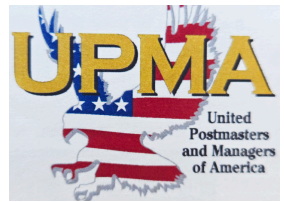


# The Hawkeye Heartlander



The Iowa United Postmasters and Managers of America Publication  
Volume 10 Issue 9

May/June 2025



Photo submitted by Brian Lawson

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Aimee Quick: 641-526-3411  
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Wanda Lenhart: 712-260-5025  
Sherri Lingle: 712-579-8636

Printed below is the UPMA Adverse Action Legal Defense Plan. This plan is available to all active EAS members after one year of membership. We are here to help you should the need arise. If you are called in for an Investigative Interview, contact us immediately. It doesn't mean you're about to lose your job. Investigative interviews can be positive; often to air out differences or misunderstandings.

Cut out the box below and keep it in your office. If a Postal Inspector or OIG comes to your office and the questions are related directly to you, ask the question 'AM I UNDER INVESTIGATION?' If they say yes, tell them you will not talk to them until your Chapter Member Rep is present.

IF YOU RECEIVE A VISIT FROM THE INSPECTION SERVICE OR THE OIG

Statement to be read to Postal Inspectors or OIG:

I request to talk to my UPMA representative before answering any additional questions. If I am a suspect in a criminal matter, please so advise me. If so, I wish to contact my attorney.

Chapter Member Rep: Greg Snow(who will assign & send someone) Phone: 515-371-1094

If I am under arrest, I request you to so advise me and inform me of the reason or reasons. I will not resist arrest.

I do not consent to a search of my person or property. However, I will not physically resist or obstruct such a person. If you have a search warrant I request to see it at this time.

I will cooperate with you fully, but I will not sign a waiver-of-rights form. I will not admit or deny any allegations, I will not make any written or oral statement unless my attorney and/or UPMA Representative are personally present and so advise me.

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UPMA MISSION STATEMENT:  
United Postmasters & Managers  
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membership through communi-  
cation, education, and representa-  
tion.

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Iowa UPMA President
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## Iowa Presidents Convention Summary

Summer is almost here! Winter has passed, and great Iowa weather is coming! I cannot believe it is May already, the years keep rolling on faster than ever. So please enjoy your time away from work, make the most of what you love!

For those of you that made it to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tri-State Convention, I thank you for coming and I appreciated the great times we were able to share together. I want to thank you for your support in reelecting me to the President's corner. I hope I do not let you down.

I think the 2<sup>nd</sup> time around went quite well with the exception of the technical difficulties we experienced. The food was great— the company even better! I got to know a lot of newcomers along with those that we always have fun with, and I hope we can add so many more next year!

The Thursday night kickoff event was Great Shots, a golf shooting range and that was a great time. It has been a long time since I hit any golf balls. I wish I could say I was a bit rusty...but, I am so terrible, it really didn't matter! The fun we all had is one reason for joining us at these events. It's stress free and we have a great time!

Friday was the day of training. We got to discuss the new RTO (truck optimization) which after it is all implemented, it should save the Postal Service billions in the future. Yes, I know it is change, but sometimes change is good. I am a firm believer that it will work. It will just take some time to work out the bugs, but we can and will adapt to that change.

Friday night, we all were able to visit the Steel District for some supper and then we were able to enjoy an amazing game of "Singo." Thank you Rich for allowing us to partake in the fun sing along bingo game. Sorry for all that had to hear me sing along with the oldies, I never said I was any good! I do get better the more you drink! At least you won't mind as much!

Saturday was a UPMA Business Day with elections. Thank you again for giving me your support for the next two years. The day ended with an amazing band "10 Miles from Nowhere". Iowa danced the night away and closed down the evening with a group photo with the band! Iowa UPMA members never disappoint!

I hope we see you in August in Dallas at the National UPMA Convention. It is August 10<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>. Come and join the festivities.

Please start planning for the 3<sup>rd</sup> in a series of Tri-State Venues that will take place in Lincoln, Nebraska. I will keep you posted as to the dates once we start finalizing the plans.

Thank you all for everything you do to make UPMA and the United States Postal Service better than before. Stay safe and have a great summer!

Greg Snow, Iowa UPMA President

### The passing of Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA)

The United Postmasters and Managers of America express their sadness in the passing of Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-VA)

Congressman Connolly was an indefatigable leader on postal issues. The landmark Postal Service Reform Act of 2022 would not have happened without his leadership.

As a member of the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee, Congressman Connolly was a steadfast supporter of all Federal employees and was recognized by his colleagues across the aisle for his ethic.

As postmasters and managers, we had the privilege of having Congressman Connolly address our members numerous times during our legislative summit. He always shared how much he valued the work our members do for the USPS.

On behalf of the active and retired members of the United Postmasters and Managers of America, we express our sincere condolences to the Connolly family. We hold the family and him in our prayers.

Anthony Leonardi

National President

UPMA



# UPMA Iowa Secretary /Treasurer

## Media Mail



**Wanda Lenhart**  
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So in the last issue, I talked about several ways/opportunities to find and capture postage due. This time I would like to spend some time expounding on just one of those opportunities, Media Mail. In my opinion (which probably isn't worth much these days!), Media Mail is one of, if not the most, "abused" mail classifications. Whether it's because people "scroll" through their postage options and choose "the cheapest one" not understanding what it is or why it is such a discounted rate, or they 110% know that they are trying to be "sneaky" and not get caught mailing non-qualifiable items at extremely discounted rates. If they get "busted" only one time out of every 5 times mailing at Media Mail rates fraudulently, they call it a "win"!!! There are countless examples of this in the mail stream every day. I also think that the USPS would do themselves a HUGE favor if this mail category was eliminated altogether, but as is the norm, they don't ask the people in the daily trenches for ideas

or suggestions. Based on the mailing needs and habits of the world today, most of the things that qualify as Media Mail are now transmitted electronically. People read books online or listen to them, they download movies, they subscribe to TV series, and they listen to music on YouTube. Most have no need to "transport" these items via mail anymore. Nevertheless, as long as this mail category remains an option for our customers, we are obligated to hold mailers accountable to the rules associated with it.

Publication 662, found under the "More Resources" link in the bottom right-hand corner on the Blue Page, is your complete guide to all the regulations of Media Mail mailing. It describes very specifically what types of things qualify, it provides detailed instructions and all the tools needed to inspect Media Mail parcels, and it has all the forms to properly document those inspections and deal with any fraud issues. No matter the outcome of inspecting a parcel for Media Mail qualifications, you must document that inspection on PS6141. It doesn't matter if it is outgoing or incoming, or if it qualifies or not, that is how we (USPS) are "held accountable" for opening someone else's mail.

The first trick is to "get good at" deciding which parcels would likely warrant you taking the time to inspect them in the first place. As you or your clerks are scanning in the parcels AAU each morning, you first must be cognizant of the class of mail of the items. The Priority and Express Mail packaging products are easy to spot, but you also need to take a quick glance at the postage rate applied!!! If there is Media Mail postage on ANY expedited packaging product, it's postage due!!! No inspection of the contents is even necessary, those are the easy ones!!! If upon inspection, you find ANY type of expedited packaging inside, you would be surprised how many people use Priority Flat Rate Padded Envelopes as "filler" material!!! Again that's a done deal!!! Also, check out the return address. If it is a music company or a bookstore, chances are they are aware of the rules regarding Media Mail and probably are mailing qualifiable contents. Pay attention to the "feel" or "sound" of the contents. If it's an oblong box and weighs and feels approximately like a pair of shoes, that parcel would be a good candidate for inspection. If the contents rattle like a puzzle or a bag of M&M's, that is definitely worth your time to inspect it. If it's an oddly sized box that really doesn't seem heavy enough to contain books, set it aside for a look see. The more of these that you do, the easier it will become to determine which ones are suspicious. When I was working in my smaller offices at the beginning of Postmaster days, I took the time to inspect every Media Mail parcel that came in. That was pre-COVID and before the entire world was shopping online, which may have been at most one or two parcels a week. It seemed to some like a waste of time, but that was how I got "good" at it and learned a few tricks of the trade! When it comes right down to it, it doesn't take that much extra time to inspect these and boost your office's revenue.

Again, Pub662 is your friend. Print it out, make several copies of the inspection log (PS6141), the inspection sheet (one of these goes inside every single parcel that you inspect whether it qualifies or not), and the Letter to the Mailer. Have these items, plus your red "Opened By USPS For Inspection" stamper (available on eBay+), a sharp knife, scissors, or box cutter, and clear tape handy. Obviously, when you are going to open someone else's mail, you want to use caution when doing so. Don't "rip it to shreds" but use care to cause the least amount of damage to the packaging so that when you are finished, you can put "Humpty Dumpty back together again" without it looking like it got ran over in the street. I use a very small box cutter tool and cut tape on the seams instead of trying to tear it off. If the mailer has done a nice job of packaging, sometimes you can't even tell the parcel has been inspected (except for the stamper that gives it away). I also try not to disturb the contents unnecessarily. If the first thing you see when you've got it open does not qualify, then you have no need to go any further!!! When the inspection is complete, mark on the 1/2 page sized inspection notice the appropriate box (contents did or did not qualify), red round date stamp where indicated. Yes, this will identify the office where the inspection took place, do NOT be afraid of that! Own it and be proud of the fact that you are doing your job correctly and conscientiously! Place that inside the package, rewrap the package, stamp the "Opened for Inspection" on a seam, and tape the package closed again. (See the next paragraph for a couple of steps to complete before repackaging.) If you put the red stamp near the seam then you can cover it with tape as you are resealing it and it keeps the ink from smearing and becoming unreadable. You need the recipient(s) to know with no uncertainty that this item was opened and inspected, as that adds the accountability factor to the table front and center! Make sure that you log EVERY inspection completed on the PS6141. This is how we "prove" that we are doing our due diligence and not abusing the "right to open mail". If it doesn't qualify, figure the postage due. Check the Notice 123 for the amount of postage applied, Media Mail goes by one pound increments and there aren't a million and one different discounts like other mail categories. Also, if you check the tracking information, the amount of postage on it is often included in the parcel details. Ring the package up at retail rates for the cheapest allowable rate (Ground Advantage usually unless there are Priority or Priority Express products included) and subtract the postage already on it. Fill in that amount on the log sheet and on the parcel itself. If it does NOT qualify, be sure to address an envelope to the return address (mailer) and send them the Letter To Sender. I always take the time to highlight within the letter the reason it did not qualify (if stated) and/or write a brief note at the bottom. I always explain why it did not qualify, how much postage due is being charged to the recipient, and that all mailer information is being sent to the USPS Postal Inspection Service.

All this information is both educational and a gentle reminder that Uncle Sam is watching, and if they were knowingly mailing fraudulently, they just got busted!

The final step is to report the incidents of incorrect mailing via the Mail Incident Reporting Tool. This is our way to report directly to the Mail Fraud Investigation team those incidents that could/should warrant further investigation. Big mailers who abuse the system could potentially be hundreds of dollars in missed revenue.

This site isn't just for Media Mail issues, but anything you see that isn't right. I report every Media Mail issue here, but mostly the items that we find that don't qualify as parcels that are mailed incorrectly with Ground Advantage postage to get a tracking number. (That's a whole other article!) For this tool, you need to weigh the package and get the precise dimensions. I do that just like I would if I were calculating postage for a mailing customer and notate these right on the label or near it. Then scan images of the mailing label to include your weight and dimensional information, the tracking number, names of the To and From, and the postage information, and as many "views" of the non-qualifying contents to make your case. Obviously, you have to collect these scanned images BEFORE you put your parcel back together again and reseal.

Writing this all out makes it seem like such a time consuming and tedious task. However, all told, you will have less than 5 minutes of time spent on items that do qualify and 10 minutes or less wrapped up in those that don't. This really isn't any more time than you would spend helping a customer at the window to mail a parcel. This isn't something to "dodge" because "it takes up too much time". It is something to be embraced because it's our job and our duty to make sure that our customers are being held accountable. People who knowingly mail fraudulently, whether it's claiming Media Mail rates for non-qualifying items or abusing our expedited packaging is no different than shoplifting from any other business!!! Those that claim to not know any different are like those people who eat their grapes as they continue their shopping or inadvertently put something in a pocket or bag without paying for it. Postage due is USPS shoplifting! As USPS employees, we need to use the tools provided to us to be the "security cameras" and run damage control!

Until next time,

Your Secretary/Treasurer

Wanda





Brian Lawson, Postmaster, Boone, IA

## Legislative Summit

This year I had the privilege of winning the \$500.00 stipend to attend the legislative summit in Washington D.C. Let me tell you, it is a trip worth taking. First off, the kindness and hospitality showed to me by other members of UPMA were top notch. Everyone was kind and they made you feel like your presence was not only appreciated but needed. Right away I felt like I belonged and was part of the bigger scheme of things. On our first day there, it was a free day to sight see and what not. Greg, Lisa, Sherri, Darcie, Deb and Wanda all made sure that I was able to go see different sights around town. The first place we visited was Arlington National Cemetery. It was an awesome place to visit. We got to watch the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown. This was a great experience to watch. We also visited numerous gravesites and memorials. My favorite was the Iwo Jima Memorial. Being a Marine, this was the one memorial that I really wanted to visit, and I appreciate Greg and the team for ensuring that I got to see it. Not just during the day, but we also got to visit it at night as well.

On the second day, Monday, we had a day of training. We went over all of the house bills that we needed to discuss with our representatives on Capitol Hill. We also got a chance to have a town hall with a couple of US Senators and congressmen/women. PMG Louis Dejoy even made an appearance and talked to all of us for about an hour. I am really glad that we did this day of training. It helped equip all of us with the necessary information to take to the hill with us the next day.

On the third day, Tuesday, We went to capitol hill. I never knew how many different buildings that the members of the Senate and Congress utilized for their offices. I felt like it was a race to go from one meeting to the next in different buildings. Although we didn't have meetings with the reps themselves, we got to meet with numerous aides. The aides seemed very receptive to message and took notes. During these meetings, I really felt part of the team and I appreciate the feedback that I was given by my UPMA counterparts.

The fourth day, Wednesday, We had the privilege of being able to have personal tour the Capital building. I loved the history lesson that we received there. We then made our way home.

Thank you for this opportunity, It was a great learning experience for me and I now have a new found interest in following legislative issues. I would recommend this trip to all UPMA members. Before this experience, I really didn't have a good understanding of how much our livelihood is affected by the Bills that are put through the House and Senate.



# Iowa UMPA V/P- Education Chair



Debra Droz

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## You Say

The Tri-State Convention is over for the year, and I am looking forward to attending the National Convention in Dallas. President Tony Leonardi graciously joined us in Sioux Falls and as always spoke from the heart. He does not sugar-coat things, and his passion for the UPMA organization and our members is easy to see. I don't know many other organizations where the National President sits down next to you at a table, looks you in the eye, and asks what questions you have. If you skipped this opportunity, I hope that those who attended share their experience and entice you to join us next year in Nebraska. We learned a lot from having the Tri-State Convention, and as always, we work to improve areas we found fell short, and expand those areas that we exceeded in.

This morning, I received yet another text from a manager that just got off the phone from being yelled at and disrespected. This is the fourth manager in a month that has come to me with frustration, fear of retaliation, and even health issues from situations in their job. As a UPMA board member, I am here for you!!! If you do not know who to reach out to, please reach out to any of our board members. First, we will listen, then, we will put you in touch with one of our Chapter Member Reps (CMR) that will help pro-

tect you. They are going to guide you through each and every step. Sometimes, we are our own worst enemies! That CMR may tell you the first thing to do is stop talking, stop reacting, and stop responding in a certain manner. Please listen to them! We can't instantly solve all the issues, but we can be on your side and guide you with what our training has taught us. Don't go it alone!

As this article deadline was looming over me today, the song by Lauren Daigle shuffled through my play list. The lyrics to "You Say" remind me of all of the support that I personally have received from UPMA in the past few years and how they helped me reach where I am today. We are here for you also. Please don't listen to all of those voices that are only negative, remember, UPMA is here to stand beside you:

- You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing.
  - You say I am strong when I think I am weak.
  - You say I am held when I am falling short.
  - When I don't belong... You say I am Yours.
- I realize this was written based on her faith and I certainly do not want to take away from that or minimize what faith can get you through in your life. Just know that we also believe in you and will support you. You are a member of our family, and you belong.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Droz  
Vice-President of Education



# Iowa UMPA VP Legislative / PAC



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## Hello Iowa UPMA,

What do you want first? The good news or the bad news? I'm going to give you the good news first. HR1522 (Federal Retirement Fairness Act) now has 94 co-sponsors. That is up from about 70 this time last month. Brian McLaughlin had said on our monthly legislative telecom that if this bill is brought to a vote it will be very likely passed. This would allow anyone with non-career time to be able to buy this time back. That's you, previous RCA's, CCA's, PSE's, TA's, and anyone else with non-career time before becoming career. We need your continued support on this because 0 out of 4 Iowa representatives in the house have co-sponsored the bill.

Ok, now for the bad news. The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee has developed a reconciliation package. Included in this package is a raise in your FERS retirement contribution from your biweekly paycheck from currently .8% to 4.4% if you were hired before 2013; which obviously will cut your take-home pay. Also included in this package is switching from high three to high five years when calculating your FERS retirement annuity. This would equate to about a 2,000 dollar per year difference in your FERS retirement. Of course that number is just an estimate. Everyone makes a different salary and works different

amounts of years before retirement. Also in this government employee slashing package is taking away the retirement supplement for retiring before the age of 62. The proposed dates if passed is Jan 1, 2027, except for the stealing of the retirement supplement, which would happen the day the bill is signed into law.

If you are wondering what you can do to stop this nonsense on page 10 of this edition of the Hawkeye Heartlander is a letter that shows you exactly what you say when you dial the switchboard operator in DC. You just tell them your zip code and they will connect you with your perspective legislator. I would start with your Congress member and then call back and ask to speak to your Senator. We all have the same Senators, Joni Ernst and Charles Grassley. During our legislative telecom on 5/6/2025, Chris McCannell said that Marrinette Miller-Meeks is very concerned about the slashing of government employees pay and benefits.

The budget reconciliation package is set to save between 1.5 and 2 trillion dollars. Yes, that is trillions. It has been given a name by President Trump as the "Big Beautiful Bill". Well, as you can see it really isn't beautiful at all, especially if have chosen to work for the United States Postal Service.

Chris McCannell also said they are working with the "Problem Solvers" group in the House of Representatives to strip these things out before it can be brought to the house floor for a vote. They are looking to bring this to the House floor for a vote before the Memorial Day break. And they want it to be to President Trumps desk by July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Therefore the fast track is for a reason. The longer it takes to bring to a vote, the more opposition it will get and be much more difficult to pass. This is all smoke and mirriors folks. For your own sake, and all those that have given many years of dedicated service to the government, and worked every day thru COVID when many were at home watching out their windows as we were all still working and delivering the mail. PLEASE, PLEASE, call the number on the letter in this magazine and tell the person that answers how much you are against all of these things I have mentioned.

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

Jeffrey Stoltz

Iowa Legislative VP/ PAC

Page 8



# Iowa UPMA V/P - Membership



**Sherri Lingle**

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**“ SOMEONE IS SITTING IN THE SHADE TODAY BECAUSE  
SOMEONE PLANTED A TREE A LONG TIME AGO”**

This statement is from the first article that I had written over two years ago when I was first elected to the Iowa UPMA board as your Executive Vice President, Membership Chair.

I really do not know where I would be today without that someone planting that tree.

That tree has many roots and many branches. Just like our UPMA family. I have seen the tree grow and stand firm and tall, I have also seen it blow with the wind. Yet it still stands, no matter the adverse situations and no matter how hard the wind blows.

Seasons come and go and the tree still stands. Do you know why the tree still stands? It is because of you, of all of us, putting our love and attention to those that need us. We give shade to those that need some peace. We give support for those that need someone to lean on. From the tree we provide essential nourishment for growth and strength. From the branches we give each other opportunities. Opportunities to reach and climb to the unknown, jump to another branch and see what there is to explore. We all climb the tree together. We can each put a little nourishment into the tree and add our own. We are that TREE, we are the

UPMA Tree.

Thank you to those that planted that tree and nourished it and loved it. How many changes have we been through together? How many seasons have you been through and grown with each limb you've scaled. Find your place in that tree. Plant your own tree for those that will need shade one day. Know those that have helped you with your tree. Get to know those that you can help plant their tree? What type of tree would you want to plant and leave for others when you retire? Will it be tall, small, sturdy, Willow, or a fruit tree? We forget about those who may need a little support. We get busy with all of those windy days and really we just need a little help getting out of the wind and taking some shelter. We may need to borrow your tree and your branches from time to time.

For me, I always wanted to be a strong sturdy Oak tree, nothing could blow me down. But there are many days I feel more like a Willow tree. My branches blowing with the wind, providing shelter from the heat and the elements, free to be, yet provide some shade on those tough days (a good hiding spot when needed). If you need me, I will be your Willow tree or your Oak tree. Just know we will be there for each other. We all need to bend and support each other. Times get tough and we each have our needs, if we stretch out our branches far enough we can shade, protect, and grow together.

There are changes and challenges ahead, stay strong, stay steady, stay flexible and stay true. Together we can.

Thank you all for your support and strength.

Sherri Lingle

Iowa UPMA Executive Vice President

Membership Chair



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



Arlington Cemetery

## Let Your Voice Be Heard : Speak out Against “Big Beautiful Bill”

Good Afternoon Membership... many have asked and said “what can we do to help?” The resounding answer is Call your congressmen/women and senators. Here is a script you can use:

- ° Call 202-224-3121. A switchboard operator will connect you with your Senator or Representative.
- ° “Hello, my name is [Your Name], and I am a member of the United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA). I live in [City, State].
- ° I’m calling to urge [Representative’s or Senator’s Name] to oppose the proposed cuts to postal employee retirement benefits included in the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee’s reconciliation package.

These changes would:

- ☐ Raise retirement contributions on current employees, cutting take-home pay.
- ☐ Lower earned pensions by switching from a high-3 to a high-5 salary calculation.
- ☐ Eliminate early retirement supplements for employees retiring before age 62.

Postal and federal employees have devoted their careers to public service, and these cuts break the promises made to them. Reducing earned benefits will hurt recruitment, morale, and the long-term strength of the workforce.

Please oppose these harmful cuts and stand with federal and postal workers.

Thank you for your time and service.”

### Statement from UPMA President Anthony Leonardi on the Passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act

The United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA) acknowledges the House passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act as an important first step in the legislative process. While this bill is far from perfect, we are pleased that two of the most harmful provisions, raising the FERS employee contribution rate and changing the pension calculation from a “high three” to a “high five,” have been removed.

This progress is the direct result of UPMA’s sustained advocacy and the collective voice of our members. However, our work is not finished. We remain deeply concerned about the provision that would eliminate the Social Security Supplement for federal employees who retire before age 62. UPMA will continue to engage closely with U.S. Senators on both sides of the aisle to urge its removal as the bill advances through the legislative process.

We thank our members for their continued advocacy. Your phone calls and emails are working! Together, we will keep fighting to protect the retirement security of all postal employees.



## 9<sup>th</sup> UPMA National Convention | Dallas, TX August 9 – 15, 2025

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Badge name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Badge name (if different from first name): \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Office You Represent – City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Select your title:

☐ Postmaster ☐ Manager ☐ Postmaster ☐ Supervisor ☐ EAS Supervisor

☐ UPMA Retired ☐ Associate ☐ Guest – includes ticket to UPMA Retired Luncheon

☐ Guest – does NOT include ticket to UPMA Retired Luncheon ☐ Child (17 and under)

Circle the appropriate fee:

2025 National Convention Registration Rates	August 24, 2024 - August 30, 2024	September 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	April 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025	After June 30, 2025
Postmaster, Manager, Supervisor or EAS Professional	\$200	\$220	\$252	\$300
UPMA Retired, Associate or Guest <i>This rate includes the UPMA Retired Luncheon.</i>	\$200	\$215	\$239	\$275
Auxiliary or Guest <i>This rate does not include the UPMA Retired Luncheon.</i>	\$150	\$165	\$189	\$225
Children 17 and under <i>This rate includes child's meal at the Thursday Grand Banquet.</i>	\$100	\$110	\$126	\$150

Please let us ☐ I plan to attend the Sunday banquet.

☐ I plan to: ☐ I plan to attend the Thursday closing party.

If you are attending as a guest, who are you joining? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any food allergies or dietary restrictions? \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Information

Convention Fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional tickets for UPMA Retired  
Lunch \$50 each: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL PAYMENT:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check payable to UPMA

☐ Visa/Mastercard

CARD NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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

### Hotel Reservations

UPMA has a special rate at the convention hotel. You must book online or call the hotel directly to make a reservation. The National Office will not handle room reservations. All room cancellations must be made directly with the hotel 72 hours prior to arrival to avoid penalty.

To secure the special UPMA rate, you must identify yourself as part of the 2025 UPMA National Convention. The rate is available only until July 28, 2025, or until all rooms in the block are sold, whichever comes first. The group rate is available 5 days pre and post convention based on availability.

Sheraton Dallas | 1-888-627-8191

\$189 – Run of House | \$199 – Queen/Queen |

One form per registrant.

**Cancellation Policy:** Cancellation requests must be submitted via email to [UPMA@crispevents.me](mailto:UPMA@crispevents.me). Requests received on or before July 25, 2025 will be assessed a \$50 cancellation fee per person. Cancellations received on or after July 26, 2025, will not receive a refund. Tickets for cancelled registrants are not available for use by other registrants. Registration transfers (name changes) are not permitted.





## Iowa Retirees at the 2025 Tri-State Convention

COME ONE, COME ALL FOR A FUN GET TOGETHER!

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Lucky's Restaurant

Meskwaki Bingo Casino Hotel

1504 305<sup>th</sup> Street

Tama, IA 52339

11am until 3pm

All retired, active and associate Postmasters and Managers and guests are invited to attend  
You don't have to be a member of UPMA.

Meals will be your choice from any of the options available at the casino

You can come anytime you want, stay as long as you want, and leave when you want!

There is no cost for the meeting, so the only expense will be if you decide to eat or maybe drop a few dollars at the casino. This site was suggested at last year's get together as a way to move it around the state in hopes more people will attend and a week day so as to avoid conflicts. This is the week after the State Fair ends and 2 weeks after the National UPMA convention as some people are heading south for the winter already in September.

Hope to see you there!!!

Rocky Hilton & Kevin Schwab





IA-NE-SD 2025 Tri-State Convention Attendees



Iowa First Timers : (L-R) spot 1,3,and 5 respectively:Mike Arndorfer, Hampton-Robert Phillips, Conrad-Victoria Rosales, Davenport. Hopefully they send articles for next issue.



UPMA President Tony Leonardi



Rich Springer presenting Ellen Opperman the 2025 Member of the Year Award.



Jeff Stoltz and his wife Juliet at the banquet

Dear Chapter State Editors of UPMA

The Tunnels to Towers (T2T) Foundation has been selected again 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 T2T for this year's effort to honor and support veterans.

The response to our project in 2024 was overwhelming. We are so thankful for your support and ask for your continued support. Last year UPMA donated approximately \$40,000. T2T used those funds to build 40 Smart Homes for catastrophically injured veterans and paid off the mortgages for 200 homes in 2024. They have paid the mortgages for over 1500 Gold Star families with small children to date. They have distributed over one billion dollars to support their program goals. No other charity is doing more for veterans than T2T.

UPMA Retired has signed an agreement with the T2T organization to use their logo. They have established a UPMA webpage to collect donations from our members. In the past UPMA has made a nationwide effort that benefited a small segment of veterans. This is our effort to support a nationwide charity. We have written articles for many UPMA publications and provided flyers for the welcome bags at the national UPMA Convention in Orlando. T2T provided an outstanding speaker for our convention as well. We had an information booth at the convention to educate our members about how to sign up for donations. We have written letters to all UPMA Chapter Presidents and UPMA Retired Presidents, and Chapter Editors asking for their help to inform our members of our veteran's recognition project for 2025: which is the T2T charity. We are amazed, after all our efforts there are still members that have not heard of T2T or our efforts to make donations to their charity.

Why Tunnels to Towers? 1. They are a qualified tax deductible 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. So you get a tax deduction if you itemize your taxes. 2. 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. 3. They have the maximum "Four Star" rating with Charity Navigator. 5. They provide mortgage free homes to Gold Star (death of a service member on active duty), and first responders families with young children. 6, They build or modify homes for catastrophic injured veterans and first responders. 7. They are committed to eradicating 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 specifics of the process: There are several ways to donate to T2T foundation. **We prefer the Chapters write a check payable to Tunnels to Towers, but mail the check to Anita Pfiefer, Treasurer, UPMA Retired, 20576 Kearney Path, Lakeville, MN 55044.** She will log your contribution and forward the checks to ensure they are added to our UPMA total.

**For contributions from individual members, we prefer you go to the UPMA Webpage established by T2T.** You can make a one-time contribution or a monthly donation.

**Google will not direct you to our UPMA Webpage. You must use the URL code provided below. 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. T2T recommends a \$11 monthly donation. That is an amount most folks can afford.

Also you can use the link: <https://dogood.t2t.org/UPMAVeteransProject25> the QR Barcode.



If you don't see this screen shot of the UPMA webpage for donations to T2T you are not at the right place. You may be on the T2T generic webpage for donations. That does not get UPMA credit for your donations.

Thank you for your generosity to veteran programs.

Steve Vanderhoof and Eva Finley  
Co-Chairs UPMA Retired  
Veteran's Outreach Project 25  
660-886-0205  
Svanderhoof856@att.net

Wanda Lenhart  
Secretary/Treasurer  
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Periodicals  
Postage Paid  
Madrid, IA 50156



## THE HAWKEYE POSTMASTER

ISSN 2475-8221

Published bi-monthly, by the Iowa Chapter of the United Postmaster and Managers of America, 102 S Main, Madrid, IA 50156-1232

Subscriptions \$25 per year (included in dues of members). Periodicals postage paid at Madrid, IA 50156. The opinions expressed in the HAWKEYE POSTMASTER are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the United Postmaster and Manager of America.

### WHAT A CELEBRATION-51025

On 5/10/25, I had the privilege to be able to celebrate our Zip Code day with my whole family involved in the festivities. We had an Open House for the public in which all my grandkids helped by handing out cookies punch, and postal related items. There was also a committee that hosted events throughout the afternoon as well as two bands that played that evening, I'm so proud of this town!

#### Article Due Dates

July/Aug: July 6th  
Sep/Oct: September 4th  
Please remember that all members are welcome to submit articles.

Submit to:  
[upmaiaeditor@gmail.com](mailto:upmaiaeditor@gmail.com)

### Upcoming Events

UPMA 9th National Convention  
Sheraton Dallas, Dallas TX  
August 9th-15th, 2025  
July Board Mtg  
July 19th  
Des Moines  
Central Area Officers Symposium  
Double Tree By Hilton, Oak Brook, IL

**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.**