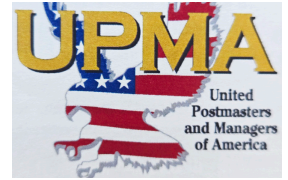


The Hawkeye Heartlander



The Iowa United Postmasters and Managers of America Publication
Volume 10 Issue 14

March/April 26

Join us for the 2026 Tri-State Convention! We are thrilled to bring members from Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota for this year's landmark event. Get ready for a weekend of connection, growth, and jazz-age elegance!

Dates: April 23-26, 2026

Location: Embassy Suites, Lincoln, NE

Golf Thursday: Please contact Jeff Arment 641-751-9141

Thursday evening-find Mr Lincoln in the Haymarket for clues for Friday evenings Mystery Dinner-think flapper dresses and tailored suits(optional)

Friday-training with the district manager covering Service, Cost, and Safety.

Saturday-UPMA day along with national and state board meetings followed by our banquet dinner & games competitive style.

Sunday morning-Memorial Service, goodbyes, and executive board meetings. More information can be found at:

Nebraskaupma.org



Iowa Chapter Member Reps:
Aimee Quick: 641-526-3411
Greg Snow: 515-371-1094
Ellen Opperman: 563-940-3979
Sara Lindauer: 319-480-0815
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.

President
Tony Leonardi
tonyupmafl@gmail.com
Secretary/Treasurer
Gregory Nors
254-744-2241
gnors@unitedpma.org
Executive Vice President
Padric Fisher
559-740-3617
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UPMA MISSION STATEMENT:
United Postmasters & Managers
of America exists to support our
membership through communi-
cation, education, and representa-
tion.

UPMA National Office
8 Herbert St
Alexandria VA 22305-2600
703-683-9027
Unitedpma.org

Signature Federal Credit
Union1-800-336-0284
SignatureFCU.org

National Vice Presidents Central
Kerry Nichols, Workforce Planning
Splst, HQ
309-948-4133
kerrysh12@gmail.com

Jeff Jerrett, Postmaster, IN
317-340-9979
jarrettj55@gmail.com

Mari Beth Kirkland, Employee
Development Mgr, OH1
440-821-4667
mari_kirkland@yahoo.com



Greg Snow

snowteam6@yahoo.com

O/515-532-3182

C/515-371-1094

Iowa UPMA President

Hello UPMA Family.

As I am sitting here trying to come up with an article, I have the inclination to move to the negative, the treatment, the abuse, the torment that we as managers are enduring at this stage. But I want to instill the Positive instead. So that is the last we talk about that in my article!

So, lets talk about the upcoming events just around the horizon. While you read this we will be storming capital Hill talking with our law makers in hopes of getting the Non-career buy back bill passed into law! This would be an amazing feat and would benefit most of you! RCA's, CCA's, TE's casuals, etc. will be able to buy back their time and add it to their retirement. That would be amazing and such a boost in the morale of our employees. If you haven't had the chance to talk with Iowa's lawmakers then please reach out and let them know to jump on the bandwagon and support this effort. It will benefit so many and it is the right thing to do!

The next item on the Calendar will be the third annual Tri-state Convention, it will be the weekend of April 24th and the location will be in Lincoln Nebraska at the Embassy Suites, sign up and come join the fun! So many activities and

so much networking to be had! The entertainment will be a dinner theater, and game night Saturday night with a Corn Hole Tournament. And as we have done in the past, if you join us for the weekend at the Tri-State Convention and join us in San Juan in August, we will reimburse you up to \$500! San Juan will be beautiful and this year we will have most of the afternoons free so we can explore the Island! Are you ready to join us?

Now let us honor those that have been there to mentor, lead, teach, and just been there to hear our concerns. Who has helped you in the past, who was there to give you the advice you needed. Who has put their faith in you to do a good job? I have way to many to mention, but the one manager that allowed me to start my management career with my first OIC position in Casey, Iowa was Sharon Parkison, she saw something in me that I didn't see myself. That was an exciting time as I learned the "art" of managing people. She always had a way of building you up even in the bad times! Thank you Sharon, I hope I haven't let you down!

So, now it is your turn, who was that manager, that mentor that guided you or gave you the opportunity to better yourself. I would like to start writing some articles about those amazing individuals that show the good in people. Send me the name of your mentor, and give me a little background and I will work on an article to showcase those that deserve recognition! That is what we are missing in our current world. Let us change that by promoting the positive!

I know you are working very hard in everything you do. Sometimes the good we do is hidden by the mistakes we may make. The failures/mistakes we do allow us to learn to do things better for our employees and our Customers! The numbers will improve if we treat our employees with the respect they deserve.

Thomas Edison quoted "I have not failed, I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work" If you allow your employees to try something new, and if they fail, encourage them to try again, that's how improvements are made and that allows engagement of all employees, remember, who knows better than the employees that are doing the work!!

I want to thank everyone for allowing me to represent you as the Iowa UPMA President, it is my honor to know all of you, and I hope I do not let you down!

You are the reason I am here. I appreciate you all!

Greg



Iowa UPMA-V/P Communication/ Editor

Attention all EAS and UPMA readers,

Darcie Renze

upmaiaeditor@gmail.com

O/712-368-3061

C/712-369-0684

I want to inform you that compliance is the new way of managing. Welcome to the new USPS. What does compliance mean? It means that's your office, your unit, whatever you may be in charge of, you need to be in compliance. The secret to compliance is to invest your full attention to every little subject your district is focused on. What does your MPOO, MDO, and DM expect from you? Know your office! Understand what is not in compliance in your office and why you are not in compliance. Ask

yourself, what are you going to do to be in compliance for 2026? My theme for 2026 is, "What are we going to do to stop it from happening again?"

Let me tell you it took me a while to understand this compliance repetitive theme. I was negative about it. I was bitter about it until one day another Postmaster told me the postal service had become a compliance entity. My answer is YES: you will need to sit on a two-hour telecon to ensure compliance; this will not stop. You will experience up to three Gemba's in a week, all because you are not in compliance. If your DM wants you to focus on SPM scanning, make your jobs easy and focus on SPM. Educate your supervisors and if you don't have supervisors, educate your carriers and clerks. Remember: establish that Just Cause. Doing the Just Cause dance will make your jobs easier. When you get your report in the morning, and that carrier ignored a scan or passes an address, address it! Also, go that extra step to secure compliance; when that carrier passes that address and their scanner didn't prompt them, hear that carrier and do yourself a favor, send your supervisor or yourself out there and reset that GPS location.

Compliance takes hard work; compliance takes a team. It's all about that carrier who did not scan, again as repetitive as I'm going to be, we're in a world of compliance. Start that one-minute management. Reset that GPS location and walk around to every carrier, every day, that ignored a scan, passed an address, denied a request, and for those who don't set up their scanners correctly or don't scan the number of pieces correctly. Make your jobs easy and address it

Take the time to train the new carriers, do the Just Cause dance with those repeaters. Teach them the right way. If you focus on SPM scanning and compliance, you will make it to the top. Post a copy of the SWI at their cases and PO BOX Sections. You will soon notice that you're not showing up on the SPM reports. This applies to every subject your boss wants you to focus on. Make that flowchart for yourself, and your supervisors; enforce that carrier flowchart. Soon you will notice that your telecons are not about you.

So, what are you going to do to be in compliance? What are you going to do to stop it from happening again? Make 2026 easier.

Iowa UMPA VP Legislative / PAC



Jerry Southard

jsarrow1@hotmail.com

O/641-394-2241

C/501-454-9864

Chuck Grassley

135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

PHONE: (202) 224-3744

Joni Ernst

260 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

PHONE: (202) 224-3254

Ashley Hinson

458 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Phone: (202) 225-2911

Mariannette Miller-Meeks

504 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Phone: (202) 225-6576

Zach Nunn

1410 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Phone: (202) 225-5476

Randy Feenstra

2434 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Phone: (202) 225-4426

Well, it's Legislative Summit time again the UPMA Iowa chapter is going to Washington DC, to talk to our Senators and Representatives. We have meetings scheduled with all our elected officials. We will share concerns that impact Postmasters and Manager's into the future of the Post Office. All UPMA members need to reach out and call your Senator or Representative to let them hear our voice.

The summit is growing each year in attendance and impact. UPMA is a bipartisan leader on Capitol Hill. Our legislative priorities this year:

- * H.R. 1522: Allows employees who started as non-career to count that time toward retirement
- * Postal Supervisors and Managers Fairness Act: Improves the negotiation process for UPMA members' pay and benefits
- * Halting another potential attempt at reconciliation that could cut federal employee benefits.

It's imperative that our members learn about the issues and communicate with their lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

As we are getting ready to attend our Tri-State Convention, in Lincoln, NE, think about what we all can do for PAC? We will have a PAC table with a few other ideas to raise money. Hope to see you in Lincoln.

Iowa UPMA Retiree President



Kevin Schwab
mailman4699@yahoo.com
515-669-9616

Well, we just flipped the calendar and here it is the first week of March already! Time for the girl's state basketball tournament, and "knock on wood", no snowstorm yet with 2 days to go! That also means we are getting closer to the Tri-State convention April 23- 26 in Lincoln, NE. So be sure and get your registration in. As mentioned in my last article, on Friday the retirees and convention guests will have the opportunity to join guided tours of the State Capital and Memorial Stadium. There is no charge for either tour, however there is a minimum of 10 for the tour of Memorial Stadium and needs to be booked two weeks prior. We will join all convention attendees for a tailgate lunch on Friday. Please contact Nebraska Retiree President, Steve Jones if you're interested in joining these tours. Steve's phone number is 531-800-2873. Also during our retiree business meeting, we will be electing a new Secretary for our Iowa Retirees, so think about if you would like to be involved. Nebraska retirees will be in charge of the Hospitality room, so if you feel so inclined, I am sure they would not refuse our help if you would like to volunteer. Also, I am in charge of the Memorial Service on Sunday morning, so if you know of anyone that we need to remember during that service, please let me know so I can include them. I have been including the ones I know about in my article each time, they will be part of the service.

Looking forward to 2027, at this time we are planning on an Iowa UPMA convention somewhere in Iowa east of I-35 and north of I-80. I have sent out requests for proposals and have been getting some good proposals back. We will be deciding at the 2026 convention the final destination for 2027. Hope to see a good number of Iowa Retirees in Lincoln!

IN MEMORY

Lori Hill, Postmaster Retired, Slater, who died February 6

Don't forget we need people to get involved and become an officer

We are holding elections for:

- Iowa UPMA Sec/Treasurer
- Iowa UPMA V/P Education Chair
- Iowa UPMA V/P Communication/Editor
- Retiree Secretary

These are all for a two year term.

We are also electing a Iowa UPMA V/P Legislative/PAC for a one year term to finish out Jeff Stoltze's term.

Iowa UPMA V/P - Membership



Sherri Lingle

sherrilingle4@gmail.com

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C/712-579-8636

Moments of life:

Hello, all my fellow UPMA members:

We had a terrifically busy last couple of months. I just saw Robins. It put a smile on my face. We all know what that means, right? Three snow falls before Spring.

It's a small thing, right? It makes me think of all those moments that brought me here.

O' those moments. The little moments, the crazy moments, the frustrating time, the joyful moments and the extra-ordinary moments. What moments do you share daily with your family and friends? With your coworkers?

I want to share a few moments with you all. I have seen a few moments pass me by. Why did I let those pass me by? Did you let some of those moments pass you by?

Those moments are what make us who we are, those moments open our eyes to what really matters. What do you want to do? Where do you want to go? Do you want to take a vacation? More moments in family time?

When our customers ask us, "what we do", we could try to explain all the moments it takes for us to do what we do. We could talk about the creative ways we process the mail, the parcels and the information. I want to tell you they really don't understand our process, but what we do with all those moments is "make their moments possible".

I have had many people tell me how grateful they are for the work we do. Their moments are directly affected by the moments we take to do our job. We have people that just want a conversation, "it only takes a moment", someone wants you to listen, "it only takes a moment", and maybe someone wants you to just walk alongside them as the refresh their need to see those moments, "it only takes a moment".

We only have so many moments. What do you want to do with your moments?

Do you want your moments to mean something? To be remembered as the one that made them feel extra-ordinary in the moment.

My point is this. It is only a moment. A moment of anger, or a moment of hope, a moment of forgiveness or a moment of resentment? Make your moments count. Enjoy those moments, we only have so many moments. Little moments are very precious.

Sherri Lingle

UPMA Iowa Vice President

Membership Chair



UPMA Iowa Secretary/Treasurer

Hawkeye Heartlander

Article for March/April Issue

Well, can we officially say goodbye to winter and hello to spring? It's raining, in the 50's, greening grass is showing in places, and it smells like spring. BUT, it's girls' basketball tournament week, the boys are up next week, and I can remember not so many years ago that we had a short-lived blizzard on state convention weekend towards the end of April!! So, for now, I guess that we had just better be happy with the nice days we get and knowing that each of them gets us just that closer to "real" spring.

With that being said, the anticipation of spring brings with it some upcoming fun things to do with your UPMA family. Right around the corner is Legislative Summit. This is a unique opportunity for us to follow our PAC dollars and see what they do for us.

Our Congress men and women, while they might seem to be "out of reach" and all high and important because they work in our nation's capital, when it comes right down to it, they are regular people doing a job just like us!

They don't have any a more special way to put their pants on than

we all do, they come from where we are right now (our towns and counties in Iowa), and they have ben elected by their "peers" to represent us and do what's best for us.

With that in mind, we have every right, and truthfully an obligation, to communicate what's best for us, not only as USPS EAS employees but also as people who are a part of this great State of Iowa and citizens of these United States. The opportunity to be a part of these "conversations across the dinner table" should be embraced and taken full advantage of! Just think of the impact that a large group of people with a common goal would have walking into and filling to overflowing a senator or representative's office and having their undivided attention for 30 minutes or more! And a bonus perk on the side is that around these conversations you also have an opportunity to see some of our nation's most respected and awe-inspiring memorials and historical places.

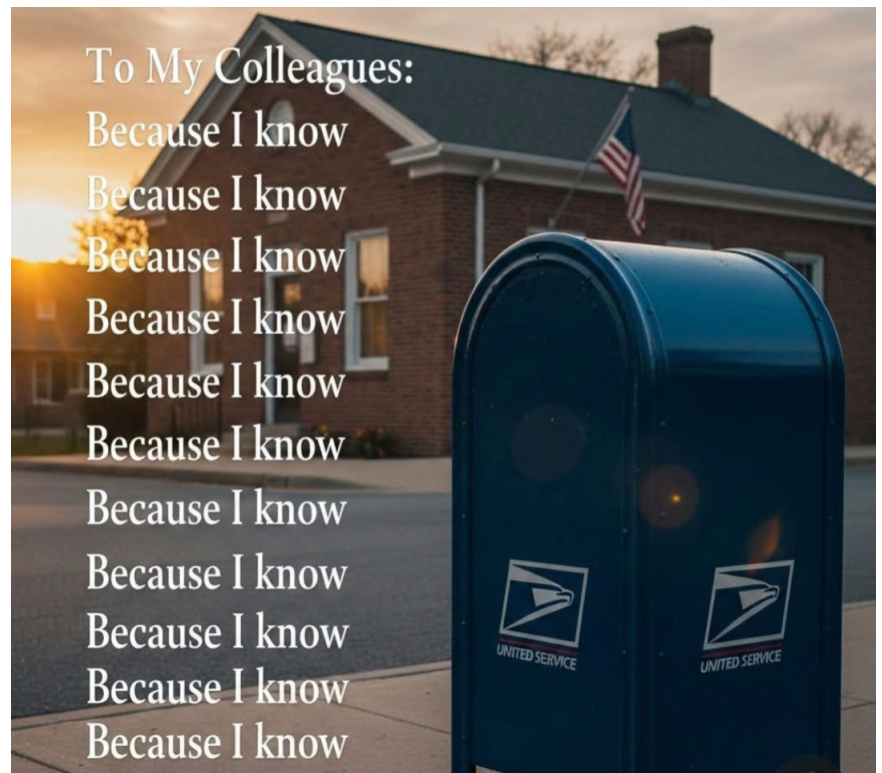
The other event happens a little bit closer to home but is no less important to each of us as UPMA members. Our Tri State convention to be held in Lincoln, NE April 24 – 26 presents many opportunities as well. Yes, it will be quite a distance for many, but what else are you going to do with all that annual leave that you have built up because you can never get away? I used to be one of those people so dedicated to and hands on in my office that it was never a "good time" to be away. However, reality has set in, and surfaces way more often than it used to. I have come to realize that there will ALWAYS be some "mandatory" something that I could be doing. Some observation, training, inspection, survey, etc. that just can't wait until tomorrow or next week. But guess what --- the building won't spontaneously combust, the world as you know it will not implode around you and more than likely the USPS world will have moved on to the next observation, training, inspection, survey, etc. that absolutely and NOT wait another second --- but yet it really can! The old saying that you get out of something only what you put into it really does ring true if you actually stop and think about it! We have those that are inquiring on how to get out of UPMA and you have to wonder why? Have you seen them at any UPMA event, state convention, fall tour meeting, etc. since they joined? Maybe reach out and personally invite a neighboring Postmaster to come to Tri-State Convention; offer to share a ride or a room, some great conversation, and a shoulder to lean on or a friend to count on when the walls seem to be closing in. Get your reservation in today and we'll see you there.

Until next time --- Wanda Lenhart

Printed with permission from the author
"MrsZippy" from the Facebook page 'USPS
LEVEL 18 Postmaster's'.

Twenty-seven years etched into my skin,
I have been where you are, and where you've been.
From District halls to the Level 20 strain,
I climbed the ladder to escape the rain,
Thinking the higher I went, the more I'd breathe,
But the air only thinned as I started to heave.
Because I know.
I know the phantom ring of the phone at night,
The nonstop calls, the family's fading light.
I know the "look" across a quiet room,
From a spouse who's left in the shadow of the gloom.
Three children call me, but the fourth is a ghost,
Sacrificed for a title I wanted the most.
I know.
I have stood in the silence of my own private break,
A heart hammered thin for the service's sake.
I have been the voice on the line at Christmas Eve,
Whispering to a colleague who wanted to leave-
Holding a soul of a Postmaster on the edge,
Pulling them back from the cold, lonely ledge,
The one who thinks they are worth more dead than alive,
A policy payout so the family might thrive.
It sounded like my own heart, once upon a time.
Because I know.
Now, I am "just" a Level 18 with no routes.
A "stepping stone" where I've planted my roots.
Let the peers look down from the levels above,
I have traded the status for the people I love.
My office is a sanctuary, orderly and still,
I pass every audit with a sharpened skill.
My clerk painted a blue box, a fresh coat of pride,
A small, quiet peace I no longer hide.
I stay off the radar, I study the rules,
I've mastered the regulations and all of the tools.
I work through my lunch and I sit way too long.
But I'm there for the doctor's visit, right where I belong.

I am known in my town, I am part of the street,
And I never tell my peers of this quiet retreat.
Because I know.
So when a Postmaster calls me, I drop what I do,
I give you my time, because I've been you.
I hear the pain in the words that you post,
The weight of the work that is hurting the most.
I've found my place and I've drawn my line,
I won't let them take what is legally mine.
Some would shame me for "falling" or staying behind,
But I've reclaimed the soul and I've reclaimed the mind.
The promotion, the "upward", the climb to the top?
It isn't worth the moment your heartbeat might stop.
Ask me how I know.



Deb Droz, Postmaster
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Debra Droz

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Iowa UMPA V\P Education Chair

Retirement

We have all dreamed and waited for the day we can finally close the chapter of our working life. One of the favorite courses that I have facilitated is the USPS Benefits course. Every single session brought in participants that were ready and excited to retire, those who had not even thought about it, and those that were scared that they would never be able to retire. Preparing for retirement starts on your FIRST day with the USPS and continues every year after that. Please don't wait until you are getting eligible to retire. At that point, you are too late to be prepared to maximize your benefits.

In your first five years of employment – Enroll in TSP. At the very minimum be sure to invest at least 2%. You will be receiving matching funds and would otherwise

literally be throwing that money away. The better option is to start right at 5%. You will not notice the difference between 2% and 5%, but your TSP will grow considerably faster.

Review the Health Insurance programs and compare policies. Do you have high medical expenses, young children that need frequent medical appointments, or use routine chiropractic care? All of these need to be factored into your choice.

Be sure to sign up for Life Insurance. You will never find a cheaper option for life insurance.

After 10 years of employment – Each and every year that you receive a raise or promotion, increase your TSP by at least 1%. Again, this is money that you will not miss and it will make a large difference in your retirement.

Review the beneficiary on your life insurance. Is this the same person that you want to receive your money if something would happen to you? Use the comparison tool on Little Blue to compare plans side by side. This tool is available every year and saves you time in this important task

Review your health insurance this year and every year. Has your family grown? Has your medical needs changed? Compare the prices of individual versus family.

Also be sure to make the change with your health insurance company if you have a child that has turned 26 and has fallen off of your plan. This is all money that goes back in your pocket and can be put towards your TSP.

Did you know that the USPS has more employees that retire with 1 million dollars in their TSP than any other federal agency. That can be you!!! It takes planning, patience, and consistency.

When you are within 5 years of retirement – Reach out to a retirement counselor. Most of these companies provide services for FREE. They have experience working with USPS employees at all levels and want to help you maximize your benefits. The companies listed below have all been vetted by UPMA and provide tried and true experience to each individual.

If you cannot answer the following questions you need to reach out to them right away.

FESA – GoFESA.com or 512-387-6202

Postal Blue Book – Postalbluebook.com

Jeff Arment – 641-751-9141

Rich Springer – 563-249-4242

PARCO – GoPARCO.com, 833-467-2726, or info@goparco.com

- What is my minimum retirement age?
- What is a FERS supplement?
- Can I work after retiring?
- What should I do with my TSP after retirement?
- How do I keep my insurance?
- Do I need to work until I am 62?
- CAN I AFFORD TO RETIRE?!?

When you are within 2 years of retirement -You should know the exact date that is best for you to retire, what your income will be after retirement, and how you plan to use the funds in your TSP account.

It is never too early or too late to start planning. Don't wait to get the answers that you need. In the same way that you plan ahead in your day at work, you want to plan ahead for your days after work. It is not easy to find the time, but there is no better investment than your own future.

Sincerely,

Deb Droz, Postmaster



There will be a PAC auction again this year along with a silent auction so please remember to bring your amazing items to donate for this worthy and important cause! The auction is always something everyone has a fun time doing, especially out bidding another member! Thank you in advance for your generosity!

**ONE FORM PER REGISTRANT**

Form can be used only for
check payment. Credit
card payments must be
processed online.

3RD ANNUAL TRI-STATE CONVENTION APRIL 23-26, 2026, LINCOLN NE

First 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 _____

REGISTRATION F E E S

Active Members \$50.00 -reimbursed-must stay entire convention

Retiree Members \$50.00 -reimbursed-must stay entire convention

Guests \$75.00 -includes Saturday Night Banquet Ticket
(After April 1st, registration is non-refundable)

Select your title:

- ☐ Postmaster ☐ Manager ☐ Supervisor ☐ EAS Professional
☐ UPMA Retired ☐ Associate ☐ Guest

If you are attending as a guest, who are you joining? _____

Do you have any food allergies or dietary restrictions? _____

- ☐ I am a First Timer ☐ I am a UPMA Retired First Timer

CHECK PAYMENT**RESERVATIONS****Payment Information**

Convention Fee: _____

Check payable to UPMA Check # _____

Mail all registration/check to:

NE UPMA, Carrie Meyers

506 E Mayo St

O'Neill NE 68763



Or
online
using
the QR
code

Signature _____

By signing this form:

I understand that I am responsible for booking my hotel
room and managing my reservation.

Cancellations received on or after April 1, 2026, will not receive
a refund.

Embassy Suites

1040 P Street, Lincoln NE
(402) 474-1111



Or online
using the QR
code

Block Code: NE Chapter UPMA Tri-
Rates. Government rate will be honored
Thursday and Friday and discounted rate on
Saturday. You must book online or call
the hotel directly to make a reservation.

Candidate For 2026 Iowa UMPA V-P Communication/Editor



CHRIS VAN ROEKEL

Following my retirement from the U.S. Army in 2016, I looked for a viable work solution in rural Iowa. USPS came calling my name. After a year spent as a CCA and a little time working for a Non-Profit, I moved over to the clerk craft and began to really understand how the Postal Service works. It wasn't long after I became a career employee that I threw my hat into the ring to be considered for an EAS position. Much to my surprise, I survived my first interview and became the Postmaster of Jefferson, Iowa.

Since then, I have taken on numerous small projects for Area K and the IA-NE-SD District. I am currently working with the RCI team. Which, if you have had the pleasure of our company, you may have a good or bad opinion of, and that's okay. Regardless, we are all on the same team and the experience has given me a different perspective of many of things that are going right and wrong within our profession.

This season I've been given the opportunity to learn about the COR program and have begun doing data preparation for our adjustment team. I have also been assigned as the alternate Formal A designee for the team. To say these additional duties on top of the RCI route examiner role are easy would be a stretch, but they have also expanded upon my understanding of our profession.

We are at a unique point in the history of the USPS. As the country and service enter their 250th years we see multiple challenges ahead. Technology continues to evolve, and we are forced to evolve along with it. Many things that were supposed to make our jobs easier (big data for one), have actually given us new things to be concerned about. Our volumes continue to decline, as the service expectations of our customers continue to become more demanding. Our employees continue to feel the pressure to do more for the customers, faster and with higher accuracy than ever before, and as their managers and supervisors we are held to task to ensure they are meeting these goals.

Through all of this, one organization has stood firmly behind our EAS employees, and I am proud to be a member of UMPA. The challenges of tomorrow bring a demand for new perspective. I would be honored to be among those that help guide our organization over the coming years.

Chris Van Roekel, Postmaster Jefferson IA

IA-NE-SD RCI / COR Data Prep Tech

Iowa UPMA Candidate for Secretary/Treasurer



Greetings Iowa UPMA members,

I would like to take this opportunity to announce my intent to again run for the position of the Iowa UPMA Chapter Secretary/Treasurer board position. I have been your Sec/Treas for the past two years. It has been a challenge in some ways, mostly the time factor. However, that is also the part that I have enjoyed the most --- the fact that because of that position I

am able to be more involved in all levels of the organization rather than maybe just a single fall tour/area meeting and the state convention. I am currently about a year and a half into my elected term and am getting to a point where I am comfortable with what the position requires and does. I would look forward to the opportunity to continue in the position if you would choose to re-elect me to it. Integrity is a word and an "idea" that is heard often in today's USPS work environment and ever since the beginning of my USPS career, I have held my integrity to a very high personal standard. I do the very same in this position and take great pride in doing things "the right way" --- the details apply to all of us, myself included --- and I would ask for you to give me the opportunity to continue that within this position by voting for me. Thank you for your support over the last 1 ½ years and I ask you for that continued support.

Sincerely,

Wanda S. Lenhart – Iowa UPMA Sec/Treas

Iowa UMPA Candidate for Executive Vice President-Legislative/PAC



My name is Jerry Southard, and I want to be your next Legislative VP. I held multiple UMPA board positions. I have 35 years of government service, 28 postal service and 7 years in the Air Force. I am currently serving as the interim Legislative VP for the Iowa Chapter. I want to bring my experience, leadership and belief in the purpose of UPMA to the table as your next Legislative VP. I ask you all for your vote at this year's Chapter Convention.

Iowa UPMA Candidate for Secretary/Treasurer



My name is Darcie Renze and I have been in the Postal Service 30 years this May. I have been on the Iowa UPMA board for over six years as your V/P Communication/Editor. All those years on the board got me more involved and interested in how we all work together and mentor one another to reach that common goal. I have seen what it takes to keep everyone on task and what each officer needs to do to keep that position in compliance. With that in mind, I would like to run for the Secretary/Treasurer position on the Iowa UPMA board. I feel my interest is to now try for the Sec/Treas position so I can help our organization stay organized and fiscally strong. All my years in the Postal Service have helped shape me into being fiscally responsible and I would like to say organized, but that came from having five children under the age of 10, working at the Post Office, and keeping everyone on track. I also helped my husband run a successful farming business that involved raising hogs and crops. Back then I was an entrepreneur who really didn't know what it took to keep a family of seven going, work full time, and keep the financials of it all. It wasn't always easy, but being organized and up to date on everything made me successful. Some of you may remember when you first

started at the Post Office that all the books were done manually (I know, I am dating myself) but as scary as it seemed, those years also helped form me into a business expert and the feeling I had when everything balanced is one I never forget. I would love to be your next Sec/Treas so we can encompass & gather those around through the common goal to achieving the best for our organization. Thanks for all your support through the years and I would appreciate your vote to give me a new challenge and opportunity to continue my skills.

UPMA National
Scholarship Foundation

The UPMA National Scholarship Foundation is preparing for a successful 2026 scholarship year. National Retiree President Louise Nix has appointed me as Scholarship Chair, with Rich Hui and Deana Wood serving as committee members. In recent years, 17 to 20 scholarships have been awarded to successful applicants.

Scholarships are available to the children, stepchildren, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of UPMA members. The application is accessible on the UPMA National website, unitedpma.org. The number of scholarships awarded at the National convention in Puerto Rico will depend on the available funds and the number of successful applicants. Applications and supporting documents must be postmarked or emailed by Wednesday, June 3, 2026.

How can you help support scholarship funding? Most fundraising efforts have historically taken place at the National Convention. This year, we will hold a daily and final raffle at the convention. If you would like to donate a raffle item, please let me or a committee member know. Keep in mind that travel to and from Puerto Rico may make transporting large items challenging. We encourage donations of smaller items or gift cards for the daily and final raffles.

Eileen Jenkins, Postmaster retired, Wyoming, has donated a beautiful quilt for a raffle. Dan Mihalko, a retired U.S. postal inspector and self-taught artist based in Virginia, has donated a signed print, Spirit of the Pony Express, to the raffle. Anyone who would like to purchase raffle tickets for the scholarship raffles, but won't be attending the National convention, please let me know. You can contribute throughout the year to honor a special person, event, or simply to support the cause. Donations may be made in memory of members and their families, to celebrate promotions, retirements, births, birthdays, anniversaries, or any other meaningful occasion. Corporate donations are also welcomed. I will be reaching out to potential corporate sponsors for their support, but if you'd like to contact any sponsors yourself-corporate or otherwise, or would rather I do so, please let me know. Support from state chapters is also encourage.

Please send monetary donations to the UPMA National Scholarship Foundation c/o National UPMA Retiree Treasurer Anita Pfiefer at 20576 Kearney Path, Lakeville, MN 55044.

Your support of the 2026 scholarship program will help provide valuable educational opportunities for scholarship recipients.

Sharon Janicek, National Scholarship Chair

sharonjanicek@gmail.com

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 2026 Iowa Chapter Convention at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln, Nebraska and the 2026 National Convention at the El Conquistador in Puerto Rico.

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 15th, 2026.

Tri-State Convention Agenda

03:30 PM - 08:00 PM

Thursday Early Registration and Finding Mr Lincoln in the Haymarket

Early registration will begin at 3:30 followed by pairing into teams to begin the Find Mr. Lincoln in the Haymarket. We will conclude and meet at the Hospitality Room at 8 pm. You will turn in your Mr. Lincoln's for clues for Friday's Mystery Dinner.

08:00 AM - 04:00 PM

Friday UPMA Opening Ceremony and District Day of Training

Service, Cost, Safety, and EAP /Consumer Affairs.
Learn how to dig deeper into our NPA indicators and how to improve them.

06:30 PM - 08:30 PM

Friday Night Hors D'oeuvres and Mystery Dinner

Join us for an intriguing evening as we go back in time to the roaring 20's and try to solve this postal murder mystery.

08:00 AM - 04:00 PM

Saturday UPMA Day

We will begin with training followed by National Business Meeting. Lunch, the Retirees will honor our First Timer's and conclude with a Trivia game. Individual state business meetings following lunch ending at 4:00.

05:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Saturday Cocktail Hour followed by Dinner and Games

Cocktail Hour will start at 5:30 followed by dinner at 6:30 where we will uncover the guilty culprit. After dinner, join us for a competitive competition of Corn Hole. 1st-3rd place will receive a customized Corn Hole Board. Other games and music to be determined.



2026 Legislative Summit
UPMA National President
Tony Leonardi (left) Iowa
Senator Chuck Grassley(right)
(middle left-)Iowa UPMA
members visiting with Chuck
Grassley. Group of UPMA
Board Members enjoying
the view. (bottom left) Iowa
UPMA members visiting with
Congressman Noon, (mid-
dle picture)Capital Tour and
National President Tony with
PMG Mr. Steiner



UPMA 10TH ANNUAL
**NATIONAL
 CONVENTION**
 AUGUST 1-7, 2026 • PUERTO RICO

One form per registrant.
 Form can be used only for
 check payment. Credit
 card payments must be
 processed online.

CONTACT INFORMATION

First 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 _____

FEES

2026 National Convention Registration Rates	August 9, 2025 - August 15, 2025	August 16, 2025 - March 31, 2026	April 1, 2026 - June 30, 2026	After June 30, 2026
Postmaster, Manager, Supervisor or EAS Professional	\$200	\$220	\$252	\$300
UPMA Retired, Auxillary, Associate or Guest	\$150	\$155	\$189	\$225
Children 17 and under <i>This rate includes child's meal at the Banquet.</i>	\$100	\$110	\$126	\$150

Select your title:

- ☐ Postmaster ☐ Manager ☐ Supervisor ☐ EAS Professional
☐ UPMA Retired ☐ Auxillary ☐ Associate ☐ Guest ☐ Child

If you are attending as a guest, who are you joining? _____

Do you have any food allergies or dietary restrictions? _____

- ☐ I am a First Timer ☐ I am a UPMA Retired First Timer

Note: Active first-timers must pay their registration fee in advance. After attending the convention, they must submit a form to the National Office to be reimbursed.

CHECK PAYMENT

Payment Information

Convention Fee: _____

Check payable to UPMA Check # _____

Signature _____

By signing this form:

- I understand that I am responsible for booking my hotel room and managing my reservation.
- I have read and understand the registration cancellation policies. Cancellation Policy: Cancellation requests must be submitted via email to UPMA@crispevents.me. Requests received on or before July 13, 2026 will be assessed a \$50 cancellation fee per person. Cancellations received on or after July 14, 2026, will not receive a refund. Tickets for cancelled registrants are not available for use by other registrants. Registration transfers (name changes) are not permitted.

RESERVATIONS

Hotel reservation are open! Details regarding available room types at the El Conquistador Resort are available on the UPMA Website.

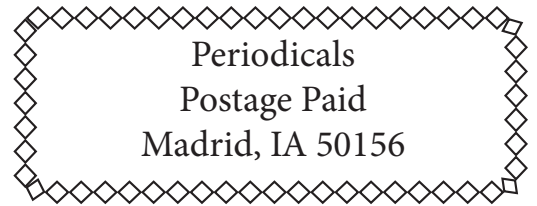
Select National Events from the Events drop-down menu

The UPMA room rate is \$219/night. In addition to the room rate, the following fees will be assessed.

- Daily housekeeping fee of \$3/day plus taxes (total fee \$3.35 per day);
- One time bellman fee of \$10/person (total fee \$11.15 per person);
- Daily resort fee of \$35/day plus taxes (total fee \$38.15 per day)

UPMA rates are available until July 10, 2026 or until the room block is sold out, whichever comes first. The group rate is offered 5 days before and 3 days after the event dates based on availability. To reserve extended dates, book your room for the event dates in the UPMA block first, then contact the El Conquistador Resort reservations department (reservations@elconresort.com) to request your extended dates.

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



Article Due Dates

May/June: May 13th

July/August: July 8th

September/October: Sept. 12th

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

Submit to: upmaiaeditor@gmail.com

THE HAWKEYE POSTMASTER

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Upcoming Events

2026 Tri State Convention

April 23rd-26th, 2026

Lincoln, NE

see page 12 for registration

UPMA 10th National Convention

August 1 -7, 2026

Las Croabas, PR

See page 19 for registration

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.