talk about all the opportunities the postal service has to offer.
- **Give opportunity:** have this employee serve as your Safety Captain, 204b or any other leadership in the office.
- **Ask them to become a UPMA Associate member.** This is the best thing you can do to improve their career and knowledge base. They will have a great platform for networking, to know people that already have walked the path they are starting down.
- **Career Conferences:** Get them to be known. The Career Conference is a great tool to showcase how they are and what they can bring as an EAS to the postal service.
- **Help with the eCareer profile:** guide the employee to build and develop their eCareer profile.

We need to keep the postal service full of quality and competent EAS employees for our future. We all want to give our best years and be able to retire from this organization. It's our duty to lead and develop leaders of the future.

If you need any assistance, you can reach out to me. I will be happy to help you!

**Luis J. Rosado**

**UPMA Ohio Chapter Vice President**

**[luisrosadoupma@gmail.com](mailto:luisrosadoupma@gmail.com)**

## ***Alan Metzcar - Immediate Past President***

### **Ohio UPMA State Convention**

May 31, 2024- June 1, 2024  
Salt Fork State Park Salt Fork State Lodge  
1 Park Circle Cambridge, Ohio 43725

Standard Room Rate: May 30, 2024 \$119.00      May 31 - June 1, 2024 \$159.00  
Standard Cabin Rate: May 30, 2024 \$169.00      May 31- June 1, 2024 \$262

**Reservation for rooms must be made by April 15, 2024**

The Lodge has 148 rooms and 53 cabins for rent.

Please go to the OhioUPMA.com website to print out your registration and make your reservations TODAY!!!

### **UPMA 8th National Convention - August 24-30, 2024**

Caribe Royal Resort 8101 World Center Dr. Orlando, Florida 32821

***UPMA Rates are good until July 22, 2024 or until room block is sold out.***

Call: 1-800-823-8300 to make Reservations  
Group Code: UPMA National Convention

Room Rate \$159.00 per night for single or double occupancy, a \$15.00 per night additional charge for additional adults.

**Alan T. Metzcar**  
**Immediate Past President**  
**Ohio UPMA Chapter**  
[messdad@outlook.com](mailto:messdad@outlook.com)  
**(330)827-0137 Cell**  
**(330)275-9020**  
**Postmaster - Baltic 43804**  
**Stone Creek 43840**



## Candidate for Vice President

By now, I'm sure you've heard and seen from me, Alan Metzcar on many occasions in many different rolls. I have been a devoted and focused member of UPMA since day one of my membership, willing to step up in any capacity to provide service and leadership for our organization. As immediate Past President, I have stepped into the recruiting roll to help build membership and work as a Chapter Member Representative assisting those in need.

At this year's State Convention, there will be a position for Vice President up for election and it is my intent to continuing serving the Ohio Chapter in this capacity. The position will become effective next January but until then, I shall continue to devote my time and efforts to the success of the Chapter.

*I appreciate your VOTE of confidence* in electing me to the position of Vice President at this year's convention and look forward to many more years of faithful service.

Thank you for all YOU do in Ohio UPMA!

**Alan Metzcar - Immediate Past President, Candidate for Vice President**

## Newly Promoted

Congratulations to the following individuals on your promotions:

John R. Antonavich	Postmaster	Deerfield
James A. Hayes	Postmaster	Freeport
Tonya L. Blair	Postmaster	Jefferson
Shenill E. LaFortune	Postmaster	Mentor
Amey N. Fernandez	Postmaster	Wickliffe
Kristyne Long	Postmaster	Monclova
Hallie R. Kruckeberg	Postmaster	Bryan
Brittani Barnes	Postmaster	Sebring
Chris J. Rhea	Postmaster	Kings Mills
Angela Rosa	Postmaster	New Vienna
Brinton C. Conley	Postmaster	Hamersville
Todd M. Moore	Postmaster	Williamsport
Anthony W. Harris	Postmaster	Piqua

Alan T. Metzcar  
Immediate Past President  
Ohio UPMA Chapter  
(330)827-0137 Cel  
(330)276-9020 Postal Cell

# ***Welcome to the Ohio UPMA Chapter!***

## **Members that have recently signed up with the Ohio Chapter of United Postmasters and Managers of America:**

Christopher R. Yost	Supervisor Bellefontaine
Mary-Grace Snyder	Postmaster New Albany
Caleb A. Brassfield	Supervisor Zanesville
Brandon R. Bronker	OIC West Lafayette
Theodore C. Brown	Postmaster Lewis Center
Jennifer L. Blanton	PTF Carrier Fostoria

\*\*\*\*\*

## ***More IMPORTANT dates to be aware of: CMR Training Sessions***

### **CMR 101 St. Louis - October 19, 2024**

Embassy Suites St. Louis Airport - 11237 Lone Eagle Dr. - Bridgeton, MO. 63044  
Reservations: 1-800-445-8667—Mention UPMA CMR 101 for Group Rate  
Group Rate: \$169.00 per night - Free shuttle to and from the Airport  
Free breakfast and Managers Reception included with stay - Lunch is provided  
Training will promptly start at 8am

### **CMR 201 Chicago - October 26, 2024**

Hyatt Place Chicago O'Hare - 6810 Mannheim Road - Rosemont, Il 60018  
Reservations: 1-888-591-1234 - Group Code: G-UPMA  
Group Rate is \$117.00 per night - \$10.00 a day extra for each additional guest  
Free Shuttle to and from the Airport - Free Breakfast is provided with stay - Lunch is provided  
Training will promptly start at 8am

### **CMR 101 Denver - November 2, 2024**

Embassy Suites Denver Airport - 7001 Yampa St. - Denver, Co. 80249  
Reservations: 1-800-445-8667 - Mention UPMA CMR 101  
Group Rate: \$142.00 per night - Free Breakfast and Managers Reception with Stay  
Training Starts promptly at 8am

For further information, contact Alan Metzcar or Paul Joseph for details.

**Alan T. Metzcar**  
**Immediate Past President**  
**Ohio UPMA Chapter**  
[messdad@outlook.com](mailto:messdad@outlook.com)

## ***Laura Reese - Executive Vice President***

Hello Ohio UPMA chapter members,

Spring is a season when the world seems to come back to life. Springtime is a season of hope, because it symbolizes the reassurance of life after the inevitable challenges of winter. This energy generally helps us feel more optimistic and driven to make the most out of our days. It is actually a perfect time to reassess, recommit, and recharge.

This is the year to step up and get involved in the organization. Plan on attending our state convention where you will meet and network with leaders from all over the state.

We have several events planned to raise money for our Political Action Committee (PAC). Pack funds are used to support those incumbent members of Congress that fully support UPMA members and the UPMA mission.

The funds used by PAC, by law, cannot be taken from your membership dues. PAC funds must be raised separately.

Our PAC auction will be held on Friday this year. I am asking everyone attending to bring items for the auction. No items are too little or too big, right Paul Joseph?

Paul is bringing a mysterious item on wheels and is willing to deliver it to the buyer! Don't forget to ask for donations from local businesses in your area. Gift cards are always welcome. There will be an award for the person that donated the item that brings the most money.

If you are unable to attend convention, **fill out the pledge card located on PAGE 21** of this publication with your donation and send it to my home address below. Your donation will be included in funds raised during convention and you will be entered into a drawing held at close of business the last day of convention.

**Executive Vice President/ PAC Chair**  
**11786 County Road I-50**  
**Montpelier OH 43543**

***Laura Reese***  
***Executive Vice President***  
***PAC Chair***



## Patty Schag - Vice President

### “I need a Vacation”

Have you ever said to yourself “I need a vacation”? That may be just what you need. DOWN TIME.

We all get overwhelmed in our day to day life, postal work and our family life. We feel pulled by work demands and personal obligation until we are stressed enough to yell “I Need a Vacation”.

That may just be what you need. We all need a break from our busy overwhelming work life. It doesn't have to be a \$10,000 adventure to a foreign land it maybe just be a few minutes enjoying a cold drink on your deck. We are fortunate to earn Annual Leave for that reason. Everyone needs a break, a time to reflect why we do what we do and why we work as hard as we do.

At the end of the day, we do it for our family and the feeling of doing a great job. We all hear about Work Life Balance which is managing your time and energy to meet both personal and professional commitments. Easier said than done! It is much needed to preserve our well being. You're not helping your office or your family when you're too stressed to function. Take a breath rethink your day and restructure some time for YOU! Even if it's a stroll around the block it is surprising what a little fresh air can do to your perspective. Be flexible with your time, and learn to set boundaries, it is ok to say NO.

We all have only 24 hours in a day use them wisely! We have to share those hours for work, self and sleep. Our work time is stressful and very busy most of our days and the largest slot of time. It can overwhelm us, find a way to destress daily. The time for self is most important, it is the time we also share with family and friends. It is the time we enjoy the most in our lives and make the work time tolerable. Sleep time is where we steal from when our other time gets overwhelming.

Take care of YOU by not cheating your sleep time. Set a schedule for your sleep time and stick to it. Only you can control your 3 times.

If you feel very overwhelmed and need a little help Please reach out to EAP that is a benefit to help you and your family-USE IT! And use your Annual Leave for a little Down Time!

**Patty Schag**  
**Postmaster**  
**Berlin Heights, Ohio**



## Sara Kreitzer - Retiree Vice President

Good morning!

Hope this finds each of you well and enjoying your life!

If you receive any of the communications available to us, you will already know that there will be a special enrollment period in which you will be able to enroll in Medicare Part B if you did not do that when you retired.

This period will run between April 1 and September 30. If this affects you, I would suggest at least reviewing some of the information available.

There are webinars, text messages, publications, emails etc. available to help with this decision.

Likewise with the changes to our health benefit plans beginning in 2025. Change can cause confusion, and this information is available to us to help determine what will best fit our situation.

NARFE is offering a webinar this coming Thursday with a Q&A from 2- 4.

A video series is available on \*\* KEEPING-POSTED.COM \*\* Medicare has various sites available as well. These are just a few of your options.

The *Gold* is also a good source to keep updated. If you do not receive that, consider enrolling. It is a free email sent from our National office.

Whatever way you choose, stay informed!

Wishing each of you a blessed day!

Sara



# Jim Maher

## Candidate for National Vice-President

After discussion with many UPMA leaders across the country, whom I respect and admire, I have decided to announce my candidacy for Central Area National Vice President.

UPMA has been a major part of my life for many years. I have served our organization in many different positions on the National Executive Board, and at the state level. As your National Vice President, I am able to directly work with you, the Central Area members. Our area is near and dear to my heart, and it will be an honor to work with many of you as we move our organization forward.

We continue to face challenges in our organization and our relationship with the Postal Service. My experience and skills make me the candidate best prepared to help resolve them. My goal is to ensure all of our members are represented at the national level, and that their voices are heard.

The Chapter Member Representative Academy training program, which I helped create, is one of the more essential things we do. It is critical that we have strong, skillful representatives in every chapter to protect our members. I will continue to advocate for this program, and the expansion of it, when I am elected. It often appears that the first response by many managers is unnecessary disciplinary action. While we can't stop that...we need to ensure that each chapter has well-trained representatives to help in these situations. This is a primary objective of mine.

As the former National Secretary-Treasurer, I have unique qualifications and expertise in understanding UPMA's national finances. My focus on fiscal responsibility and oversight demonstrates a well-developed knowledge of UPMA's financial management. To understand and differentiate between necessary expenses and areas where costs can be contained, I am able to navigate the financial decisions in a prudent manner. I will continue to monitor your funds as if they were my own.

I've demonstrated, in the past, that I will work tirelessly for you at the national and state level. With your help and support, I'll continue to do so. When deciding who you will support for National VP this year, please ask yourself who has the dedication, the experience and proven ability to get problems resolved and keep UPMA moving in a positive direction?

I hope you'll agree the answer is Jim Maher!

# Ohio UPMA Membership Standings 2024

Well the year is underway with another membership contest. Ohio is doing good but we are off to a slow start. The goals set for this year are 10% more than last year.

Our goals set by the National Office this year are 148 EAS and 58 Associate

## *This is where we ended in December of 2023*

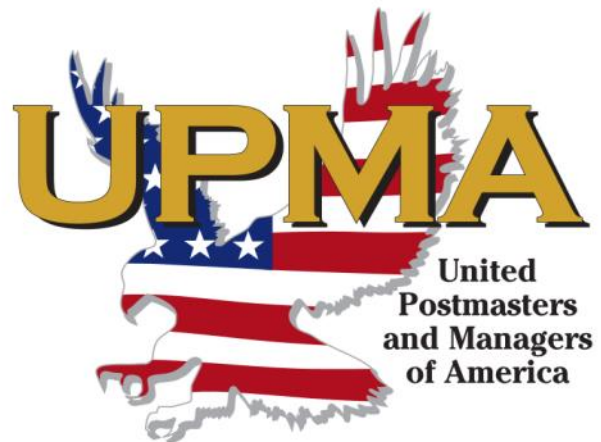
Postmaster Member Post Offices: 303  
Non-Member Post Offices: 211  
Total Offices: 514  
% Member Post Offices; 58.95%  
Post Office Member: 301  
Manager Members: 20  
Supervisor Members: 239  
Associate Members: 163  
PMR Members: 5  
Retired Members: 308  
Total Active: 565  
Total Members: 1048

## *This is our standing as of March 1, 2024*

Postmaster Office Members: 319  
Non-Member Post Offices: 195  
Total Locations: 514  
% Member Post Offices: 62.06  
Post Office Member: 317  
Manager Members : 19  
Supervisor Members: 241  
Associate Members: 158  
PMR: 5  
Retired: 295  
Total Active: 582  
Total Members: 1059

YTD 28 of the 148 for a 15.54% EAS Members  
YTD 3 of 58 for a 5.17% for Associate Members

**Alan T. Metzcar**  
**Immediate Past President**  
**Ohio UPMA Chapter**  
[messdad@outlook.com](mailto:messdad@outlook.com)



## Lisa Koprivec - Vice President

### COME ONE\* COME ALL

Hello! You are invited to the UPMA state convention.

If you are waiting for a personal invitation this is it!

This is **YOUR convention** come and enjoy it.

Bring a neighboring Postmaster or manager.

It is in a beautiful Ohio state park this year.

Come and enjoy food, fun and friendship.

**SEE YOU THERE!!**

Call me if you have any questions

Patty Schag 419-565-2685

One of the most exciting adventures with UPMA is going to Washington DC every year. This year the cherry blossoms were in bloom and it was beautiful! We met with our congressmen and senators to discuss issues that we need them to support for the Postal Service. One of the topics affects me directly, that Title 39. In a nut shell, anyone that does not have at least 2 employees that report to them, they do not have the rights to appeal their case to the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB).

Many headquarters positions cover large territories and each territory reports to a manager. We are the only person in that territory so we do not have employees reporting to us. This bill will extend our MSPB rights. It is exciting to meet with the officials that can make those changes for us.

Also while I was in DC this year I did another super exciting thing. I got my library card from the Library Of Congress!!!! This library is amazing. It is 4 floors of beautiful marble stair cases architecture that is breathtaking!

The history that is in that building is simply amazing to me. It was a bit of a process to obtain the card, but so worth it. UPMA has given me so many experiences that I would have never had otherwise. This is definitely a big one for me!



## UPMA PAC CONTRIBUTION CARD

Mail to: United Postmasters and Managers of America Political Fund  
8 Herbert Street  
Alexandria, VA 22305-2600

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_     Check Enclosed     Credit/Debit Card (one time)     Credit/Debit Card (recurring monthly)

Member ID: (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Credit/Debit Card Contributions:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Acct.# \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

City St Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

UPMA PAC will neither favor nor disadvantage anyone based on the amount of contribution, or the decision not to contribute to the non partisan political action fund.



# Jordan M. Davenport - Ohio Chapter Parliamentarian

The bylaws committee of the Ohio Chapter held several meetings and have submitted the following proposed amendment to our bylaws. This amendment will be presented and voted on during the upcoming Chapter convention.

**Amendment 1:** Article XIX Standing rules- We believe Article XIX is currently too restrictive. As these are the rules that control the details of our chapter a simple majority vote for adoption or amendment is sufficient. Delete the 2/3 vote requirement.

Article XIX currently reads:

## [Article XIX Standing Rules](#)

The Chapter shall formulate "Standing Rules" to control details of administration of the Chapter. These rules shall remain in effect until amended or rescinded. A Standing Rule may be created at any Executive Committee meeting or at the Annual Convention by a majority vote of those present and voting. A Standing Rule may be amended or rescinded at an Executive Board meeting or at the Annual Convention by a 2/3 vote of those present and voting.

### **Proposed change:**

## [Article XIX Standing Rules](#)

The Chapter shall formulate "Standing Rules" to control details of administration of the Chapter. These rules shall remain in effect until amended or rescinded. ~~A Standing Rule may be created at any Executive Committee meeting or at the Annual Convention by a majority vote of those present and voting. A Standing Rule may be amended or rescinded at an Executive Board meeting or at the Annual Convention by a 2/3 vote of those present and voting.~~ **A Standing Rule may be created, amended, or rescinded at any Executive Committee meeting or at the Annual Convention by a majority vote of those present and voting.**

## **The 2024 proposed amendments to the Ohio Chapter UPMA Retired bylaws**

The officers and bylaw committee of the Ohio chapter Retired have reviewed the current bylaws. They are requesting an amendment to the election schedule, the combination of the secretary and treasurer, and a few clarifications to our present bylaws. Please review the following proposed amendments, they will be presented at the 2024 chapter convention.

**AMENDMENT 1-**The officers have requested that the offices of the secretary and the treasurer be combined into one position. They have acknowledged that there is not enough workload to maintain both positions.

### **Article IV – Election of Officers**

#### *Current*

**Section 1:** The elected Chapter officers shall be a President, Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer (these last two offices may be combined).

#### *Proposed*

**Section 1:** The elected Chapter officers shall be a President, Vice President, and a Secretary/Treasurer.

**AMENDMENT 2-** The officers have requested the election schedule of the president and vice president be staggered and the year of election be specified. We are also amending the position of secretary/treasurer if Amendment 1 is approved.

## Article IV – Election of Officers

*current*

**Section 2:** The President and Vice President shall be elected at the annual Chapter Convention to serve a term of 2 years. The term of office shall commence on January 1 and will end on December 31. The officers shall be limited to 2 consecutive terms of office. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected at the annual Chapter Convention in a subsequent year to serve a term of 2 years. The term of office shall commence on January 1 and end on December 31. The term of the Secretary and Treasurer shall not be limited. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined.

*proposed*

**Section 2:** The President and ~~Vice President~~ **Secretary/Treasurer** shall be elected at the annual Chapter Convention **in even numbered years** to serve a term of 2 years. The ~~Secretary and Treasurer~~ **Vice President** shall be elected at the annual Chapter Convention ~~in a subsequent year~~ **in odd numbered years** to serve a term of 2 years. The term of office shall commence on January 1 and will end on December 31. The President and Vice President shall be limited to 2 consecutive terms of office. The term of the Secretary/Treasurer shall not be limited. ~~The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined.~~

**AMENDMENT 3-** Delete the second sentence. It is too restrictive to limit candidates to attendees when the UPMA Retired meets only once or twice annually.

## Article IV – Election of Officers

*current*

**Section 3:** The election of officers shall be conducted at the annual Chapter Convention. Candidates to be elected to respective offices must be present when their name is placed in nomination. Members in good standing who are registered for the annual Chapter Convention and present when ballots are cast are eligible to vote in Chapter officer elections. Elections shall be by majority vote cast by ballot. In the event that no majority is reached, the two candidates with the most votes will compete in a run-off election. Where no contests exist, election may be by acclamation.

*proposed*

**Section 3:** The election of officers shall be conducted at the annual Chapter Convention. ~~Candidates to be elected to respective offices must be present when their name is placed in nomination.~~ Members in good standing who are registered for the annual Chapter Convention and present when ballots are cast are eligible to vote in Chapter officer elections. Elections shall be by majority vote cast by ballot. In the event that no majority is reached, the two candidates with the most votes will compete in a run-off election. Where no contest exists, election may be by acclamation.

**AMENDMENT 4-** Correct an error in the reference to a prior Article in these bylaws. The reference is to Article III not Article IV.

*current*

## Article V – President

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter, shall call special meetings when requested to do so as provided in Article IV. They shall also preside at the meetings of the Executive Board and appoint all committees for the proper handling of the business of this Chapter and in general perform such duties as may pertain to the office. The President shall receive such compensation for their services as the Executive Board may provide.

*proposed*

## Article V – President

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter, shall call special meetings when requested to do so as provided in Article ~~IV~~ **III**. They shall also preside at the meetings of the Executive Board and appoint all committees for the proper handling of the business of this Chapter and in general perform such duties as may pertain to the office. The President shall receive such compensation for their services as the Executive Board may provide.

**AMENDMENT 5**-delete the second sentence in Article VI. If amendment 2 is approved, the election schedules of the president and vice president will be staggered. This sentence will no longer apply.

*current*

#### **Article VI –Vice President**

The Vice President shall serve in the absence or disability of the President and work with the President as needed. This position may be a separately elected position. Should the office of the President be vacated, the Vice President will serve the remaining term. This would not exclude that person from seeking a full elected term as President. The remaining term of the vacant position of the Vice President shall be filled by the Executive Board. In addition, the Vice President may serve as the Membership Chair for the Chapter. It shall be their duty to promote membership for the organization, and insure that the Chapter always has a strong membership.

In the event of a vacancy in the Vice President position, the vacancy shall be filled by the Executive Board. This would not exclude any person, filling an unexpired term, from seeking a full elected term as Vice-President.

*proposed*

#### **Article VI –Vice President**

The Vice President shall serve in the absence or disability of the President and work with the President as needed. ~~This position may be a separately elected position.~~ Should the office of the President be vacated, the Vice President will serve the remaining term. This would not exclude that person from seeking a full elected term as President. The remaining term of the vacant position of the Vice President shall be filled by the Executive Board. In addition, the Vice President may serve as the Membership Chair for the Chapter. It shall be their duty to promote membership for the organization, and insure that the Chapter always has a strong membership.

In the event of a vacancy in the Vice President position, the vacancy shall be filled by the Executive Board. This would not exclude any person, filling an unexpired term, from seeking a full elected term as Vice-President.

**AMENDMENT 6**- Articles VII and VIII are rewritten to combine the two positions of Secretary (article VII) and Treasurer (article VIII) into one position, Secretary/Treasurer. Only applicable if amendment 1 is approved. Article VII is rewritten, article VIII is omitted.

*current*

#### **Article VII - Secretary**

**Section 1:** The Secretary shall take the minutes of meetings, handle correspondence, and make reports as required and other duties as assigned by the President and shall receive such compensation for their services as the Executive Board may provide.

**Section 2:** In the event of a vacancy in the Secretary position, the vacancy shall be filled by the Executive Board. This would not exclude any person, filling an unexpired term, from seeking a full elected term as Secretary.

#### **Article VIII – Treasurer**

**Section 1:** The Treasurer shall keep all financial records; have custody of all funds; deposit and withdraw them upon approval of the President and shall keep accurate and complete accounts, vouchers and receipts, provide a financial statement at the annual meeting of the Chapter and perform other duties incident to the office of Treasurer.

**Section 2:** The Treasurer shall be bonded as required and approved by the Executive Board and shall receive such compensation for their services as the Executive Board may provide.

**Section 3:** In the event of a vacancy in the Treasurer position, the vacancy shall be filled by the Executive Board. This would not exclude any person, filling an unexpired term, from seeking a full elected term as Treasurer.

**Section 4:** The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined and all duties will then be assigned to the combined position.

*proposed*

#### **Article VII – Secretary/Treasurer**

**Section 1:** The Secretary/**Treasurer** shall take the minutes of meetings, handle correspondence, and make reports as required and other duties as assigned by the President. ~~and shall receive such compensation for their services as the Executive Board may provide~~

**Section 2:** The **Secretary**/Treasurer shall keep all financial records; have custody of all funds; deposit and withdraw them upon approval of the President and shall keep accurate and complete accounts, vouchers and receipts, provide a financial statement at the annual meeting of the Chapter and perform other duties incident to the office of Treasurer.

**Section 3:** The **Secretary**/Treasurer shall be bonded as required and approved by the Executive Board and shall receive such compensation for their services as the Executive Board may provide.

**Section 4:** In the event of a vacancy in the **Secretary**/Treasurer position, the vacancy shall be filled by the Executive Board. This would not exclude any person, filling an unexpired term, from seeking a full elected term as **Secretary**/Treasurer.

#### **Article VIII- Omitted**

**AMENDMENT 7-** Deletes the positions in article IX, of secretary, and the treasurer and adds the combined position of secretary/treasurer. Only if amendment 1 is passed.

#### **Article IX – Executive Board**

*current*

**Section 1:** The officers of this Chapter shall be a President, Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer (these offices may be combined). These officers shall constitute the Executive Board and the governing body of the Chapter.

*proposed*

**Section 1:** The officers of this Chapter shall be a President, Vice President, and ~~Secretary and a Treasurer (these offices may be combined)~~ a **Secretary/Treasurer**. These officers shall constitute the Executive Board and the governing body of the Chapter.

#### ***EDITORS NOTE:***

***I cannot stress enough how much painstaking work has been put into the amendments and bylaws proposed changes you see here. These are not drafted simply on the whims of just a few people but rather, some very robust discussion of the Executive Board and the committee that reviews these changes so that in the end, the BEST INTERESTS of the Ohio Chapter are served for ALL members, both active and retired.***

***A special thanks goes out to Postmaster (ret) Jordan Davenport who has meticulously kept notes and help craft the language that serves the purpose of the changes proposed so any ambiguity is eliminated.***

***Translated: Everyone who worked on this have done a tremendous job so that we do not have to keep revisiting this process year after year!***

## Adverse Action Representatives

Below is the list of Chapter Member Representatives available in Ohio along with areas they cover:

NAME	AREA COVERED	PHONE #
Patty Shag	448,446	419-565-2685
Mari Beth Kirkland	440,441,442	440-821-4667
Alan Metzcar	437,438,430,433	330-827-0137
Laura Reese	435,436	419-551-1908
Andrea Leyes	450,451,453	513-702-1630
Tracie Gebhart	450,451	513-702-1630
Brian Schroeder	453,458	419-236-8600
Paul Joseph	458	419-236-0166

**Make copies of this and keep on hand  
for immediate ACCESS**

### **HOT TIP OF THE DAY:**

This applies to **EVERY SINGLE POSTAL EMPLOYEE** who has a postal issued CREDIT CARD and that includes GAS cards for vehicles.

I cannot stress enough to everyone that you **WILL GET FIRED** for misusing your card for anything other than postal related business. PERIOD!!!

No golf clubs, no candy bars because you forgot your wallet, no "last minute supplies" that did not have a proper requisition and a paper trail to back up that purchase. NOTHING!!!

Despite the training you received, the warnings, the emails, people are still NOT THINKING and doing some CRAZY things out there.

**Nothing is worth losing your job over and abusing the privilege of having a postal credit card will definitely make that happen.**

**Paul Joseph - National Adverse Action Representative UPMA**

# 2024 Veterans Outreach Program

The Tunnels to Towers (T2T) Foundation has been selected for this year's veterans outreach program. We are asking you to recommend to your executive boards and individual members to donate to this worthy charity for veterans. Many states have stepped up in the past and made generous donations for our selected veteran's projects. Please consider that for this year's effort to honor and support veterans. \$7000 from last year's program will be donated along with any donations collected this year.

I am Steve Vanderhoof and was honored to be asked to be the chairman of the veteran's recognition and outreach committee. Articles will be written and published in all our publications to explain the process to donate for UPMA to be recognized for our collective contributions. We will track all donations and be recognized by the T2T organization and allowed to use their logo to show our support.

T2T helps the most devastated injured and widows of veterans and their families with small children. A more deserving charity would be difficult to find.

In the past UPMA has made a nationwide effort that benefited a small segment of veterans. That usually benefited the veterans in the state where the national convention was being held. We thought it should be an organization that has a wider network and greater reach to veterans. Therefore Tunnels to Towers came to mind to appeal to our priorities for our members.

Why Tunnels to Towers? Well, first of all, they are a qualified tax deductible 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. So you get a tax deduction if you itemize your taxes. Better yet, 95.1 percent of all donations are directly paid out to support veterans and first responders and their survivors. That statistic is unheard of in the non-profit world. They have the maximum Four Star rating with Charity Navigator. They provide mortgage free homes to Gold Star (death of a service member on active duty), and first responders families with young children. They build or modify homes for catastrophic injured veterans and first responders. They are committed to eradicate homelessness for veterans. They are building and renovating hotels for homeless shelters for veterans. Some are next door to Veterans hospitals. They are doing things for veterans that no one else is doing.

**Now for the meat of the process: **There are several ways to donate to T2T foundation.** We prefer you make a check payable to Tunnels to Towers, but mail the check to Louise Nix, Treasurer, UPMA Retired, 88 Rodney Nix Rd., Cleveland, GA 30528. She will log your contribution and forward the checks to insure they are added to our UPMA total.**

**If you make a contribution other than sending a check to Louise, you need to let Louise know by email at [louisenix@yahoo.com](mailto:louisenix@yahoo.com). She will maintain a database to show total contributions from UPMA and our members. It is important for us to track your donations.**

**We want to be able to see the impact of our members with our combined donations. Please consider donating no matter how large or how small. No one will know an individual level of donation except Louise.**

Thank you for your generosity to veteran programs.

**Steve Vanderhoof  
UPMA Retired  
UPMA Chair Veteran's Outreach  
(660) 886-0205**

# Legislative Week - Why is it so important?

Each year, the UPMA nationwide sends its membership to Washington, D.C. to confer with their respective Legislators, both House and Senate from the Districts they reside in.

These consultations are about matters that affect our membership such as health care, retirement provisions and yes, issues concerning the postal service in general. This is how we were able to affect the latest postal reform bill recently passed which provided relief from unfunded healthcare mandates that have burdened the postal service for years. But the job isn't over.

This year, UPMA went "up the hill" to discuss a variety of issues including the WEP/GPO bills that address unfair compensation from Social Security and other matters affecting retirees who are eligible but are denied their benefits. After a day long session with UPMA leadership and a briefing from the PMG Louis DeJoy, we were empowered to take on the task of addressing the respective congressional representatives and their staff on the matters we had chosen for consideration.

On Tuesday, March 19th, we journeyed to Capitol Hill and the various congressional office buildings to make our appointed rounds. Some of our members were fortunate to meet with their Representative or Senator while most worked with the staffers in each office. Ohio was well covered in that we ensured every elected member received a visit from us on this day.

The conversations and dialog were both uplifting and informative. It was refreshing to hear that almost all were well aware of the legislative efforts underway and the majority of representatives who were a co-sponsor of one bill or another. Because this is a major election year and the budget process is under huge constraints, the inner workings of what it takes to get a bill through is not a simple process.

***"UPMA has proven that IF we could persevere to get postal reform completed just a short while ago, this too is not an insurmountable task."*** - Paul Joseph

At the end of the day, everyone who was present felt a sense of accomplishment, pride and armed with the knowledge that we had made a favorable impression on our elected officials and their staff. This was due in part by communicating the plethora of accomplishments, impact on our communities and the far reaching effects that the postal service brings to every citizen in the area we service.

For all the UPMA members (both active and retired) who attend Legislative Conference each year, it's not just a sight seeing trip, not just a glorified venture where you take a back seat or 'hang out' with others. Everyone has a proactive role they play in visiting their actual elected Representative from where they live. ***YOU are their constituent and yes, you have a right to be there.***

This is true democracy at work and why we have a government in place.

**WE are the reason government exists.**

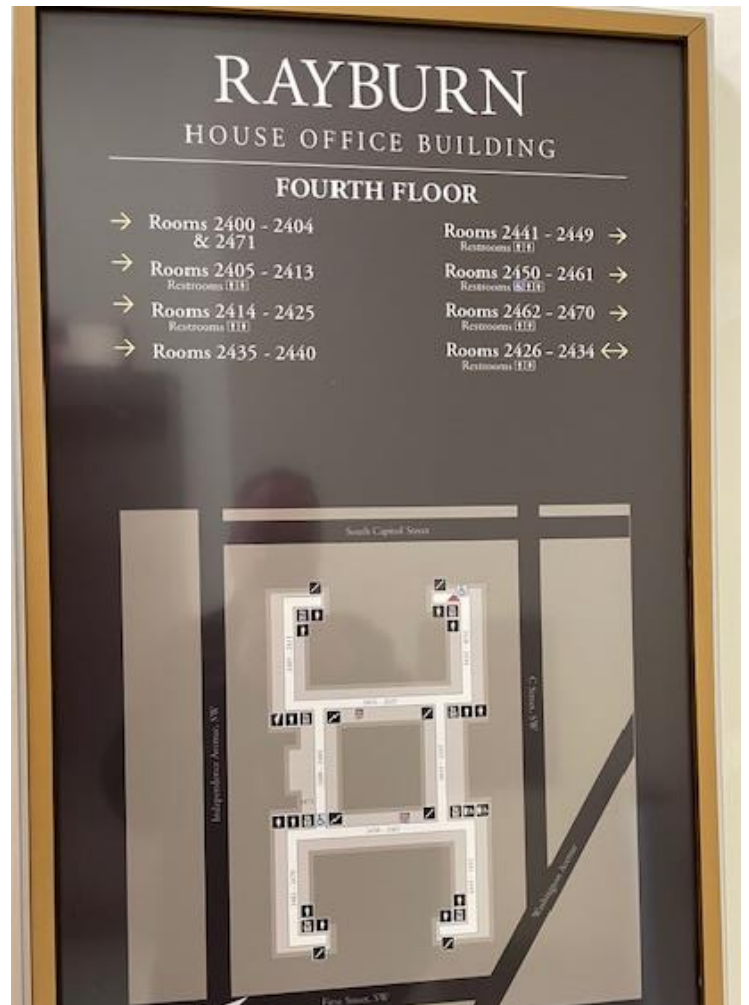
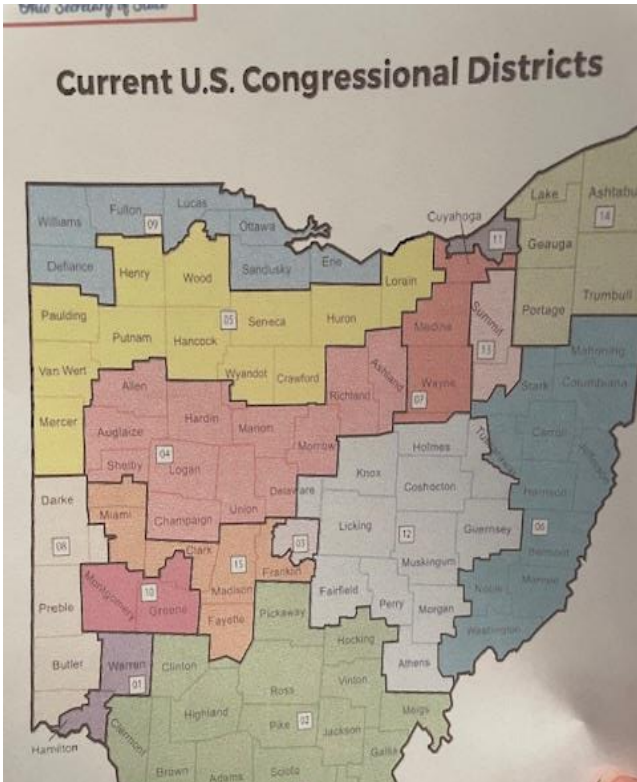
I would strongly ask that you consider making a trip in your future plans to attend the next Legislative Conference with UPMA as it is because of our membership that we can affect change in Congress on our behalf.

***Every VOICE COUNTS and every member MATTERS when it comes to strength in numbers!!!***

A huge **THANK YOU** goes out to Postmaster (ret) Ted Gedeon who has served as our Legislative Chair now for countless years, keeping our Ohio Chapter informed, scheduling appointments, and directing the actions of Ohio year 'round to ensure our voices are heard effectively and kept on point.

Ted's tireless actions reflect great credit upon himself as a Leader, Mentor and above all else, an Honorable Postmaster (ret) dedicated to the betterment of his community at large.

***Paul Joseph - Ohio Chapter Editor***

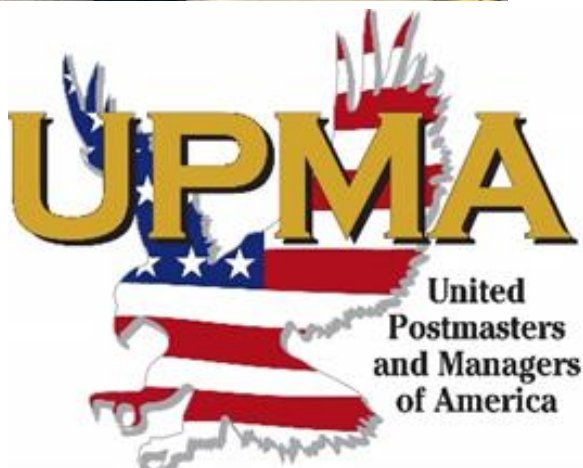


## *More sights from Legislative Conference*

To the right is HQ Spt Lisa Koprivec showing off her brand new Library of Congress LIBRARY CARD she just got. Now she can go there every day to do her “postal research”.



Two Friends, Postmaster Patty Schag and HQ Spt Lisa Koprivec enjoying the beautiful architecture of the Library of Congress on a side trip.



*Time to get on home now!!!*



# One last thing - *Lest We Forget*

According to [Merriam-Webster](#) dictionary, the literal translation of “lest we forget” is: **“it should not be forgotten”**.

Yet today, in this every changing face paced, A.I. driven world we now live in, so much has changed that even the average American has a difficult time discerning what the true meaning is of many things. And too often, specific days are brushed aside only to be focused on for the materialist aspect of having a “Labor Day Sale” or a “Star Spangled Extravaganza”.

***Memorial Day is not a sale***, it is not a day for running to the beach only because you didn’t have to work. It is more than that. So much more.

When an individual holds up their right hand and swears an oath to “...support and defend the Constitution against all enemies...” they have in essence dedicated their life to the service of our Nation. That service could be measured in weeks, months or years. Regardless, when a Servicemember is killed in the line of duty, they have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our great Nation that can never be fully repaid.

According to the Veterans Affairs (VA), over 1,190,000 fatalities have occurred since records have been kept from the Civil War on. Our Nation of over 320 million people cannot begin to fathom this degree and diverse sacrifice that has been laid upon the alter of freedom.

While there is no “official mandate” that decries an action by our Citizenry to honor our fallen Servicemembers, it should be incumbent upon every American to convey a debt of gratitude to those who have taken up the arduous task of selfless service for the greater good.

On this year’s **Memorial Day which falls on the last Monday in May, the 27th**, I implore that you find a moment to reflect, remember and to pay homage to those who cannot be with their families, cannot continue with their lives, and enjoy the freedoms we so richly have.

Our greatest Generation is all but passed as they defeated the axis of evil that seemed an eternity ago. Our next generation and those that follow are also dwindling and with that, so goes their memories of service that will be forgotten and not written in the sands of time.

We owe this debt each and every day of our prosperous lives filled with freedom, liberty and the right to choose. It is a debt that will never be satisfied and yet, one that fades with time IF we so choose to allow that to happen. “Alea iacta est” - The die is cast.

I for one will endeavor to keep the spirit of remembrance alive and echo the sentiments of President Abraham Lincoln as he wrote to Mrs. Lydia Bixby sharing in her extreme loss and sacrifice.

We owe that to our Veterans who have and ***continue to pay the price*** for our freedom.

***Lest We Forget.***

**First Sergeant Paul Joseph - U.S. Army (ret)**

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***IMPORTANT DATES to remember:***

***May 27, 2024 Memorial Day  
Lest We Forget***

May 30 - June 2, 2024  
Ohio Chapter Convention - Salt Fork State Park, Lore City, OH

August 24 – 30, 2024  
National UPMA Convention  
Caribe Royal Resort - Orlando, FL

September 20 - 22, 2024  
Central Area Officers Summit (CAOS)  
Canton, Ohio

***Deadline for next Post Scripts articles is:***

***June 10, 2024***