

# The Hawkeye Heartlander



March/April 2024



Volume 1/Issue 2

# Iowa Board Members:

**President: Greg Snow**

Postmaster: Clarion

W) 515.532.3182 C) 515.371.1094

Email: snowteam6@yahoo.com

**Past President: Jeff Arment**

Postmaster: Conrad

W) 641.366.2646 C) 641.751.9141

Email: armje@mchsi.com

**VP-Education-Richard Springer**

Postmaster: Fulton, Il

W) 815.589.2020 C) 563. 249.4242

Email: moonlightingdj@mchsi.com

**VP-Membership-Sherri Lingle**

Postmaster: Manning

W) 712.653.3414 C) 712.579.8636

Email: sherrilingle4@gmail.com

**VP Legislative/PAC-Jeff Stolz**

Postmaster: Keosauqua

C) 641.919.4628

Email: [keotapostmaster@hotmail.com](mailto:keotapostmaster@hotmail.com)

**VP-Communications/Editor-Merri Burgart**

Postmaster: Waverly

W) 319.352.4395 C) 319.240.6936

Email: lowaeditor2022@gmail.com

**Secretary/Treasurer: Kerry Nichols**

Headquarters: HR

W) 563.271.1112 C) 309.948.4133

Email: kerrysh12@gmail.com

**Retiree President-Ellen Opperman**

Retired from Bettendorf Post Office

C) 563.940.3979

Email: eopper1234@hotmail.com

**Iowa Chapter Member Reps:**

Aimee Quick: 641.521.9822

Merri Burgart: 319-240-6936

Greg Snow: 515.371.1094

Ellen Opperman: 563.940.3979

Sara Lindauer: 563.271.2815

Wanda Lenhart: 712-260-5025

Sherri Lingle: 712-579-8636

**National Office Directory: [www.unitedpma.org](http://www.unitedpma.org)**

National Office Number: 703.683.9027

**Please send Address Changes to:**

The Hawkeye Heartlander

c/o Kerry Nichols-Secretary/Treasurer

1519 7th Ave

DeWitt, IA 52742

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



# President:

## Greg Snow

Wow, time is flying! It is April already and the First Tri-State Convention is drawing near. I hope to see everyone in Council Bluffs April 26<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup>! It should be an amazing gathering. Don't delay, send in your registration today. Lots of training, entertainment and loads of networking happens at the conventions.

The District Manager has graciously cosponsored the training day on Friday April 26<sup>th</sup>. She has agreed to pay for travel to the training day/convention so mark your calendars and plan on attending, it will be well worth the trip! And combining the 3 states will be an awesome opportunity to see how the rest of the district is doing. Look for emails coming from your MPOO as they will be requesting your attendance as well. The Venue is the Holiday Inn Express Council Bluffs.

The board just returned back from Washington DC where we had the pleasure of meeting with the aides of our Congressmen and Women along with our 2 Senators. We had the opportunity to meet face to face with both of Iowa Senators, Grassley and Ernst, what an amazing experience. They are both very gracious and welcoming and I look forward to discussing more with them in the years to come. It's unbelievable the conversations they remember from the past visits! I have trouble remembering what happened last week let alone last year or more! We also were able to meet with Zach Nunn face to face and while talking with him, we found out he is a true-blue Postal supporter, his family is part of our Postal Family so we can expect great support from Zach in the House!

I want to give a huge shout out to Jeff Stolz, our Legislative VP, he did a great job getting us meetings with are legislators, way to go Jeff!

Switching gears, when it comes to your positions, I know we are all being run ragged with the reports, emails, deadlines and all the other things on our plates right now. It seems like we are spread way to thin and there are not enough hours in the day, I am right there with you! Just remember that you are doing a great job, even though you may never hear it from our bosses. I know you are; it has never been this hard trying to keep up with the thousand daily items we have to do by 9am. I do want to caution you; these are NOT pencil pushing exercises even though we are pressured to do so. Make a checklist of the must do items, and try to accomplish them with the timeframes, do NOT falsify.

If you cannot get all the mail delivered SAFELY, then it is your duty is to report it correctly, notify your MPOO, report the non-deliveries in DCV and also enter your Sit-rep in FDB. Unfortunately, NON-deliveries is an option when we do not have the staffing every day. If one of your options is to deliver mail then make sure you are reporting it in RADAR under the EAS carrying survey, this is vital as this lets HQ know you are doing carrying work and that it is not being done magically! But remember to be SAFE, YOU are the captain of your ship (office). Without you the office would sink.

Once again, I want to commend you for all the hard work you do daily, it does not go unnoticed. I believe in you and know you are amazing at what you do. Do what's right for your employees and the customers, the rest will work its way out.

If you are in need of a Chapter Member Rep or just need to vent, please reach out. The Iowa Chapter Member Reps are: Aimee Quick, Sara Lindauer, Ellen Opperman, Sherri Lingle, Merri Burgart, and Wanda Lenhart. As always you can contact me also. If I do not answer please leave me a message and I will get back to you.... if I don't, please call a second time as I too am spread thin these days and have "squirrel syndrome" some days! My number is 515-371-1094!

It has been an absolute pleasure being you Iowa UPMA President this year and look forward the serving you another year.

Greg Snow

IOWA UPMA Chapter President

515-371-1094





# **VP Education:**

## **Rich Springer**

### **Spring is in the Air**

The Iowa executive board just returned from another encouraging trip to Capitol Hill. Iowa sent seven delegates and had meetings with the 6 Iowa representatives and staff. All of the meetings were very positive and we hope influential in advancing our agenda at the national level.

Post Master General Louis DeJoy spoke to the attendees and reiterated his 10 year plan. As in the past, his vision is still the same and said that they continue to make adjustments as things develop.

It's time to register for the 2024 Iowa/Nebraska/South Dakota UPMA Tri-State Convention, which is being held at the Holiday Inn and Ameristar Casino in Council Bluffs Iowa April 26-28. As always, walk-in's are welcome.

This year's registration is \$50.00, which will be reimbursed if registered by April 15<sup>th</sup>. You must check in at the convention to claim your reimbursement. Don't miss out on attending this year's convention with a reimbursable registration.

Your board has been working hard preparing for this year's convention; including excellent training, incredible speakers, unbelievable raffle items, great door prizes, fantastic meals and outstanding activities.

Be sure to volunteer to help out during the convention by selecting a committee on the registration form. We appreciate any and all help, as it takes many people to run a successful convention.

We will be voting on proposed National Constitutional and Bylaw changes, Central Area National Vice President as well as two Iowa Executive Vice Presidents and the Iowa Secretary/Treasurer. I encourage any and all active members to exercise their right to get more involved and run for a position. Casting votes is the best way for all members' voices to be heard.

Please take time to review the working program for the convention that is included in this issue of the Hawkeye HeartLander.

Please contact me if you would like to join in on the Thursday afternoon golf outing on April 25th.

**Enjoy the Spring blossoms my Friends! Rich**



## **Retiree President:**

# **Ellen Opperman**

Convention time is almost upon us! I hope you all have had an opportunity to get your registrations in and room reservations made. As you may or may not know, this year we are doing a Tri-state Convention along with Nebraska and South Dakota. Our respective Board members have been busy scheduling a great convention for all! Friday will be a day a training for all active members with training provided by the District. Because we have limited space available (approximately 200), space will be made available to active members first. But do not fear.....I would like to plan a trip to the Omaha Zoo on Friday for all retirees that will be there! Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium is a world-renowned facility. Admission price is \$25.95 for seniors 65+. I would like to get a head count on who would be interested in going, so please drop me an email, text or call if you would be interested. I am thinking that we would leave the hotel around 1030am or so. Steve Jones (NE Retiree President) as informed me that he has also mentioned this possibility to the NE Chapter, but be advised, there is a lot of walking!

In addition, the retirees will again be hosting the Hospitality Room on Friday and Saturday. I always appreciate any and all help as this can be a monumental task. Many hands make light work!! The hours are posted in the convention program and IA/NE/SD will all be sharing the same hospitality room so we can make new friends and catch up with our old ones! Homemade goodies are always welcome, and I will be there on Thursday evening to begin preparations and assist with last minute details.

PAC/Scholarship Auction items are also needed for Friday evening. Our auction is the talk of UPMA on a national level as we are always hugely successful in raising money for both worthwhile causes.

With that being said, please be aware that the UPMA 2024 Scholarship Program is now accepting applications. Rules and guidelines can be found on UPMA website as well as the most recent addition of "In The Mailbox". Many Iowa UPMA family members have benefited from this wonderful scholarship program, so pass the word!! The Scholarship application must be received no later than July 15, 2024.

Finally, please continue to send me any death notifications you may be aware of in the past year of any Postmaster/Manager/EAS/Associate/Retiree so I may include them in our memorial service. As always, sadly, the list is growing.....

See you all next month in Council Bluffs!!

Ellen

P.S. Hopefully we will have the most up to date information regarding conversion to the new PSHB program at convention, but if any of you have questions, a text line has been created for all questions PSHB. Just text any of the following words PSHBP/Seminar/Retiree to 39369 to receive updates.

# Shoreline Golf Club

210 Locust St

Carter Lake IA 51510

I hope we can put together a successful golf outing this year. This outing is just for fun, so your level of golf is not important. Last year we had eight people and I hope we can double that number this year.

Experience golfing perfection at Shoreline Golf Club, a premier 18-hole, par 72 championship course by Carter Lake.

Just five minutes from downtown Omaha, near CHI Health Center, TD Ameritrade Park, Eppley Airfield, and Council Bluffs casinos, Shoreline offers a picturesque lakeside setting. Our course features lush bluegrass fairways, large bentgrass greens, and mature cottonwoods, making it a serene retreat for all skill levels. Highlighted by the metro area's most scenic 13th hole, Shoreline Golf Club is your gateway to Omaha's finest golfing experience.

**Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Meet at Club House: 1:00**

**Tee time: 1:30pm**

**Please let Rich Springer know if you are planning on joining the golf outing. Call or text 563-249-4242**

# Top 10 Reasons to attend the 2024 UPMA Tri-State Convention

- 10) **Lewis & Clark scenic overlook.**
- 9) **Union Pacific Railroad Museum.**
- 8) **Ameristar Casino with inside walking path from Holiday Inn Suites.**
- 7) **Beautiful view of the Missouri River from the convention center.**
- 6) **Three amazing days of reconnecting with old friends, making new ones and networking!**
- 5) **Three incredible meals and two nights of fun entertainment.**
- 4) **Training on the most up to date topics effecting Postmasters & EAS.**
- 3) **Iowa-Nebraska-South Dakota District Manager Lisse Garrett to speak.**
- 2) **Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium ranked one of the world's best zoos.**

## National Convention Stipend

The Iowa UPMA Executive Board has developed a plan to offer a stipend of up to \$500.00 for any Iowa Chapter Member who attends both the 2024 Iowa Chapter Convention at the Holiday Inn and Suites in Council Bluffs and the 2024 National Convention at the Caribe Royale Resort in Orlando Florida.

### Qualifications:

1. Iowa UPMA member in good standing.
2. Register and attend both conventions.
3. Payee certifies that they attended all general sessions, mandatory meetings and at least one training session, if offered at event.
4. Expense voucher must be submitted to the Chapter Secretary/Treasurer no later than September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

# Iowa/Nebraska/South Dakota - UPMA 2024 Tri-State Convention

April 26-28, 2024

Council Bluffs Iowa

**First Name** (as it should appear on your badge): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Office \_\_\_\_\_ Office Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Please note: one attendee per registration form.**       First Timer.

**Title** (please check the one that applies)

- Postmaster/Manager     Postmaster Retired     Associate Member     Guest/Child  
 Supervisor     OIC     PMR     Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Holiday Inn & Suites-I-29

2202 River Road

Council Bluffs IA 51501

712-322-5050

**Room Rate:** - \$115.00/\$125.00 plus taxes (ask for the UPMA rate). Room block expires March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

You are responsible for booking your own room.

**Committee** (please check the one that you would like to volunteer to assist with)

- Hospitality Room     PAC/Auction     Sergeant at Arms/Teller     Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration/Deposit Fee:**      (Please circle the one that applies)

UPMA Members On or before April 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 – reimbursed* at check-in	\$50.00
UPMA Members after April 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 - non-refundable	\$50.00
Non-Member USPS employees - non-refundable	\$50.00
Guests and Children – non-USPS employees – non-refundable	\$30.00

\* All Iowa UPMA members will be reimbursed the registration fee only at the registration table during check-in if it was submitted prior to April 15<sup>th</sup> 2024, making registration FREE!

Please mail completed form, with payment in full, Check payable to **Iowa UPMA**, to:

Kerry Nichols, Secretary/Treasurer

Iowa Chapter of UPMA



## FRIDAY APRIL 26, 2024

7:30am	Registration opens	Heartland Ballroom
8:00	Greg Snow– Iowa UPMA President - Call to Order Invocation Presentation of Colors Recognition of First Timers First timers - Pledge of Allegiance Opening Entertainment Presidents - Welcome Vendor Introductions	Heartland Ballroom          Vendors located in General Dodge room
8:30	Lisse Garrett- IA-NE-SD District Manager	Heartland Ballroom
9:30	Break	
9:45	IA-NE-SD District Training	Heartland Ballroom
12:00	Lunch provided by IA-NE-SD District	Heartland Ballroom
1:00	IA-NE-SD District Training	Heartland Ballroom
3:00	Break	
3:15	IA-NE-SD District Training	Heartland Ballroom
4:30	Postmaster Installation	Heartland Ballroom
4:30	Hospitality Suite opens Room	
6:00	Dinner	Heartland Ballroom
6:30	PAC / Scholarship Auction	Heartland Ballroom
8:00	Games	Heartland Ballroom

## SATURDAY APRIL 27, 2024

9:00am	Door Prize Drawing (must be present to win) Registration opens	Heartland Ballroom
9:00	Edmund Carley - National UPMA President National Articles and By-Laws Proposed Changes & voting	Heartland Ballroom
10:30	Break	
10:45	Brian McLaughlin- Legislative/PAC Skype	Heartland Ballroom

11:30	National President Candidate – Tony Leonardi National Vice President North Area Candidates Jim Maher & Jason Croshaw	Heartland Ballroom
11:50	Elections for National Officers	Heartland Ballroom
12:00	Lunch	Heartland Ballroom
1:30	Chapter Business Meetings Iowa – Heartland Ballroom Nebraska – Lewis & Clark South Dakota – Kanesville room	
3:30	Chapter retirees meeting Iowa – Heartland Ballroom Nebraska – Lewis & Clark South Dakota – Kanesville room	
5:30	President’s Reception - Cocktails cash bar	Heartland Ballroom
6:00	Grand Banquet Installation of Newly Elected Chapter Officers	Heartland Ballroom
7:00	Live music by “Finding Dixie”	Heartland Ballroom

## SUNDAY APRIL 28, 2024

*Please check out of your rooms by 11:00 on Sunday*

9:00am	Door Prize Drawing for \$50.00 (must be present to win)	Heartland Ballroom
9:00	Memorial Service	Heartland Ballroom
10:00	PAC Report Raffle Drawing Closing Comments Adjournment	Heartland Ballroom

\*\*Hospitality Room serviced by Retirees in Room\*\*  
Friday 430PM-6PM and 8PM-Midnight  
Saturday 7PM-Midnight

# UPMA PAC



# PAC

## Harry Healey

It is time to get ready for our state convention and that means I am going to need items to auction off to raise money for UPMA PAC. For those who will be attending their first state convention, we have three ways of raising money for our PAC program at convention: First, I will have a PAC table where I will be collecting contributions. I will also have forms at the table to help you get started having an automatic withdrawal on a periodic basis to support our PAC program. Second, we will have at least one, and probably more, 50/50 contest in which each participant throws in \$5 (cash for this) in hopes of winning half of the money back. Third, we hold an auction where all of you get to bid on items that you bring to convention that you just cannot live without. The more items we have to bid on, the more money we raise for UPMA PAC. These items can be useful items for around the house or for your office. These items can be fun items (I've noticed booze goes over well for you bunch of lushes!) You can bring something you personally made if you have such skills. It can be that set of pots and pans you won at a casino two years ago that you didn't need and didn't give away, yet. Anything you think will help us raise a buck or two would be just fine!

Now, for you first-timers, PAC stands for Political Action Committee. It powers our political advocacy at UPMA. American politics is a dirty game with a lot of money involved, and, unfortunately, to get the ear of our elected officials, we have to play that game. We raise PAC money to contribute to the re-election campaigns of U.S. senators and U.S. representatives who have backed postal employees and retirees with favorable legislation and helped us get crappy legislation (they won't let me say shitty in these articles) blocked. PAC puts UPMA at the table in Washington DC. And if you are not at the table, you are on the menu!

Remember, your elected Federal officials hold your job security, your pay, and your EARNED benefits in their hands. Help those who have your back.

So, come to convention ready to participate in our PAC activities and if you haven't done so yet, make this the year you set up an automatic contribution to UPMA PAC to keep the political arm of your UPMA organization strong.

Bring your money and donate to PAC!

Harry



# VP-Legislative

## Jeff Stolz

Well, I just got back from Washington DC. I was attending my first Legislative Summit. This was an amazing experience that I never thought I would enjoy. I'm not what you would call a very political person but after attending Legislative Summit I think I may be hooked. Being the Legislative VP for Iowa UPMA I was in charge of setting up the meetings. It was harder than it may sound. The legislative schedulers don't like to plan very far ahead so the meeting schedule is constantly changing. And sometimes we can't meet with the politician at all and just an executive assistant assigned to postal issues. We were able to meet with both senators Chuck Grassley and Joni Ernst. We also were able to meet personally with Congressman Zach Nunn.

Sunday night if you are a medallion member of PAC you were invited to a special meeting with a local congressman. To be invited you had to have donated \$1000 to PAC since your employment started. I was invited but my flight didn't arrive till the meeting was well over.

This was also my first trip to Washington DC. I was able to tour the White House and the US Capital. Both are very good tours. A politician can get your tour passes to these places if you ask nicely. I also was able to see the Lincoln Memorial and the Korean War Memorial. I also saw where Jennie was running thru the water to see Forest.

I would highly suggest attending Legislative Summit if you are ever given the opportunity. It is an experience you will never forget. I can promise that.

State Convention is just around the corner. April 25-27. Don't forget to visit the PAC table. If you are interested in how close you are to being a medallion winner just ask. We should have the information available for you. See you all in April.

Jeffrey Stoltz

Legislative VP/ PAC

Iowa UPMA



# VP-Membership

## Sherri Lingle

Hello Fellow UPMA Members:

Spring is Here!! Kind of. As we launch into Spring make sure you have marked your calendars for the 1<sup>ST</sup> Tri State convention April 26-28<sup>th</sup> 2024, at the Holiday Inn Council Bluffs. I am excited to see where this new endeavor will take us. Having the opportunity to have a day of training on Friday and not needing to use our leave is a big kick start to the convention. As you make your way across the state, please think about popping in on an old/new fellow Postmaster. Sometimes we don't see each other very often and if there is time just stop and say hi, we always like to see a friendly face. If you are coming across the state and near HWY 141 you may want to swing through my town of Manning. We are the only town in Iowa that hosts the Charters of Freedom. It is placed right next to our Freedom Rock.

The Charters of Freedom located here in Manning, is a replica of what you would be able to see in the National Archives in Washington DC. We were the 2<sup>nd</sup> location in the United States to be fortunate enough to have been selected. If you want to see a little of history this is the place to stop. A little bit of Government brought to a local location for those that cannot make the trip to DC.

Speaking of DC, we recently had our annual Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. It was beautiful as always. Cherry Blossoms were in full bloom, sites to see are endless. This is a wonderful way for us to be able to sit down with our local Legislators and Senators, to discuss some of the bills that we really support for the benefit of our members. These bills are for both retired and employed members. There are rapid changes and challenges ahead and I am very thankful for all the support that we have in Washington. If we don't tell them they will not know. I was thankful for the frank discussions and questions that we received while there. I felt like they care about the future of the Postal Service. We all must communicate if we are going to succeed.

I want to try to give one piece of advice with each article that I write.

Please do not change clock rings of any employee unless you have documentation as to why it was changed. 1260, 3971 etc. Changing someone's times changes their pay. Do not start an employee off the clock. Do not have an employee start early and add it to the end of their day. Keep our Integrity, it is everything you do.

I will keep this short.... I hope to see as many of you as possible in Council Bluffs in a couple of weeks.

Thank you for supporting each other and hanging on to the dedication of the service that we provide.

Sherri Lingle

Postmaster







## **Secretary Treasurer Announcement for the Iowa UPMA chapter:**

**Jerry Southard  
Decorah, IA Postmaster**

**I would like to tell you a few things about me and my dedication to UPMA and our members. I am Jerry Southard, Postmaster of Decorah, IA - EAS 20 office with SCF operation supporting 28 APO's and RMPO's. I have 28 years of USPS experience, 21 years as a Postmaster. I served 7 years in the Air Force. Now, I want to be your UPMA Secretary Treasure for the Iowa UPMA chapter.**

**Twenty-one years ago, I received the best advice I've been given to date from retired postmaster Dave Ellis. "You need to let me sign you up in a Postmaster organization, that will make you a better Postmaster, give you a group of friends, and give you the mentors you will need in your career." Every Postmaster and Manager needs this same support today. UPMA is where they will find education, representation, networking, mentors, and friends!**

**One of the most gratifying positions I have held in UPMA is serving as National VP of the Southern area. Other positions I have held I was the Arkansas Chapter President for 3 years, Executive VP for 1 year, and Legislative VP for 2 years. I have been Arkansas's leading Chapter member representative for the last 6 years, this representation now belongs to Iowa, if you need it call me. I have helped with SWC issues and PS Form 150 concerns. I attend all UPMA events to stay current on all issues for us.**

**I want to bring my experience, leadership, and belief in the purpose of UPMA to the table as your new Secretary Treasurer of the Iowa Chapter. I want to represent all Postmasters and Managers needs. I want to represent you.**

**I know that I have much to offer, and I truly appreciate your consideration and supporting my service to the Iowa Chapter. I am asking for your vote for Secretary Treasurer.**

**Jerry Southard  
Decorah, IA Postmaster  
501-454-9864  
Jsarrow1@hotmail.com**

Kerry Nichols

IA Secretary/Treasurer

1519 7th Ave

DeWitt, IA 52742

**Periodicals**

**Postage Paid**

**Madrid, IA 50156**

*Iowa*

**Attend State Convention  
and make your voice  
heard!**

**Looking Ahead:**

Articles for the Newsletter (May/June.) will be May 1st, 2024.

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