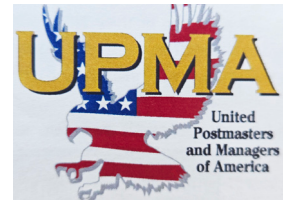


The Hawkeye Heartlander



The Iowa United Postmasters and Managers of America Publication
Volume 10 Issue 5

Sept/Oct 2024

Fall Tour
Come One — Come All
& Bring A Friend



2024 UPMA Fall Tour

October 8, 2024
Pizza Ranch
510 N Hwy 59
Denison, IA 51442

October 9, 2024
Pizza Ranch
4954 86th St
Urbandale, IA 50322

October 10, 2024
Pizza Ranch
106 Ford Ave
Muscatine, IA 52761

AGENDA:

6:00-9:00 Meeting with MPOO's being invited to come
October 9 there will be a Board Meeting at 3:00 pm for anyone who wishes to attend
The Iowa Chapter will be paying for all the attendees' meals

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Iowa UPMA - V/P Communication/ Editor

So much has happened in the last two years that I was gone, and I want to thank all of those who were there fo me when I lost my daughter, Alexis. This picture of me represents a “happy time” since then, that I was teasing my sister about ghetting Starbucks Iced Tea when she couldn’t. It takes a lot for me to smile these days, butI know with the help from family & friends & especially my UPMA family. It is so good to be back amongst all of you and I hope you understand

what UPMA can do for you and that we are a family that takes care of each other. Please let any of your board members know what is happening & let’s find solutions together!

Please visit our Iowa UPMA site: www.iowapostmasters.com to find out the new happenings and news events.

Please also send any articles or comments you may have to: upmaiaeditor@gmail.com.

s

Iowa UPMA President



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Fall is almost upon us, where did the time go? It has been a very busy summer and I don't think it'll slow down at all this fall. It is time for fall soccer and I will be coaching my grandson's soccer team for the first time, so hopefully we can have some fun!

The National Convention in Orlando is now behind us and I wish you all could have joined us. I hope next year you will join us in Dallas, Texas. The greatest change is that next year's National Convention will not be during the Mini-Mail Survey so hopefully it will be more open for you all to come! And remember, if you come to both the Tri-State Convention and the National Convention the Iowa UPMA Board will reimburse you up to \$500 for you to join us!

We are going to do the fall tour meetings a little differently this year. We are planning on 3 locations this year across the center of the state. The first will be Denison on October 8th; The second location, Urbandale, October 9th; and the final location is October 10th at the Muscatine. All will be at the Pizza Ranch. Please mark your calendars and join us. We will be paying for your meal and will have training, board reports, and lots of information to share.

We will also be working on starting the "3" digit meetings again, but will change them to MPOO group meetings. We will hopefully have your MPOO's in attendance so they can elaborate on all the new "required" reports and responsibilities we are being faced with in our postal world today. Stay tuned for dates and times!

Now, onto some of the issues facing us today.—

First, concerns the mandate of running all mail to the plant if we miss the DOV. Dr. Colin (Chief Retail and Delivery Officer) told us that we are to use "common sense". Translated, that means if the mail missed is from a collection box, is retail transaction mail, or is collected with a scan, (prepaid accepted packages for example), and they should have been included on the dispatch truck. These are main concerns. Carrier collected letters, because our carriers are out after the truck, are not supposed to be the main focus. HOWEVER, if you are instructed that all mail goes to the plant, then follow that order. Make sure you fill out the paperwork to support your trip to the plant and then report it to me so I can push the incident to the District Manager. She is telling me she is not being informed of the mail we are supposedly running to the plant. Our UPMA National President is trying to get complete clarification from Dr. Colin and we will update everyone once we have that information supplied to us. Just make sure we are following the directive given by your MPOO, and then keep me informed.

The second issue is the political mail survey being required after the DOV time in FDB. This is a hot topic and is being addressed at HQ. We were all looking forward to the issue being resolved while we were still at the convention, but to date, it is still being worked on. Hopefully, it will be corrected so that the offices that close before the last blue box scan (DOV in most cases) is done can still verify that their office is clear. Until communication comes from HQ, make sure you are letting your "gatekeeper" know that the mail you are responsible for is collected and dispatched. That is the best we can do right now.

I want to thank you for all of your hard work! Without you and your employees, the postal service cannot succeed. YOU make the difference and I see it. Keep up your hard work and it will pay off. Peak season will be hard, but you have the perseverance to make it through and your employees, even though they may not show it, appreciate your positive attitude and the fact that you show up to make a difference.

If you need anything from me, please reach out. Text me at 515-371-1094, include who you are and that you need some help and I will get back to you as soon as I can. Please don't wait until you are drowning or are considering taking shortcuts to stay off a list. Do the right thing, and keep me informed so I can help. You are not alone, and I will bet you are not the only one going through the same issues. Nice quote: "Individually, we are one drop, together we are an ocean." from R Satoro. Let us create a wave by sticking together!

In your debt and at your service;

Greg Snow

UPMA Iowa Secretary /Treasurer



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8th National UPMA Convention

tive and innovative recruitment tools and opportunities. That afternoon we had breakout sessions for the different officer positions. That was particularly helpful to me as a newly elected Sec/Treas to hear hints, suggestions, and requirements that pertain directly to my new duties. There are still many things that I continue to learn and wrap my head around so please bear with me!

Monday brought our first day in general session. We heard from the Postmaster General, Mr. Louis DeJoy himself. He talked to us about the continuing progress on his Delivering For America plan. I must admit that I was a little disappointed that the subjects of dignity and respect or should I say the lack thereof; EAS carrying mail; and the prevalence of the oh so many redundant, unnecessary, and time-consuming reports were not really discussed or addressed.

Monday afternoon included area meetings and a training session opportunity. I have not yet had a chance to work through this yet, but I am anxious to double check the credits that my office is earning, make sure that I am receiving all the credits that I'm due, and see where I land on the range for office level determination. The Supervisor Work Services Credit program was updated in 2023, and my office is now an Amazon drop site so maybe those volumes and extra clerk time credits are enough to bring my office up to a Level 20? Maybe not, maybe that is only wishful thinking on my part, but

it's definitely worth looking at it!

Tuesday was our free day. Several of us went on an airboat tour on a local lake. We got to experience many Floridian nature/wildlife things, including seeing a momma gator protecting her recently hatched baby gators. That evening we attended a medieval themed dinner theater that included real horses and jousting knights and a wonderful meal as well.

Wednesday brought another general session in the morning that included addresses from both the Deputy Postmaster General, Doug Tulino and the Chief Retail and Delivery Officer, Dr. Joshua Colin. Again, some of the issues that I had gone to convention hoping would be addressed were not. Wednesday afternoon gave us the opportunity to attend two more training sessions. I came away from those with some good information regarding the RRECS Mini Mail Survey (that was happening while we were all at convention) and a very sobering seminar on mental health and suicide prevention. Our very knowledgeable instructor talked at length about some of the risk factors and personal warning signs that we should all be watchful of within our own staff, peers, and even ourself. He explained that one suicide ultimately affects 135 people, which is a staggering number when you consider the growing number of suicide attempts just within the USPS.

Thursday was our final general session, including an address from

Well, the 8th National UPMA Convention is on the books. It was several days of fun, training, and distinguished speakers. We started off on Sunday with the church service, followed by the memorial service in honor of those that we had lost in the last year.

I was honored to have been asked to sing a special song during the church service. I, of course was fighting a "stress cold" for the week prior and didn't know if my voice was going to hold out. With a little TLC, a lot of cough drops, and a few prayers, it went pretty well. My voice only cracked once, but I recovered okay and made it through. My music is one of my favorite vents and decompression activities and I don't often find much time for that in my life right now, so when I have the chance to actually spend some time with it, and share it with others, that is a joy!

Also, on Sunday we had a membership meeting for everyone where we reviewed the latest in the new members signed up competition and reviewed some effec-

Mr. Tony Leonardi, our newly elected National UPMA President, and a very fun presentation from the Texas chapter encouraging all to attend the 9th National Convention in Dallas next year.

Finally, I would like to talk to you all a bit about the value of attending UPMA events. There are several cliches that are commonly heard regarding attendance at the state chapter convention, legislative conference in D.C., national convention, and several other UPMA events. People talk about "making new friends" and "networking" and "strength in numbers." A lot of times these things are "glossed over" and people don't really consider the ramifications of these opportunities. For me, personally, I come home from any UPMA event (whether it be a simple 3-digit meeting in my area with other postmasters and offices that I speak to and interact with on a regular basis, or the hoopla and fanfare of a national convention in a state and/or city that I've never been to before) excited, encouraged, and empowered. I'm excited to go back to my office and try new strategies or apply new knowledge that I've gained (Is my office getting all the credits it deserves? Do I possibly qualify to be a higher-level office? Is there something I can do to help my rural carriers earn more towards their route evaluations?). I am encouraged because I've gotten to talk to other postmasters or supervisors that are facing similar issues and found comfort in knowing that I'm not the only one and also maybe found a different way to approach or resolve a problem. I am empowered because there really is strength in numbers and we can all be reminded that we don't

have to be afraid to stick up for ourselves and not just expect but even demand to be treated with dignity and respect by our superiors. We are so often frustrated and defeated at the end of the day because of how our bosses (MPOO's) treat us, talk to us, etc. The days of treating people the way that you would want to be treated seem to have disappeared altogether and our emails, telecons, and phone calls are full of demands, ultimatums, and downright threats. How is it that as soon as a postmaster is promoted to an MPOO position, they completely forget where they came from and what it's like to be on the other end of that relationship? There are so very many people that are being placed as postmasters or supervisors that have little to no experience. That is due in part to the lingering affects of PostPlan and the elimination of 8-hour postmaster positions in the smaller offices that allowed people the time to self-study and research and learn things on their own and move up the ladder on a more gradual pace. It is also due in part to the fact that so many are "running for the hills" away from the new, excessive report driven mentality of upper management and so that leaves only the "young and stupid" to naively apply for positions that they are not yet really qualified for but yet are eager to advance their careers. (I would place myself squarely in this category only a few short years ago!!) I feel that so many of these newly promoted individuals feel that they are indebted to someone because of the job that they were awarded and this feeling that they "owe" them something leads them down a slippery slope of doing

things (falsifying documents, pencil whipping surveys or required tasks, etc.) because they want to make themselves look good or stay on their boss's "good side". But ultimately that will lead to a "gotcha" situation. I'm going to tell you --- DON'T DO IT! Reach out to a neighboring office, a trusted friend, or your UPMA Chapter Member Rep for advice, assistance, or a sounding board! Together, we should and can stand up to these undue demands, ultimatums, and threats and fight back! Honestly, I find my office on multiple lists of "should have been done yesterday". But I refuse to "cave" and pencil whip something just to get off the list. If it is important enough that it needs to be done, then it should be important enough that it be done correctly, completely, and most importantly, honestly. I will fight until my dying breath to preserve my integrity and self-respect. We in the field need to stick together on these issues and not back down nor let our ethics and morals be broken down. That is empowerment! I would encourage everyone to experience this --- it will make you a better manager and more importantly a better "you"!

Hope to see huge numbers of attendees at our fall tour locations!!



Sherri Lingle, Rayna Hird, and Wanda Lenhart at 2024 UPMA National Convention

Iowa UMPA V/P- Education Chair

Risk Factors & Protective Factors



Debra Droz

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I am so honored to introduce myself in a new position. At our Tri-State Convention this spring, I was selected to be your Iowa Vice-President of Education. As many of you know, education, teaching, and mentoring are my passions and I can't wait to be a leader in the Iowa UPMA organization.

Attending the 8th annual UPMA National Convention in Orlando only fueled that fire. We had great sessions and speakers that reminded us that we have to support each other as we go forward. Please do not hesitate to reach out when you have questions, issues, suggestions, or know someone that we need to help mentor. We have the resources that you need to be successful in your position.

One of the training sessions that I attended in Orlando was given by a licensed Psychological Resiliency Counselor, Don Rousel. With his background in the Air Force, public schools, and private practice, he shared with us the signs to look for in employees and family members that may be struggling with mental health. When we see those around us showing a change in behavior, retreating into themselves, not caring about what is happening around them, and not finding pleasure, we have to be responsive.

These Risk Factors can be combatted with Protective Factors. Hold a private conversation with them letting them know you are concerned. Ensure that they have the phone number for EAP and set up a meeting for them if they agree. Follow up to make sure they attended the EAP meeting. Use your unions as your allies. They may have the same concerns and may be able to get a better response from the individual. Ensure that other managers are aware of the signs or 'tells' that the employee is reaching a point that they need intervention. This isn't just for craft employees— EAS and fellow Postmasters are under considerable stress as you well know. Make sure you are reaching out to check on your buddy office, someone you met at a training day, and especially a new manager that may not know you are there for them.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Fall UPMA meetings. Meetings will be set up in Denison, (October 8th), the Des Moines area (October 9th), and the Iowa City area (October 10th). Please look for the details in this issue and bring a friend!

HERO has been retired. As I dig into to the My HR Program to find all of the information we need I will share any tricks, tips, and suggestions that I find. Send me what you find too! As each new program has been rolled out the learning curve can be shortened if we work together.

Our jobs are important, but they are nothing if we can't have a life outside of them.

Deb Droz

Iowa UMPA VP Legislative / PAC



Jeff Stoltz

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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 a 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.

Jeffrey Stoltz

Harry "The PAC Man"



Harry Healey

irish13155@yahoo.com

By now, all you UPMA members who were at the convention in Council Bluffs have had plenty of time to absorb all the wisdom I imparted to you about the importance of our PAC program. You know, the part about getting good legislation for you and your family! And the part about making sure harmful legislation never comes to a floor vote in Congress!

You "still working" members have also had time by now to sign up for payroll deduction for UPMA PAC. As I said before and again at this year's convention, if all of you "still working" UPMA members in Iowa who are not using payroll deduction for PAC would sign up for even a dollar per paycheck we would raise an additional \$13,000 or more each year for UPMA PAC just in Iowa, alone! And that would give us even more political clout!

But if you haven't signed up yet for a PAC payroll deduction, you can easily do so by going to the unitedpma.org website, sign in, and click on the Government Relations link and select PAC forms. So, what are you waiting for? Get to it!

JPMA V/P - Membership



Sherri Lingle

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Hello all!

It has been awhile since our last visit. I wanted to visit with you all about the "NEW"?

There have been many things happening, and we are at times overwhelmed at how quickly the NEW things that are expected to be completed. Sometimes the NEW thing we overlooked was due to the amount of emails that we receive, some are simply bypassed by us because there is only so much time in a day and we already live at our office, some of the New items are so overwhelming that we do not have the time to learn the why we need to use these NEW tools, so we struggle to find that passion. I want to tell you that we all struggle to find that passion at times, and we do have someone for each of us to reach out to, for help or just an ear to listen. That is what membership is. Membership is where we find that NEW friend, that NEW confidant, NEW passion or that NEW inspiration.

We have been so focused on all

the NEW of today that we overlook that the old way of networking still works. Don't be afraid of the NEW, try to embrace it and inspire, reach out to others, say hi and you never know how glad they will be to hear from someone. We are all NEW, each day is NEW in the Postal Service. What would we do without the NEW? Would you be bored? I want to invite every one of you to be the NEW. Be the NEW way of approaching the old way of networking. Be the NEW friend, NEW motivation, NEW confidant, or the NEW Inspiration. We all have a story from our life lessons, don't hold them back, share your knowledge, your experiences or lack thereof, share what your motivation for what moves you each day. I want to tell you all how Inspired I am each time I visit with one of you. The warm smiles, the friendly handshake, the word for a neighboring Post Office on how someone cared enough to pop in and say hi or that a neighboring Post Office reached out to talk. Do we do this enough? I wish we did.

We have been talking a lot about how we all want change, we all need change, to how we are shown, taught, guided and kept up to date on things. How do we do this? By being old with how we deal with the NEW.

The week of August 24th, we had our National Convention in Orlando, FL. OMG is all I can say, so many people and so much opportunity to learn and grown (and have a little fun on our free day-alligator adventures - was not my first choice but it was fun, ask me about it sometime, I even have pic-

tures to share) Members from all over the United States, the PMG, Deputy PMG and all of the prime people there to speak to us and answer as many questions as they had time for. I am very appreciative to them for their willingness to give us some answers to all those questions. There were speakers and trainers from headquarters there to teach us a few things. For example: those of you looking to qualify for Supervisors or to see what your SWC should be looking at 3 SWCs of the 150s. For some guidance, you could reach out to Chad Smith, he would be a contact if you are not getting answers locally. For Field Staffing guidance can be found by reaching out to Denise Meurch. She has a wealth of knowledge. The list goes on because National Convention is there to help us help ourselves. Keep in mind next year will be in Dallas, TX. Please start planning today to attend.

We have some exciting things coming up in the next few months that I would like to invite all of you to attend.

Fall Tour will be just around the corner – come one, come all and bring a friend (networking and opportunity are always happening here)

OCT 8th at Pizza Ranch Denison IA
OCT 9th at Pizza Ranch Urbandale, IA

OCT 10th at Pizza Ranch Muscatine IA

We will also have CMR training for all those that would like to volunteer to help your neighbor when times get tough. Oct 26th in Chicago.

Iowa UPMA Retiree President



Ellen Opperman
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As I am writing this article, I am putting the final touches on my packing as I leave tomorrow for our UPMA National Convention in Orlando. I am looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones as we gather for all things postal.....and of course some fun as well!

Information is coming out fast and furious in regards to the conversion to the new PSHBP program that will go into effect on January 1, 2025. I continue to field many calls and inquiries about the tran-

sition. I urge everyone to make sure that they are signed up for UPMA Gold. This will get you the most up to date information that is available. To subscribe to UPMA Gold simply email Linda Carter at upmagold@gmail.com to be added to the email distribution list. President Charley is very good at sending out messages and information as the process moves forward. Also, if you haven't already, please sign up for the PSHBP text messaging. A text line has been created for all questions PSHBP. Just text any of the following words PSHBP/Seminar/Retiree to 39369 to receive updates. We will also be receiving PSHBP training at our retiree meeting in Orlando.

I would like to thank our Iowa Executive Board on approving my request for a generous contribution to our 2024 Veterans Outreach Program, Tunnels to Towers Foundation, at our recent board meeting. They also approved a donation to the UPMA National Scholarship Program. Iowa, as always, leads the way as contributors to these

amazing programs!!

I would also like to clarify some information shared with you by Dixie Bentley in our last newsletter. Dixie shared her excitement about the UPMA Scholarship program. It has come to my attention that some may have not taken this information as it was intended. For clarification, please understand that NO Iowa UPMA Scholarship fund has been established at this time. This process is in the infant stages and any and all commitments to a scholarship program for our chapter would have to be voted on and approved by the chapter at our State Convention. Dixie is doing research on the possibility and will be bringing her findings to the Executive Board for further consideration. However, do feel free to donate to the UPMA National Scholarship Program at any time!

Until next time.....

Ellen

Joys and Concerns

Congratulations to the Iowa recipients of a 2024 UPMA National Scholarship Foundation announced at our convention in Orlando FL!!

Madeline Roche- Grand daughter of Postmaster Retired Sheila O'Tool.

Anna Kennedy- Grand daughter of Postmaster Retired Marlene Brown.

Jenna Thornburg- Great grand daughter of Postmaster Retired Helen Wilson.

It is with great sadness that we announce that Bruce Nicholson's mother passed away peacefully at her home in Seminole, Florida on Saturday, August 17. Many of you have either had the opportunity to meet and talk with Bruce, or you have seen him at our UPMA events over the years. For President Edmund and me, Bruce is our main contact at Postal Service Headquarters so we especially feel for Bruce and his family at this difficult time.

Iowa UPMA Retiree Secretary

UPMA Retiree Minutes 2024 8th ANNUAL IOWA RETIREES MEETING HOLIDAY INN & SUITES, COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA

First Tri-State Convention with Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota April 27, 2024, Retiree Meeting 1:00 PM

11 Members present:

Ellen Opperman/ President, Dixie Bentley/ Vice-President, Lisa Eittreim/ Secretary, Keva Richardson, Diane Howland, Kevin Schwab, Richard Springer, Harry Healey, Sheila Soppe, Jeanice Arment, and Patti Sorge.

Old Business: Previous years minutes were read. Motion to accept made by Diane, seconded by Dixie. Minutes were approved. Further discussion was held on By-Law changes regarding election of officers. Kevin shared a proposal as follows:

Current By-Laws

Article IV Section 3----The election of officers shall be conducted at the annual Retiree Chapter Convention. Candidates to be elected to their respective offices must be present when their name is placed in the nomination. Members in good standing who are registered for the annual Chapter Convention and present when ballots are cast are eligible to vote in Retiree Chapter officer elections. Elections shall be by majority vote cast by ballot. In the event that no majority is reached, the two (2) candidates with the most votes will compete in a run-off election. Where no contest exists, election may be by acclamation.

Proposed Change

Article IV Section 3--- The election of officers shall be conducted at the annual Retiree Chapter Convention. Candidates to be elected to respective offices must be present when their name is placed in nomination or have a letter or email on file with the President and/or Secretary-Treasurer stating their intent to accept if 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 Retiree Chapter officer elections. Elections shall be by majority vote cast by ballot. In the event that no majority is reached, the two (2) candidates with the most votes will compete in a run-off election. Where no contest exists, election may be by acclamation.

Discussion was held and retirees present agreed that this was a good change. Kevin will post in the Hawkeye Heartlander as required prior to next year's state convention and will be voted on at that retiree meeting. It was agreed that these By-Law changes would become effective immediately.

New Business: Ellen read the credentials for two candidates running for National office. Patti Bascom is running for UPMA Retired National Secretary and Anita Pfeiffer is running for UPMA Retired National Treasurer.

Kevin Schwab announced that he is our new Area 8 National Representative which covers the states of Iowa, Missouri, and Arkansas. He gave his report. There will be new members sign up incentives in the form of two drawings to be held at the National Convention. You will

receive one entry for the drawing for each new member you sign up between Jan.1, 2024 and July 31, 2024. Names will be drawn at the convention and one \$1000.00 and two \$500.00 winners will be drawn. You do not need to be present to win and are only eligible for one prize. Dues are \$5.73 a month. Be sure to watch for members who drop after the 6-month free period. They will need to sign an 1187-R to be kept as a member. Steve Vanderhoff oversees this year's Veterans Project. On the legislative forefront WEP/GPO are the main topics. More information on health benefits changes will be coming but may not know much until Open Season. For new and old retirees Eva Findley is the editor for "In the Mailbox" publication. She or Kevin can be contacted to sign up and remember to sign up for the UPMA Gold as well. Any National By-Law changes and officers will be voted on at the National Convention.

Dixie is our contact person for the National Scholarship program. This effort is tax deductible as a 501-3C organization. Dixie would like to see us do this at the state level as well and is going to research the necessities to enact this at the state level.

Handouts were provided on "What to do when a family member dies." This is an excellent tool for family members in this situation.

Ellen reported that there were twenty-nine deceased members for the Memorial Service Sunday. That was inclusive of all three states in attendance. Carnations had been purchased.



Tri-State Convention April 2024 Iowa Retiree's-The ones who have all the FUN!

Election of Officers for appointed terms. The position of Secretary was open this year. Nominations for Secretary: Diane Howland nominated Lisa Eittreim for Secretary, seconded by Jeanice Arment. No further nominations were made. Kevin Schwab moved that nominations cease, seconded by Sheila Soppe. Since no further nominations were made Lisa was elected by acclamation for the position which she accepted. Her 2-year term will expire in 2026.

Motion to adjourn was made by Sheila Soppe and seconded by Patti Sorge. The meeting was adjourned.

**Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Eittreim**

LETTER FROM A FIRST TIMER

I wanted to take a few moments to talk to you about UPMA 8th National Convention that was held in Orlando, FL August 24-30, 2024. This was the first national convention that I attended with UPMA. I wasn't sure what to expect since it was my first time, but I am sure it will not be my last. I was traveling by myself but ended up running into a few Iowa members at the airport. We arrived at the Caribe Royale Orlando and checked into our rooms. Each day there was an itinerary of the day's events. I learned so much each day about what's going on and what may be coming within the postal world. I can tell you one thing we all have the same issues.

As a first timer it was a pleasure to be treated as a member of the group. I have been to other events; you just sit around nobody introducing themselves to you. The great thing was everyone wore a badge telling you what area they were from. As a first timer, there was a task we were given and that was collecting as many busy cards as possible from the attendees. I collected 63, which I believed was good however there were a few other first timers that got many more. It was an icebreaker since you were required to introduce yourself and request a business card. I met a lot of different people from different areas of the post office. Many were postmaster's; however there were associates, retirees, district level it didn't matter who are what department you are involved with they treated you with respect and taking time out of your busy work schedule to attend. I really enjoyed myself and was able to sign up for next years events which will be in Dallas, TX.

By Rayna Herd

Wanda Lenhart
Secretary/Treasurer
6766 460th St
Sutherland, IA 51058

Article Due Dates

Nov/Dec: Nov 11th

Jan/Feb: Jan 13th

March/April: March 10th

Please remember that all members are welcome to submit articles. All content is subject to the approval of the Editor & State President.

Submit to: upmaiseditor@gmail.com

Call or text 988
**if you or a loved
one is having a
mental health
or substance
use crisis**

Upcoming Events

Southern Area Officers Conference
Louisville, KY
Oct 11th-14th, 2024

CMR Academies
CMR 101 St Louis, MO Oct 19th, 2024
CMR 201 Chicago, IL Oct 26th, 2024

January Board Meeting
Feb 1st, 2025
Holstein, IA

UPMA Kickoff
Dallas, TX
Jan 18th, 2025

Legislative Summit
Hyatt Regency Crystal City
Arlington, VA
March 16th-19th, 2025

UPMA IS NOT A UNION. IT IS 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 Postal Managers.