



VOLUME 9 ISSUE 2

ZIP LINE

MAR/APR/MAY 2025



Newly Elected Wisconsin UPMA Executive Board Members Serving 2026 ~ 2027

Johnny Mendoza Chapter President
Anne Marcus Casey Chapter Executive VP

Cori Crawford Vice President Retirees
Marianne Zarling Secretary Treasurer Retirees



In attendance at our
Scholarship Awards;

Matt Retzlaff
Jesse Retzlaff
Nora Strock
Emily Szpylman
Rianna Wiersma

Unable to attend
this years Awards;

Kayla Weathers
Hannah Kate Hinker
Aidan Ruedinger
A full write-up on
each Scholarship
Award can be found
starting on page 19.

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: JUNE 15TH, 2025

EXECUTIVE BOARD 2025



President
Melissa Tarlton
Shawano WI 54166
(o) 920 438-9480
(h) 920 598-1180
melisstarlton@gmail.com



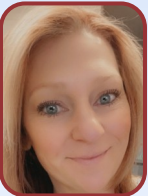
Executive VP (Membership)
Rachel Cayce
McFarland WI 53558
(o) 920 563-5881
(h) 608-566-7146
rmcayce12@gmail.com



Vice President (Legislative/PAC)
Paul Petrovich
Stoughton WI 53589
(o) 608 877-8690
(h) 608 577-8017
paul.petrovich1356@gmail.com



Vice President (Education)
Lisa Wojnarowski
Wisconsin District
Milwaukee WI 53201
(o) 414 287-2566
(h) 414 852-4921
upmawojo@yahoo.com



Secretary/Treasurer
Lisa Prochazka
(o) 262-251-6411
(h) 262-225-2553
lisa.wiupma@yahoo.com



President Retirees
Pauline Colamatteo
608 434-0647
pncolamatteo@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS

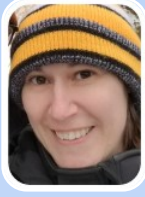


Editor
WI UPMA Zip Line
Rick Dama
262 719-1267
radpm3262@gmail.com



Website Administrator
Michael Simon
Coleman WI 54112
920 370-3469
mpsimon@me.com

MEMBER REP 2025



Member Rep.
Laurie Bue
612 720-8047
redgizzy555@gmail.com



Member Rep.
Jeannie McLaughlin
847 529-8067
JeannieMcLaughlin12@gmail.com



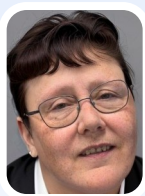
Member Rep.
Nancy Ackerman
Thiensville WI 53092
(o) 262-242-0955
(h) 414-544-7234
nortoniii@yahoo.com



Member Rep.
Scott Hughart -
Mauston WI 53948
(o) 608-847-5939
(h) 309-826-7254
scotthughartupma@gmail.com



Member Rep.
Angela Thurow
Sherwood WI 54169
(o) 920-989-1999
(h) 920-905-0136
arpunk@yahoo.com



Member Rep.
Natalie Price
Eau Claire P&DC
423-903-3633
natmcp@aol.com



Member Rep.
Thomas Zumpano
Madison
608-400-5378
thomas@zumpanos.com

WISCONSIN AUXILIARY



Wisconsin Auxiliary
Katie Hughart
715 630-8249
katiehughartupma@gmail.com

RETIREES 2025



President Retirees
Pauline Colamatteo
608 434-0647
pncolamatteo@gmail.com



Executive VP Retirees (Membership)
Galen Freymiller
608 335-6830
galenfreymiller@yahoo.com



VP Retirees
Past President (2019)
Bill Tierney
608 697-5920
wctierney@charter.net

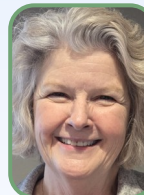


Sec/Treas Retirees
Marianne Zarling
920 420-3826
pm54947@gmail.com

COMMITTEES



Parliamentarian
Bill Tierney
608 697-5920
wctierney@charter.net



Scholarship Chair, Chaplain
Margaret Szymanski
608 296-3653
richi@palacenet.net
peggie131@gmail.com



Convention Chair
Rachel Cayce
McFarland WI 53558
(o) 920 563-5881
(h) 608-566-7146
rmcayce12@gmail.com



Memorial Service Chair
Linda Hobbs
715 435-3267
clhobb@wctc.net

Email address for Wisconsin UPMA, President and for Adverse action is wiupma@gmail.com



Melissa Tarlton, PM Shawano
President 2024~2025

Benefits of UPMA

Yesterday I signed up a new member who told me their manager said UPMA doesn't do anything for managers...is their manager hoping they don't join so they don't educate themselves of their rights as EAS?

I don't take lightly my duty to utilize your membership dues wisely, and I hope you never have to reach out to us for representation due to threat of discipline or dismissal. Our WI Chapter officers and chapter member rep's are just a phone call away 7 days a week for confidential advice and guidance.

*An officer and CMR have 3 digit meetings throughout the state periodically to provide updates and support to our members along with a free meal.

*At least one member from each of the House of Representative Districts get a stipend to cover most of their travel expenses to attend the annual two day UPMA Legislative Summit in Washington DC. Our attendees get trained in Postal and EAS legislative issues to prepare them for their meeting with their congressmen/staffers.

*Our bylaws require us to have an annual WI Chapter convention to do

quarters personnel and National Officers.

*Our officers attend an annual one day Central Area UPMA Conference for officers to receive training on their official duties.

*Two to three officers attend the annual one day UPMA Membership Academy to train them on how to ef-

Your UPMA membership is an insurance policy for your career!

So, where does your dues go? ½ goes to the WI Chapter AND here is how we use them....

*Wisconsin has seven Chapter Member Rep's (CMR) that attend one day of annual training given by our National Member Rep's. Your CMR's also attend most investigative interviews in person. It is important that our CMR sits alongside of our member instead of on zoom.

*An officer brings a congratulatory lunch to the Postmaster Essentials training and gives a UPMA presentation.

the business of our organization. It also includes networking and training. Registration covers only a portion of the expenses to host the convention.



Also, first timers get their registration refunded. All proceeds for our WI Chapter Scholarship for members children/grandchildren comes from donations. Up to

\$10,000 in scholarships are awarded every year to high school seniors.

*Our chapter covers most of the travel expenses for officers, CMRs and interested members to attend the annual UPMA National convention. Along with the required business meetings, attendees receive training by Head-

fectively recruit new members and promote UPMA. Recruitment mailings go to Postmasters, Supervisors and 204B's.

*The Wisconsin Chapter hosts a booth at the annual USPS Career Conference and the meet and greet event the evening before. UPMA refunds current and new member's registration to the Career Conference.

*Purchase of software subscriptions to produce our print needs, communication and zoom confidential 991 reviews for our members. 1,000 copies of the Zip Line Wisconsin Chapter magazine are mailed/distributed 5 times a year.

*A small stipend for our Secretary/Treasurer, Editor and Webmaster for their time and expertise in their position.

**NEVER SAY
'THAT WON'T
HAPPEN TO ME'.
LIFE HAS A
FUNNY WAY OF
PROVING US
WRONG.**

If Mama ain't happy,
ain't nobody happy.

per your editor

If President ain't happy,
ain't nobody happy.



Johnny Mendoza, PM Neenah
President Elect 2026~2027

A New Journey

This story begins almost two years ago, where as a newly appointed Postmaster in Menasha I was told that I had a visitor. Turned out that it was a UPMA member who had stopped by on a recruiting mission. I had never met him before, but he sold me on the idea of UPMA and likened it to being a part of something bigger, something better, an organization that not only cares about its members, but is there when needed. I happily joined and proudly display the UPMA desktop nameplate that I was given.

Fast forward a bit to 2024. I attended a 3 digit meeting the day before our year end meeting in Peewaukee. I have to say that I was blown away! I learned so much. I felt like I had been missing out on information. There was more out there, more to be learned, more to share. It was during that meeting that I learned about the legislative summit meeting that takes place each year in Washington DC. The summit further's UPMA's agenda on Capitol Hill. I remember telling our current President Melissa that I would one day like to be more involved, and told her that I wanted to be like her one day (when I grow up).

My wife and I decided to attend the 2025 legislative summit. I have to say it was a roller coaster of emotions. I had never imagined that I would be learning so much about UPMA. They not only do things for EAS, but they also work on things that can and will have an impact on all USPS employees. For example, with the sup-

port of congress, we could have the possibility of buying back non-career time. Such things come at a price however, and one has to learn how things work in Washington. I thought that we would be working directly with our elected representatives, but we actually met with members of their staff. At first I was upset, thinking what would they know? How could they possibly help? Interestingly, we have a nephew who has lived in DC for several years now and works across the street from the White House. He spent time as a staffer and chuckled when I shared this with him. He said "Uncle, it is most often the staffers that point our elected officials in the right direction". It was a part of the game, a political one that is played in a different manner than any I had ever played before. It is one that takes patience, determination, and resolve. It can take years, but when done correctly, pays dividends for all of us. One that I was proud to learn and be a part of.

Fast forward a bit more. When the summit was over, my wife and I had decided to stay a few days longer. We spent quality time with not only our nephew, but our son as well. We took

an amazing monument tour compliments of UPMA. We saw the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Magna Carta, and walked the hallowed grounds of Arlington, witnessing the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

However, nothing could have prepared me for our trip to the greatest museum of all time in my humble opinion. Now I may be a little partial. I proudly served this great Country of ours in the US Army for nearly two decades, yet had never heard of the National Museum of the United States Army. Located in Fort Belvoir, Virginia, we spent the better part of a day there, taking it all in, learning, and for me remembering the

lessons I not only learned as a Soldier, but that I strive to practice each and every day. The exhibits go from pre-Revolutionary War to our most recent War against Terrorism. It was awe inspiring, humbling, motivating, and simply amazing to behold.

It was then that I decided that I needed to do

(Continued on page 5)

1775 Liberty Drive, Fort Belvoir, VA The National Museum of the United States Army, located at **1775 Liberty Drive, Fort Belvoir, VA**, celebrates over **245 years of Army history** and honors soldiers from the regular Army, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard



(Continued from page 4)

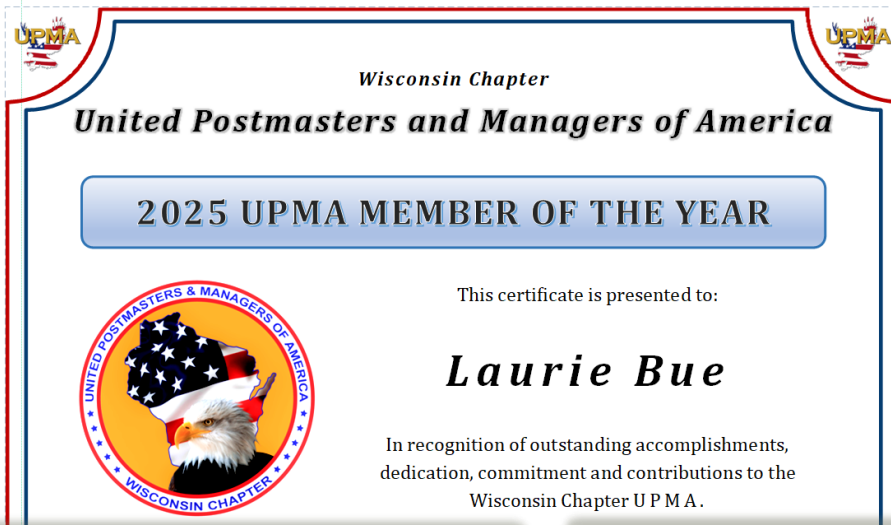
more for this organization. To be more. To take lessons I learned traveling all over the world and applying them to the best of my ability, striving to make my corner of our world better. To exercise the courage to speak truth to power. To do my part to empower those in need. To do my part as a member of something bigger than myself, to better the common good. As USPS employees we all took an oath, as Postmasters we took another. We swore to uphold the constitution, to be better, we are truly citizens with a higher calling.

It all came full circle shortly after returning. I was asked if I would be interested in accepting a nomination to lead our Wisconsin State Chapter as our next President. I have to admit, I took my time with it. I first discussed it

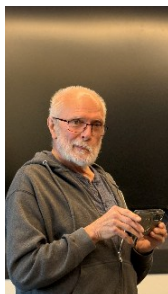
with my wife. She's my rock, and truly my better half. Knowing that serving in the role would impact not only time spent at home but also time away from home, her answer was "You jump, I jump". We decided that it was the right thing to do. Humbly I accepted the nomination. I was voted and sworn in on Saturday, April 26. While this term will not officially start until January 1st 2026, I plan on being as involved as possible, to make the transition as seamless as possible. I know that I

have big shoes to fill. President Tarlton has led with class and with grace. She has more than doubled our membership in less than two years. She is one of the most knowledgeable people I know, and I for one have leaned on her many times! I am up for the challenge, and look forward to taking us to new heights. It will take all of us though. There is strength in numbers. We have countless years of experience not only in our active membership, but with our retirees, associates and soon our auxiliary. It is my goal to utilize our resources to continue to grow, to make the Wisconsin Chapter the pride of UPMA, to be the very best we can possibly be. I believe WE CAN, and WE WILL!

In solidarity,
Your President Elect
Johnny Mendoza



**State Convention Abby Resort and Avani Spa
Friday April 25 ~ Saturday April 26, 2025**



Friday



**Rita and her uncle, Julius Mianecki, US Army,
Koren War Veteran
Standing at our Missing Man Table**



All Retired, All Smiling





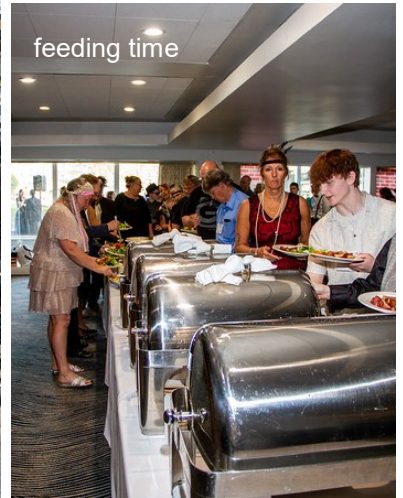
The Cayce Clan



The Roaring 20's
(watch the hand mister)

Saturday

feeding time



candy cigarettes habit



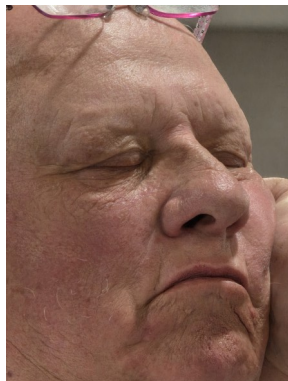
Memorial Service



Our own
DJ Tom



A frozen editor and a happy
webmaster, we can make you
look good, or not?



My brother says to never
mess with a Veteran, they
could snap at any time.
Love you like a brother.



What the hell did Jerry say?



Duesterbeck's Brewery Tour

Wisconsin District

uspsnewsbreak

March 7, 2025

Promotions and New Assignments

I am pleased to announce the following selections for management positions in the Wisconsin District for the period of January 12, 2025, through February 22, 2025. Management appointments are important career milestones that deserve recognition. Please join us in congratulating these employees and give them your full support.

LAST	FIRST	JOB TITLE	OFFICE	EFFECTIVE	LEVEL
BEHLING	DAVID	POSTMASTER	WILMOT PO	2/22/2025	18
BEIER	AUGUST	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	FOND DU LAC PO	1/11/2025	17
BENJAMIN-ROUTEN	MONIQUE	POSTMASTER	DELAN PO	2/8/2025	20
BILLERBECK	SARAH	INDUSTRIAL ENGN TRAINEE (LVL-02)	MADISON WI P&DC	1/11/2025	19
BROWN	JA NEAL	PROCESSING SUPPORT SPECIALIST	OAK CREEK WI P&DC	2/22/2025	17
CHRISTENSON	SARA	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	WAUNAKEE PO	2/8/2025	17
CORONA SR	JUAN	SUPV DISTRIBUTION OPERATIONS	MILWAUKEE WI P&DC	1/11/2025	17
FELTON	ERIK	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	OREGON PO	2/22/2025	17
FINA	LUCIANO	SUPV DISTRIBUTION OPERATIONS	MADISON WI P&DC	1/25/2025	17
HANSEN	TRICIA	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	SOUTH MILWAUKEE PO	1/11/2025	17
HANSON	ZACHARY	INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER (PROCESSING)	OAK CREEK WI P&DC	1/11/2025	21
HARTWELL	DAYNE	POSTMASTER	OCOMOWOC PO	2/22/2025	21
HICKS	MICHAEL	POSTMASTER	BELOIT PO	1/11/2025	22
HITZ	JESSICA	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	ROTHSCHILD WI SDC	2/22/2025	17
KIESE	NICHOLAS	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	KENOSHA PO	2/22/2025	17
KRAMER	MEGAN	POSTMASTER	WISCONSIN RAPIDS PO	1/25/2025	21
LEONARD	SABRINA	POSTMASTER	WISCONSIN DELLS PO	1/25/2025	20
LILLY	RHEA	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	MADISON MAIN CARRIER	2/22/2025	17
MCMURRAY	SAMANTHA	POSTMASTER 18 (B)	BLOOMER PO	2/22/2025	43
MURRAY	LAJUANTE	SUPV CUSTOMER SVCS (RELIEF)	MADISON PO	1/11/2025	17
NOBLIN	SARAH	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	ROTHSCHILD WI SDC	2/22/2025	17
POWERS	ANTHONY	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	MILTON PO	2/22/2025	17
RONDORF	TIMOTHY	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	WHITEWATER PO	1/11/2025	17
SANCHEZ	TAMMI	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	ROTHSCHILD WI SDC	2/22/2025	17
SANCHEZ SR	JOSHUA	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	MIL-WAUWATOSA BR	1/25/2025	17
SYVOCK	PAUL	PROCESSING SUPPORT SPECIALIST	MILWAUKEE WI P&DC	1/11/2025	17
THOMPSON	KYLIE	BUSINESS LEAD DEVELOPMENT SPEC	CUSTOMER RELATIONS-WI	1/25/2025	17
VERGEER	NICOLE	POSTMASTER	HARTLAND PO	1/25/2025	20
WANDZEL	MARK	POSTMASTER 18 (B)	PRESCOTT PO	1/11/2025	43
WILINSKI	KENNETH	POSTMASTER 18 (B)	COLEMAN PO	1/11/2025	43
YANG	THAI	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	ROTHSCHILD WI SDC	2/22/2025	17

Wanda Prater
District Manager

PLEASE COPY AND POST ON ALL EMPLOYEE BULLETIN BOARDS.

PUBLISHED BY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS, WISCONSIN DISTRICT

USPS EAGLE SYMBOL AND LOGOTYPE ARE TRADEMARKS OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

April 28, 2025

Promotions and New Assignments

I am pleased to announce the following selections for management positions in the Wisconsin District for the period of February 23, 2025, through April 19, 2025. Management appointments are important career milestones that deserve recognition. Please join us in congratulating these employees and give them your full support.

OFFICE	LAST	FIRST	JOB TITLE	EFFECTIVE	LEVEL
MILWAUKEE WI P&DC	ABIDI	KARIM	SUPV DISTRIBUTION OPS (REL)	3/22/2025	17
MILWAUKEE WI P&DC	ALASE	ABAYOMI	MGR DISTRIBUTION OPER	3/8/2025	24
SPARTA PO	ANDERSON	APRIL	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	4/19/2025	17
TREMPEALEAU PO	AVERBECK	LANCE	POSTMASTER	3/22/2025	18
JANESVILLE PO	BARTSCHER	TARAH	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	4/5/2025	17
MILWAUKEE WI P&DC	CUFF	ADRIAN	SUPV DIST OPS (APPRENTICE)	4/19/2025	16
MONDOVI PO	GARDEHL	TAMMY	POSTMASTER 18 (B)	3/22/2025	43
BRILLION PO	GORDON	VASHIA	POSTMASTER 18 (B)	3/8/2025	43
GREEN BAY WI VMF	GREEN	JOSEPH	SUPV VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	4/5/2025	17
OAK CREEK WI P&DC	HANSON	ZACHARY	MGR PROCESSING SUPPORT	3/22/2025	25
BAYFIELD PO	HENSLEY	LINDSAY	POSTMASTER 18 (B)	3/8/2025	43
PHILLIPS PO	HERBST	KAREN	POSTMASTER	4/19/2025	20
MUSKEGO PO	HERRO	JARED	POSTMASTER	3/22/2025	20
MONROE PO	HICKS	M ELIZABETH	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	3/8/2025	17
FORT ATKINSON PO	HOFFMAN	KYLE	POSTMASTER	4/19/2025	20
NEW LONDON PO	HOTTENSTINE	NICOLE	POSTMASTER	3/22/2025	20
HORICON PO	HOWARD	CARLIE	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	3/22/2025	17
MAD-WESTSIDE STA	JOHNSON	EARVIN	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	3/8/2025	17
DODGEVILLE PO	LAMPE	MICHAEL	POSTMASTER	4/19/2025	20
OSHKOSH ANNEX	LEBRON	SARAH	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	3/8/2025	17
IOLA PO	LEE	ADAM	POSTMASTER 18 (B)	4/19/2025	43
COLEMAN PO	LORANG	MELISSA	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	4/5/2025	17
GREEN BAY PO	MCALLISTER	STARR	SUPV CUSTOMER SRVC SPPRT	4/19/2025	17
OAK CREEK WI P&DC	MCDOWELL	TIMOTHY	SUPV DISTRIBUTION OPER	3/22/2025	17
JANESVILLE PO	MURRAY	ROBERT	POSTMASTER	3/8/2025	22
CRIVITZ PO	O'CONNOR	CHERYL	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	3/22/2025	17
MILWAUKEE WI P&DC	PETTIGREW	TE LA	PROCESSING SUPPORT SPEC	3/8/2025	17
MILWAUKEE WI P&DC	SAFFOO	FAWAZ	SUPV DISTRIBUTION OPER	3/22/2025	17
DE FOREST PO	SAUER	TODD	POSTMASTER	4/5/2025	20
LODI PO	SERROSA	KEVIN	POSTMASTER 18 (B)	4/5/2025	43
MILWAUKEE WI P&DC	SHEFFA	TWYLA	MGR DISTRIBUTION OPER	4/19/2025	19
SURING PO	SIMON	MICHAEL	POSTMASTER 18 (B)	3/8/2025	43
WAUKESHA PO	SMITH	POLLY	SUPV CUSTOMER SRVC SPPRT	4/5/2025	17
KEN-CARRIER ANX	STOLARSKI	AMY	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	3/8/2025	17
TOMAHAWK PO	THOMPSON	KRISTINE	POSTMASTER	3/8/2025	20
MIL-HILLTOP STA	TYLER	KEYWANA	SUPV CUST SERV (APPRENTICE)	4/19/2025	16
MILWAUKEE PO	VELEZ	ALEX	SUPV CUSTOMER SVCS (REL)	3/22/2025	17
MAD-SOUTHSIDE STA	WALDHERR	JENNIFER	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	3/22/2025	17
MAD-MIDDLETON BR	WALKER	DAVID	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	3/8/2025	17
WEYAUWEGA PO	WALKER	RICHARD	POSTMASTER 18 (B)	4/19/2025	43
SUPERIOR PO	WALTZ	CHRISTOPHER	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	3/22/2025	17
WISCONSIN DELLS PO	WEATHERS	BRIAN	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	4/19/2025	17
EAU-CARRIER ANX	WOOD	WYATT	SUPV CUSTOMER SERVICES	4/19/2025	17

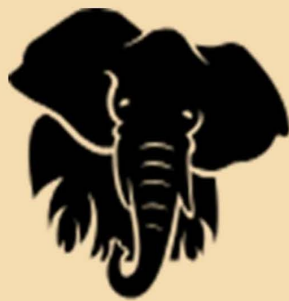
UPMA MEMBERS

Registration Refunded

pick up rebate form at the UPMA Booth

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

2025 USPS CAREER CONFERENCE



Kalahari
RESORTS &
CONVENTIONS

Kalahari Resorts & Conventions • 1305 Kalahari Drive • Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

SUNDAY – JUNE 8, 2025

Career Conferences provide employees a way to explore future career opportunities and areas of advancement. You will learn about potential career paths and network with leaders across the organization in various departments. Participate in interactive breakout sessions and showcase your skills.

Register today using the QR Code!



Key Points:

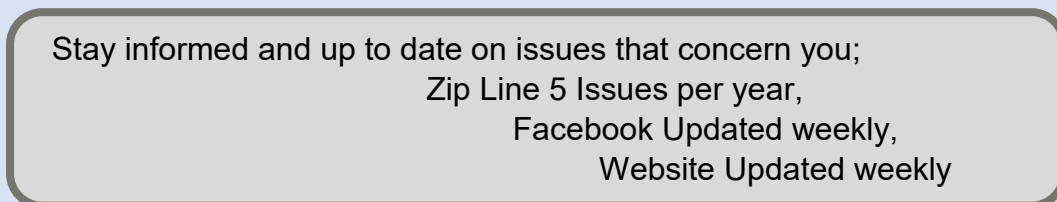
- \$30 Early Bird Registration Fee – Discounted rate ends May 27
- Times: 9 AM to 4:30 PM –Lunch entrée included
- ALL employees, including career, non-career, craft & EAS, invited to attend
- Keynote Speaker: Marc McCrery, Vice President, Customer Experience
- Optional Saturday Night Engagement Event at Redd's Piano at the Kalahari
- Special Room Rates available for Attendees* – **Savings of \$211 per night!**

*Rooms available for Friday and Saturday night. Booking link provided following paid registration

UPMA MEMBERS

Registration Refunded

pick up rebate form at the UPMA Booth



Need help with eCareer? 991 application? Interview Skills? KSA's?

We are here to help . . .

Schedule a confidential **ZOOM eCareer Review** with one of our UPMA leaders. In the session we will review your application, get your questions answered and help prepare you for the interview process.

Email -

wiupma@gmail.com



Heading back soon to enjoy the a wonderful Wisconsin Spring?

Heading south to the warm sun and sand?

Log into UnitedPMA.org, access your information and update your temporary address, or contact:

Rick Dama
UPMA Zip Line
N6196 County Road F
Sullivan WI 53178-9733
radpm3262@gmail.com

**Have you ever noticed that
all instruments searching
for intelligent life...**



**Are pointed away
from Earth**

Postal history

Postmaster Finder

Research. Search. Discover. Uncover.

<https://about.usps.com/who/profile/history/postmaster-finder/>

[Home](#) [City](#) [Where served](#) [County](#) [State](#) [Est. date](#) [Disc. date](#) [ZIP Code](#) [FAQs](#)

What you will find: Most postmasters appointed after 1986 and some postmasters appointed before 1986, back to the 1700s.

Presently, we offer complete information on more than 17,000 Post Offices, and the number increases weekly.

Postmasters

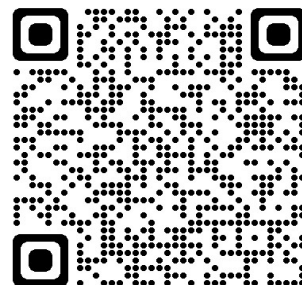
- [Postmasters by city](#)
- [Postmasters by where they served](#)

Post Offices

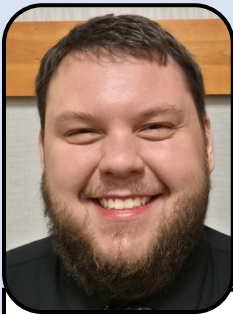
- [Post Offices by county](#)
- [Post Offices by state](#)
- [Post Offices by established date](#)
- [Post Offices by discontinued date](#)
- [Post Offices by ZIP Code](#)

[FAQs about Postmaster Finder](#)

[Contact the USPS Historian](#)



Postmaster Finder



**Paul Petrovich, PM Stoughton
VP (Legislative/PAC)**

Hello readers!



Hello all by the time you are reading this I hope everyone had a great easter along with a great state convention. I know Rachel has been working tirelessly to make our state convention a huge success. With the passing of H.R. 82 it is time to focus on new business and we have a lot of business to discuss. In March we had our yearly visit to capitol hill, it was my first time going but I learned a tremendous amount. Except for Ron Johnson the senator who couldn't be bothered to return my two dozen calls, emails, or even when I appeared at his office to get a meeting with his legislative aide, only for him to tell me the aide wasn't in till later and then was promptly out of the country when I came back. I digress, it was a tremendous experience and glad I got to be apart of it. In total I believe there was sixteen of us from the Wisconsin chapter that went to capitol hill to

speak to legislative aides and hear their positions on current postal issues.

UPMA is currently focusing on 6 issues that are affecting the organization. I'm going to keep these topics brief, the first topic is postal governance, service and delivery. Basically, we are ensuring that everyone gets mail delivery in the United States. Sec-

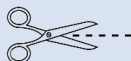


ond topic Title 39 Reform, trying to get MSPB rights for all EAS employees. The third topic is the Federal Retirement Fairness Act H.R. 1522. This allows employees to buy back years of service before they became career, similar to military buyback time. The fourth topic is Budget Reconciliation Impact, the house budget resolution is looking for 50 billion from agencies from the house oversight and accountability office. These reductions will most likely come from current retirees or benefits such as FERS or PSHB. The fifth topic

is the Postal Board of Governors, we support having a full board of governors. Which will allow us to make critical decisions affecting our day-to-day operations. The sixth and final topic is privatization, which nobody wants. More than likely would affect rural areas and cause the postal service that we know and love to become a shell of what it currently is.

This small brief on the topics is just that, very brief!! I could spend quite a while on these topics, but we do have a budget and I cant be half of the Zip Line. I would like to thank everyone that went to D.C. with me this year, it was my first attempt and I had big shoes to fill. All that was planned went off like clockwork, I did find some room for improvement on my end and next year shall be even better!

Paul Petrovich
Wisconsin VP Legislative/PAC
608-577-8017



UPMA PAC CONTRIBUTION CARD

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

Date _____

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

Member ID: (if known) _____

Credit/Debit Card Contributions:

Name: _____

Acct.# _____

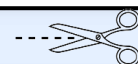
Address: _____

Exp. Date: _____ / _____ CVV: _____

City St Zip: _____

Signature: _____

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





UNITED POSTMASTERS AND MANAGERS OF AMERICA

2025 UPMA

Legislative Issues Brief

Postal Governance, Service and Delivery

The United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA) strongly supports needed reforms to improve the operations and financial health of the USPS. As an organization dedicated to advocating for postal leaders and ensuring the long-term viability of the Postal Service, UPMA recognizes the critical importance of achieving financial sustainability while maintaining and improving service excellence.

UPMA stands behind the leaders who focus on modernizing operations, protecting workers' safety and job stability and expanding delivery capabilities to meet transitioning volume demands of our customers. By investing in employees and fostering innovation, the plan aligns with UPMA's mission to empower postal leaders and strengthen the Postal Service's ability to fulfill its universal service commitment. UPMA remains engaged in supporting policies and initiatives that reinforce operational efficiency, enhance reliability and secure the financial future of the Postal Service for generations to come.

UPMA believes that performance improvement must be fact-based and transparent. We support the bipartisan Protect Postal Performance Act introduced by Reps. Nikki Budzinski (D-IL), Jack Bergman (R-MI), Harriet Hageman (R-WY) and Jared Golden (D-ME).

Title 39 Reform

UPMA is working to advance legislative reforms and updates to Title 39 to ensure fair treatment of our members and enforceable employment protections. Currently, UPMA members face a significant disadvantage due to outdated laws. These outdated statutes provide no accountability or enforceability of matters around pay and benefits negotiation.

UPMA supports key reforms to Title 39, U.S. Code, to include:

- Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) rights: All Executive and Administrative Schedule (EAS) employees should have the right to appeal adverse actions to the MSPB, providing a fair and independent review process.
- Binding salary negotiations: When salary negotiations reach the fact-finding stage, the outcome must be legally binding with



accountability measures to ensure implementation.

- Interim pay protections: To prevent long delays in pay adjustments outside the control of the USPS and Title 39-impacted employees, UPMA and Title 39-recognized employees should have the choice to enter into interim pay package negotiations until a final negotiation can be resolved.

Federal Retirement Fairness Act H.R. 1522

UPMA fully supports the bipartisan Federal Retirement Fairness Act introduced by Reps. Gerry Connolly (D-VA), David Valadao (R-CA), Nikki Budzinski (D-IL) and Don Bacon (R-NE). Many postal employees and managers have faced the challenge of lost retirement contributions due to temporary employment status at the beginning of their career.

By allowing these employees to make catch-up contributions, this bipartisan legislation provides a long-overdue solution that enables them to retire on schedule with full benefits. UPMA is committed to advocating for policies that protect and enhance the financial security of postal employees. The Federal Retirement Fairness Act is a critical step toward ensuring equitable retirement opportunities for all federal workers.

Budget Reconciliation Impact

The House Budget Resolution seeks \$50 billion in savings from agencies under the House Oversight and Accountability Committee's jurisdiction. These reductions could potentially come from current retirees, benefits (FERS) and/or Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) and Postal Service Health Benefits (PSHB). These fiscal targets raise serious concerns about potential threats to postal workers' earned pay and benefits. UPMA strongly opposes any policies that negatively affect compensation and job security for its members.

Postal Board of Governors

UPMA strongly supports a fully appointed Postal Board of Governors and urges the Senate to move swiftly in confirming qualified nominees. A complete and functional board is essential for providing the leadership and oversight needed to ensure the financial stability, operational efficiency and long-term success of the Postal Service.

Delays in confirmations hinder the board's ability to make critical decisions affecting service reliability, workforce policies and strategic planning. UPMA advocates for a Board of Governors that understands the unique challenges facing the Postal Service and is committed to strengthening its universal service mission.

Privatization

UPMA strongly opposes any efforts to privatize the United States Postal Service as such a move would threaten the core mission of the USPS and undermine its ability to serve all Americans. Privatization could eliminate the universal service obligation, jeopardizing affordable and reliable mail service, particularly for those in rural and underserved communities.

Privatization could also put an end to six-day mail delivery on which millions of businesses and households rely and significantly weaken package delivery networks. The Postal Service is a vital public institution that was created in the U.S. Constitution—not a profit-driven corporation.

Privatization would prioritize financial gains over the needs of the American people. UPMA remains committed to fighting against any attempts to dismantle the USPS and will continue advocating for policies that protect its public service mission.

UPMA supports H. Res. 70, which urges Congress to preserve the United States Postal Service as an independent federal entity and oppose any efforts to privatize it.



Brian Buzza
Legislative First Timer

2025 UPMA Legislative Summit

Wow! What a Ride! Yes, the Amtrak ride was an adventure, but I am talking more about the experience. If you have never been out to Washington D.C., then this trip is a must. The monuments and memorials, amazing! Arlington National Cemetery, incredible! The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, humbling! The history there is second to none. This all would have made the trip worthwhile.

However, what I learned at the UPMA Legislative Summit was inspiring for me. What we all pull together for is amazing. The ability to meet with the aides for the Representatives and the aides for the Senators. The more experienced people welcoming me with open arms, willing to mentor me and

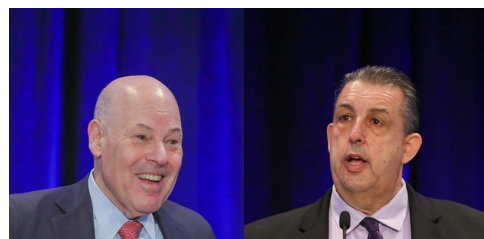
the other newbies. Never once did I feel out of place. I was never made to feel like the new guy. I felt included. 16 Active and retired Postmasters, Supervisors and Associates from Wisconsin went and made a difference. I had the privilege of being one of them. 300+ active and retired members of The United Postmasters and Managers of America from all over the country went and made a difference. I felt honored and lucky to be part of this. For me, this is just a beginning. I want to feel more. I want to do more. I want to be part of this group. The United States Postal Service depends on all of us to make a difference. To work for our future and to make it a better place to work and serve our communities.

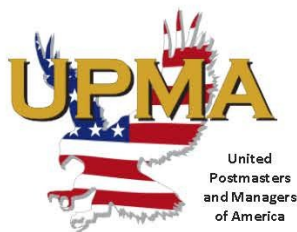


Next year they want more of us. I recommend it for everyone. I know that I will be going back. There is zero doubt in my mind. However, next year, my train will have wings.

Thank You for the experience! What a ride!

Legislative Summit 2025





Form 1187

Request and Authorization for Voluntary Allotment
of Compensation for Payment of Employee Organization Dues
**Fill Out Form and Send to UPMA National Office
at the Address Below for Processing**

Section A: New Members Complete All Applicable Sections

USPS EIN (8 digits)	() () () () () () () ()	Date of Birth
Personal Cell Phone #	Gender (Circle One) Male Female Other	
First Name (Form 50)		
Last Name (Form 50)	Suffix (If applicable circle one) Jr. Sr. II III	
Other Preferred Name (If applicable)		
Home Street Address		
City	State	ZIP Code
Personal E-Mail Address (not @usps.gov)		
Form 50 Pay Level	Form 50 Finance Number	

Section B: From your current PS Form 50 (Check One):

Postmaster _____ Manager _____ Supervisor _____ Other EAS _____
PCES _____ 204B _____ Associate (Craft) _____ PMR _____

Mail completed form to: **United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA)**
8 Herbert Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22305-2600

Visit the UPMA website unitedpma.org for membership benefit information.

Section C: Authorization by Employee

I hereby authorize the above-named agency to deduct from my pay each pay period the amount certified above as the regular dues the (UN-P) United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA) and to remit such amounts to that employee organization in accordance with its arrangements with my employing agency. I further authorize any change in the amount to be deducted that is certified by the above-named employee organization as a uniform change in its dues structure.

I understand that this authorization is a pay periods deduction. It will become effective the first pay period, following its receipt in the employee organization's headquarters office: UPMA, 8 Herbert Street, Alexandria, VA 22305-2600.

I further understand that revocation forms Standard Form No. 1188, "Revocation of Voluntary Authorization for Allotment of Compensation for Payment of Employee Organization Dues" are available from my employing agency and that I may revoke this authorization at any time by filling such a revocation form or other written revocation request by "Certified Mail" directly to the employee organization's headquarters office: UPMA, 8 Herbert Street, Alexandria, VA 22305-2600. Such revocation will not be effective, however, until the first full pay period following March 1 or Sept. 1 of any calendar year, whichever date first occurs after the revocation is received in the employee organization's headquarters office.

☐

Check this box to signify you've read and understood the terms in Section C of this form

New Member's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Who most influenced your decision to join UPMA?

Person's Name: _____

Revised 4/1/25 EAH

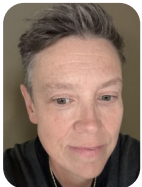
Wisconsin UPMA Chapter Member Representatives



Member Rep.
Laurie Bue
612 720-8047
redgizzy555@gmail.com



Member Rep..
Jeannie McLaughlin
847 529-8067
jeannie9966@sbcglobal.net



Member Rep.
Nancy Ackerman
Thiensville 53092
nortoniii@yahoo.com
(o) 262-242-0955
(h) 414-544-7234



Member Rep.
Scott Hughart -
Mauston WI 53948
scotthughartupma@gmail.com
(o) 608-847-5939
(h) 309-826-7254



Member Rep
Angela Thurow
Sherwood WI
arpunk@yahoo.com
(o) 920-989-1999
(h) 920-905-0136



Member Rep
Natalie Price,
Eau Claire P&DC
natmcp@aol.com
423-903-3633



Member Rep
Thomas Zumpano
Madison
thomas@zumpanos.com
608-400-5378

CLIP AND SAVE THIS NOTICE.

The OIG or Postal Inspectors show up at your door! What should you do?

If you are questioned by the OIG or Postal Inspector about your conduct, even if you believe you are not guilty of any wrongdoing, it is suggested you do the following:

- ◆ Remain calm
- ◆ Correctly identify yourself if requested to do so
- ◆ Do not physically resist an arrest or a search of your person or property
- ◆ Read aloud to the OIG Inspector(s) the statement below
- ◆ Remain silent until you have consulted with your UPMA Representative or an attorney
- ◆ Be Your Own Protector – Take No Lie Detector –
- ◆ Do Not Sign – Get on the Phone

STATEMENT

If this interview is part of a criminal investigation, I request the presence of an attorney before any interview takes place. Until my attorney is present, I will not agree to sign any document or answer any questions. Furthermore, I will not make any written or oral statements. I do not consent to any search without a warrant. If you provide me with a search warrant, I will not resist the search while preserving my legal objections to it.

However, if this interview is not part of a criminal investigation, I request the opportunity to contact my UPMA representative for advice and to have them present during the interview. In such a case, I will be willing to orally answer questions but decline to provide any written statements. It is important to note that I retain my legal right to decline to answer any questions that could potentially incriminate me. I am committed to full cooperation, but I want to emphasize that I do not waive any of my rights, including the right to remain silent. I will not sign a waiver-of-rights form, admit or deny any allegations, or make any written or oral statements unless my attorney and/or UPMA representative is personally present to provide counsel.

Your manager informed you that they are doing a PDI or I&I. What should you do?

If at any point your manager instructs you to undergo a PDI or I&I, please remember that you have rights under ELM 650. You are entitled to choose a representative of your preference, and it's your prerogative to have your UPMA representative present during the investigation. In such circumstances, promptly get in touch with one of the UPMA Chapter Member Representatives. They will assist in coordinating with Postal management to schedule a suitable time for the interview where all necessary parties can be present to ensure a fair and just process.

Remember, remain silent until your UPMA Chapter Member Representative is present. If they ask any questions prior to your representative being present, answer all questions with "I am more than happy to answer any questions once my UPMA representative is present."



**Peg Szymanski, PM Retired
Scholarship Chair, Chaplain**

Scholarship 2025



Scholarships

This year we have eight fantastic students that are venturing out into this crazy world. It is refreshing to see these wonderful young people embrace a calling, a vocation, or their heart's desire! Whatever you may call it, they "have it" in them. They are brave, they are strong, they feel invincible and it's all good.

If their dreams come true, the world will be getting a Kinesiologist, an Athletic Director, two Civil Engineers, a Nurse, an Equine Expert, a Profession Chef, and a Health Scientist. If they

change their minds, no worries, they are resilient. They are not worried, they will survive. Education is their tool. All these students have leadership skills in their veins. They volunteer in their communities, they assist in their churches, they watch how everyday people live and they seem to already know there is an opening in the world that they need to fill. It's calling them.

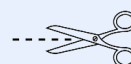
How wonderful it is that the members of UPMA value our youth. For years we have had fundraisers, auctions,

raffles and random donations. Your support and commitment makes nights like this possible. Your belief in the power of education continues to transform lives. As we move into our introductions let us remember the power of education, the generosity of our supporters and the bright future ahead for these remarkable students.

Let's get started!



Scholarships, an Investment in our Future.



UPMA WISCONSIN CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP DONATION

Date _____

In Memory of: _____

Member ID: (if known) _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City St Zip: _____

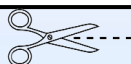
\$ _____ ☐ Check Enclosed

Mail to:

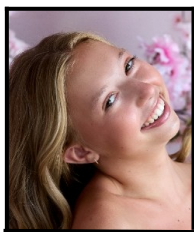
WI UPMA
Scholarship Fund
PO Box 1
Shawano WI 54166

Thank-you for your donation!

WISCONSIN UPMA will neither favor nor disadvantage anyone based on the amount of contribution,



Hannah Kate Hinker



Hannah Kate Hinker is the daughter of Scott and Jennifer Hinker. Hannah is the granddaughter of Pauline Colamatteo, Postmaster Retired and current President of the Retirees of our Wisconsin Chapter!

Hannah attends Wausau East High School where she is extremely active in many clubs. Hannah has had a passion for dance from her earliest years. Three faculty members expressed their exuberance for Hannah stating that she shines in Dance, Theater and Literature, and that's just school. They each noted how impressed they are with her commitment to the Wausau Community as well.

Hannah has been accepted to UW MN Twin Cities where she plans to study Kinesiology and Psychology. She plans to get a Doctorate in Physical Therapy- so to pursue her dream to work for the NHL or NFL as a Physical Therapist. Congratulations Hannah. UPMA is proud to be a part of your dream job.

Jesse A. Retzlaff



Jesse Retzlaff is the son of Michael and Rhonda Retzlaff. Jesse is the grandson of Postmaster Retired, Sally Retzlaff.

Jesse is a senior at Slinger High School proving to be a super Academic and Athletic Achiever. His Mathematics teacher states that "Jesse has a natural ability to understand high level concepts and the work ethic that helps him attain knowledge and understanding when he is challenged." Jesse states that his heart and his mother have always felt engineering would make the most of his talents and his parents have always advocated that he should pursue something that makes his brain worth something. Jesse has been accepted at UW MN Twin Cities, pursuing Civil and Mechanical Engineering,

respectively. UPMA is confident you will achieve your goals, congratulations.

Matthew J. Retzlaff



Matthew Retzlaff is the son of Michael and Rhonda Retzlaff and the grandson of Postmaster Retired, Sally Retzlaff. (And yes, they are identical twins!).

Matthew attends Slinger High School where he excels Academically and Athletically. His Varsity football Coach states that Matthew is extremely visible and an active student in the school and the community. He states Matthew's abilities in all academic areas are nothing short of excellent. He finds him to be an outstanding student and person.

Matthew states his inspiration to become a civil engineer arose from a job shadow he did with a road construction and earthwork company.

He has been accepted at UW Platteville with the aspiration to become a successful Civil Engineer. Congratulations to you Matthew, and best wishes!

Nora Strock



Nora Strock is the daughter of Kevin and Natasha Strock. Nora is the granddaughter of our Wisconsin Chapter UPMA State President Melissa Tarlton!

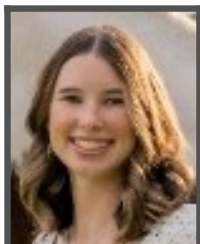
Nora is a Senior at Oconto Falls High School. Her science teacher writes that she is an excellent student in the classroom where she is motivated and takes initiatives, often going beyond what is required in assignments and classroom discussions. Nora's hobbies are drawing, writing short stories and poetry, acting and chess.

Nora plans to attend North East WI Technical College in Green Bay to begin a nursing career.

We're excited for you Nora and wish all the best.

(Continued on page 20)

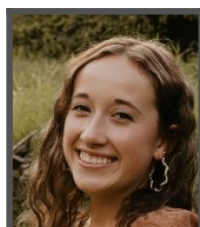
Emily Szpylman



Emily Szpylman is the daughter of Michael and Vicki Szpylman and the granddaughter of Postmaster Retired Clarence Aho. Emily attends Westosha Central High School in Salem Lakes WI where she is an excellent student. Emily's co and Extra Curricular activities are mainly focused on horses. This is her passion.

Emily has been accepted to the Black Hawk College East in Galva IL where she plans to major in Horse Science Technology and Equestrian Science. She believes the horse world has many different job opportunities. Her main interests are in horse training, breeding and nutrition. Hopefully this will lead to her owning her own, successful, breeding and training barn; raising show horses.

Rianna Wiersma



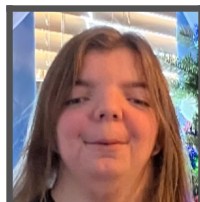
Rianna Wiersma is the daughter of Walter and Melanie Wiersma. Melanie is the Postmaster of Markesan WI.

Rianna is a senior at Cambria-Friesland High School in Cambria WI. It appears that the moment she set foot in high school she was deep into her classes and extracurricular activities, taking Leadership Rolls and accumulating many awards and recognitions. Her Forensics' coach was especially impressed with her First Place Gold at the State Forensics Competition her Junior year, which was also the first year in the Forensics class.

Rianna states she wants to nurture her passion as a Speech Pathologist at UW Eau Claire, majoring in Communication and Science disorders and feels Eau Claire has the best programs. She will minor in American Sign Language. Rianna is passionate about helping others particularly young children.

The world awaits you Rianna! We send our very best with you to Eau Claire.

Kayla Weathers

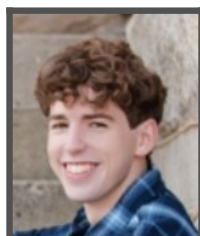


Kayla Weathers is the daughter of Brian and Mary Ann Weathers. Brian is a Supervisor in Baraboo WI.

Kayla is a senior student at her parent's Home-School. Kayla has over-come many health challenges from very early on in life; emerging through multiple major surgeries. Homeschooling has allowed her to work at a pace that affords her the time needed to heal, grow and learn. Kayla was thrilled to find the Shepherd's College in Union Grove WI. She has been accepted and plans to complete their Culinary Arts degree. Kayla has a dream to own her own food truck.

Kayla, UPMA wishes you all the best!

Aidan Ruedinger



Aidan Ruedinger is the son of Michael and Carmen Ruedinger. Aidan is the grandson of Postmaster Retired Raymond Ellenbolt.

Aidan attends Ripon High School in Ripon WI. And has been accepted to Ripon College.

While Aidan has achieved high accolades academically, his passion is running; Cross Country and Track and Field. Aidan also participates in a Youth Apprenticeship Program where he has gained experience in Radio Broadcasting, calling football and girls and boys basketball games alongside the local On-Air personality on the local Ripon WI Radio program. He states these opportunities have led him to the Sports Management and Communications fields of study, which combined will increase his career choices. Hi Aidan's Social Studies teacher states that Aidan works hard in the classroom, he is dedicated to his tasks, is kind to others, has a wonderful sense of humor and is humble in all his accomplishments.

Congratulations Aidan, we are enthused to help you achieve your goals.

Dear Members of the UPMA Wisconsin Chapter, 2025,

I am writing this to express my thanks for selecting me as a recipient of the UPMA Wisconsin Chapter, 2025, Scholarship. I am honored and grateful to have been chosen, and I appreciate your support as I prepare to begin my college journey.

This \$1,000 scholarship will go a long way in helping me cover college expenses, and it brings me one step closer to pursuing my goals. I plan to major in sports management and communications, with a minor in coaching, with hopes of one day owning or managing a professional sports team and your generosity is helping to make that dream possible.

I'm also proud to share that I am the grandson of Raymond Ellenbolt, who served as a dedicated postmaster for 48 years. His hard work and commitment to the postal service have always been an inspiration to me, and receiving this scholarship in connection with his legacy makes it even more meaningful.

Thank you again for your generosity and belief in my future,

Sincerely,

Aidan Ruedinger - Ripon College Class of 2029



Thank you USPS Federal Credit Union for your generous donation to the Wisconsin Chapter scholarship fund.

USPS Federal Credit Union Serving Postal Employees

<https://uspsfcu.org/>



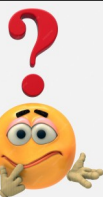
**January 24th
Pizza Ranch
Elkhorn**



Baraboo 3 digit meeting

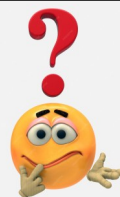
and a free meal at Baraboo Pizza Ranch Saturday June 7th at 12:00-1:30pm. Please text your RSVP to Melissa Tarlton at 920-598-1180. *Spouse's are welcome to attend.*

**Saturday
June 7th doors open at
11am, come early to meet
your UPMA Leaders
Baraboo Pizza Ranch**



Thinking of Retiring Soon?

Which date should I consider selecting to get the NPA lump sum payment?



When Can I Retire and How Will That Affect My NPA Payout?

My name is Jeff Arment and I'm a retired Postmaster from Iowa and a member of the Iowa UPMA Chapter. I'm also your Central Area Contact on the National Membership Team. I just got back from attending your 9th Annual Wisconsin Chapter Convention at The Abbey Resort and Avani Spa located in Fontana, on Lake Geneva. I had a Great time with all of you that were able to attend. Wisconsin always has a large number of members that attend the Chapter Convention and your Executive Board and Convention Coordinators did an amazing job and made it fun and informative for everyone. The resort is a must see and the boat tour on Lake Geneva Friday night was so much fun. We got to learn a lot of historic facts about the area and see some amazing homes.

Since I've retired, I have stayed active with UPMA and also decided to continue helping Postal Employees when it

comes to the retirement process. When I decided to retire last June, I visited with the Postal Bluebook Help Team, who attended a couple of our National and Chapter Conventions, and they assisted me with completing all the necessary paperwork to send to HRSCC. This made the process so much easier and eliminated a lot of the stress of having to go through that thick booklet on my own that HRSCC sends you. After retiring, I reached out to the Postal Bluebook Help Team and asked if I could join their team in order to help out other Postal Employees with their retirement needs. I joined the team last Fall and Rich Springer, who is also a retired Postmaster from the Iowa UPMA Chapter joined the team with me. We have a flyer that is in this issue of the Zip Line so please reach out to myself or Rich or visit the www.PostalBlueBookHelp.Com website to see more of what we can do for you.

Your President, Melissa Tarlton, had reached out to me about a question on NPA and how can you make sure you receive your lump sum payment when you retire. She informed me a couple of people had told her, when they retired, they didn't receive anything. Here is what you need to know when it comes to your NPA. First of all, you must always retire at the end of the month you decide you are going to retire in. It doesn't have to be Friday or the end of a pay period, it just needs to be the last day of the month. Your retirement pay starts on the 1st of the following month. So, if you had decided to retire on the 1st or 15th of the month, your 1st day of retirement pay wouldn't start calculating until the 1st of the next month and you would miss out on an entire month of your retirement pay. As far as your NPA goes; in order to receive a lump sum payment, you must retire between September 30th and December 31st. Your lump sum payment will be paid out on the 2nd pay period in January.

If you are approaching retirement or just have a question on your retirement benefits such as FEGLI or PSHB Health Benefits, Annuity Estimates, TSP contributions or what the difference between the L Funds and G,F,C,S or I Funds are, please give me a call at 641-751-9141 or send an email to jeff@postalbluebookhelp.com and I'll make sure your questions answered.



**POSTAL
BLUEBOOK
HELP.COM**

Offering **FREE** In-Person
Seminars, Online Webinars
and One-on-One Phone or
Video Consultations

866-692-8702

info@postalbluebookhelp.com

www.postalbluebookhelp.com

**CONTACT RETIRED POSTMASTERS
TO ASSIST YOU WITH ALL YOUR
RETIREMENT QUESTIONS!**



JEFF ARMENT
641-751-9141



RICH SPRINGER
563-249-4242

**LET THE TEAM OF POSTAL BLUE BOOK
SPECIALISTS HELP YOU WITH:**

- PENSION CALCULATION
- FEGLI – LIFE INSURANCE OPTIONS
- PSHB – HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN
- SOCIAL SECURITY & SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT
- TSP REVIEW AND TOP 4 OPTIONS
- 1 ON 1 REVIEW AND COMPLETION OF YOUR BLUE BOOK RETIREMENT PAPERWORK

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO
SCHEDULE YOUR FREE 1 ON 1
CONSULTATION**



SCAN ME

RETIRING POSTAL EMPLOYEES, ONE BLUE BOOK AT A TIME!
WWW.POSTALBLUEBOOKHELP.COM





UPMA Chapter Presidents, UPMA National Executive Board

Re: Special Exemption- to deliver mail

HRSSC has cut PS-Form 50s effective 12/31/2022, making all Exempt Postmasters 18-22 and all Exempt Exempt Station Managers Special-Exempt with a reason code allowing them to allowing them to be eligible for "additional pay when delivering mail."

After a long struggle by UPMA, a temporary modification to Postal pay policy will allow select exempt non-bargaining employees to be eligible for additional pay when those employees are needed to deliver mail due to staffing shortages. Based on a UPMA request and conversations at the St Louis UPMA National Convention, the Service has decided to temporarily modify policy and allow employees permanently assigned to the following positions to be eligible for additional pay at the straight-time rate if authorized to deliver mail.

Title	Grade	Occ-Code
MGR Customer Services	EAS-19	23057064
MGR Customer Services	EAS-20	23057039
MGR Customer Services	EAS-21	23057091
MGR Customer Services	EAS-22	23100002
MGR Customer Services	EAS-24	23100010
Postmaster	EAS-18	23016118
Postmaster	EAS-20	23016120
Postmaster	EAS-21	23017121
Postmaster	EAS-22	23017122
Postmaster 18 (B)	EAS-43	23016218

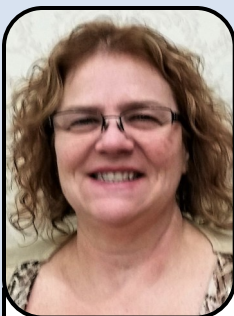
The policy will provide extra compensation for the time a Manager or Postmaster delivers mail, provided the total work hours are more than 8.5 on a scheduled day or any hours on a non-scheduled day. This temporary pay policy is applicable only in those circumstances. Management must meet all contractual requirements before authorizing non-bargaining employees to deliver mail.

This temporary policy commenced on December 31st, 2022, and is now set to end on June 27, 2025

UPMA is hopeful this will continue to stay in place until such time as the staffing shortage is rectified. UPMA appreciates this change and looks forward to further discussions with The Service on this and other issues facing our members. This is another example of what can get done when we work together. Please share this with your Area/District Managers as you need to; no further announcement will come from the Service.

Tony Leonardi
Tony Leonardi
National President

United Postmasters and Managers of America
8 Herbert Street, Alexandria, VA 22305-2600
(703) 683-9027
Unitedpma.org



Donna Woodcock, PM Retired
Guest Editorial, Past President

Julius Miannecki, US Army

I would like to introduce you to Julius Miannecki, a US Army Veteran of the Korean War serving 1952-1954. Julius is the Uncle of Retired Postmaster Rita Carroll Chetek WI. Jim and I were honored to spend some time with him at the WI State UPMA Convention 2025.

Julius served as a Corporal in the US Army 1st Cavalry 2nd Battalion and his position was CW Radio Operator in Morse code during the Korean War. Some may say that it was only 2 years served, I disagree - serving the United States in the armed services whether or not during a war is deserving of all of our respect and thanks. He hasn't quit serving his fellow veteran soldiers.

Mr. Miannecki has served as Commander of the VFW Post 2751 in the town of Paris and is a member of the American Legion 1702. He is a mentor at the Veteran Hospital in Union Grove and has logged over 1000 volunteer hours, mentoring and visiting the Veteran residents there. He has been a Volunteer of the Honor Flight since 2008 and hasn't missed working every flight except the one that happened during this UPMA convention. He spends most weekends collecting donations in the summer for the Veteran organizations. If an organization helps Veterans, he belongs to it and is one of the first to help out.

Julius shared some of his early year history with us. He had some rough times as he was growing up, spending some time in Arkansas at a boarding school. He came back to Racine WI for his senior year of high school but chose to travel to Tennessee to work and then to South Dakota for a job. After that he returned back to Wisconsin and completed his GED testing for his high school diploma. He was then drafted into the US Army and went to Kansas for his military training. "Discipline and order of the day makes a good soldier," he told me.

Three years ago Julius lost his wife of 56 years and not having any children of their own, his niece Rita has been there for him and his wife for many years as a daughter would have been. She has taken him to WI state UPMA conventions as well as National UPMA conventions, and



continues to make sure he is taken care of even though it is 4 hours door to door from his house to hers. She is helping him

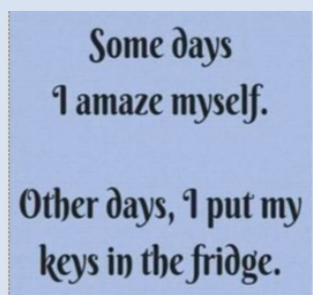
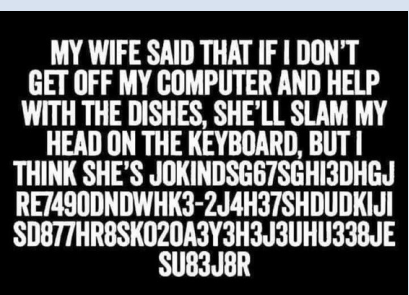
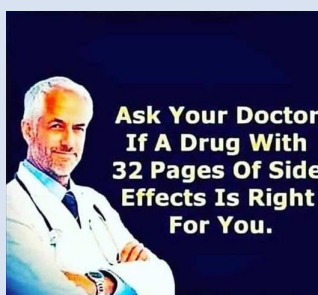
fulfill his bucket list, he has yet to parachute jump out of an airplane and to go scuba diving with her.

We shared with him our family members that are Veterans and the story



of our daughter Alisha sending the boxes to deployed soldiers at Christmas time. He thanked her. He asked us to thank her. On behalf of our daughter, she would be the first one to shake his hand and thank him for his sacrifice and service to all of us, people he doesn't even know, service to a country he obviously loves. He noticed all the armed service flags at the POW/MIA table and asked "where are The Colors, they are missing," I pointed them out at the front of the convention floor. Walking up the stairs to lunch, he pointed out a tiny star that was on the floor and avoided stepping onto it. If only we all were this respectful of the US Flag and what it stands for.

At 94 years young, he definitely has stories to tell, a few we can't repeat. I asked if he had any words of wisdom for us. "There is a proverb," he paused to remember how it goes, "Age is only a number, with it comes friendship."





**Pauline Colamatteo, PM Retired
President, Wisconsin Retirees**

Newly Elected 2026 ~ 2027

Spring has arrived here in the Northwoods, I know this because we had a snow storm and it didn't stick! I loved travelling down to Spring at the other end of the state for our 9th Annual Wisconsin UPMA Convention. The Abbey Resort was beautiful, the staff was friendly and helpful, which was a good thing, as it was easy to get turned around and feel lost as we navigated the seven buildings! There is so much work that goes on to set up these events, it starts the minute we accept the bid, and I really want to thank our active President Melissa for her attention to all the details. The WI UPMA retiree's met on the Friday afternoon of Convention, we accomplished the business of our organization, we held elections to fill the

Vice President of Legislation and the Secretary Treasurer positions. Cori Crawford will be our next Vice President of Legislation, and Marianne Zarling has been elected to continue on as our Secretary Treasurer. Their terms begin on January 1, 2026 for a two year term. Next year we will be filling the President position and the Vice President of Membership for the years 2027-2028!

I want to thank Bill Tierney for his hard work and dedication to this organization, he has done a great job representing us all as our Vice President of Legislation, not to mention holding the position of WI UPMA Parliamentarian. We also enjoyed getting updated on events happening on the National level



**Cori Crawford
Vice President**

**2026
2027**



**Marianne Zarling
Secretary/Treasurer**

by Anita Pfifer, our UPMA Retired National Treasurer. Thank you goes out to Julie Erdmann, who recommended our guest speaker, Karen Stefanczyk, who presented a program about our "Bright Minds". It was very informative, and we all need to be reminded of the importance of brain health.

I was honored to present the Scholarships to eight wonderful and deserving applicants. We missed Peg Syzmanski, she was unable to attend, but she did all the groundwork, which made my job easier. Make sure you keep your membership current, or join if you haven't. The scholarship program is one of so many benefits to being a member of UPMA. Have a wonderful Spring, stay well and be in touch!



**Rick Dama, PM Retired
Zip Line Editor**

THANK YOU !

I'm running with this quote as my theme for 2025. Chris keeps telling me, you had major surgery, It'll take

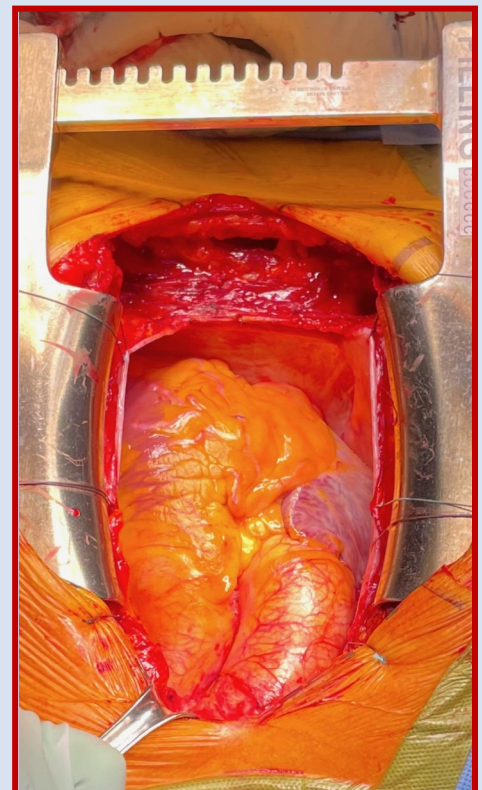
**"You have to have bad days,
so you know the good days."**

pretty sure I've gone through the bad days, now it's a matter of getting through rehab (again), getting my blood counts back to normal and enjoying the beautiful weather that is on it's way. I'm still at only about 80% right now but like

time. Maybe I'm a just little impatient? I would be remiss if I didn't thank everyone for the emails, cards and Facebook well wishes. It meant a lot to know others care about how your doing. Okay now to the picture, when I was on

the table just before they gave me the happy gas I asked the surgeon if I could get a picture of my heart. Chris said I shouldn't ask, but I did anyway. He said he would if he could. Not only did I get a picture but he made a quick video too. Can I come up with weird stuff or what?

Until we meet again stay safe and most of all stay healthy.



Employee's accused me of not having a heart, I guess I proved them wrong.





**Katie Hughart, Associate Member
Wisconsin Auxiliary Chapter**

Clickety Clack



Some of the other passengers wanted to join in, but unfortunately the parts had been filled. Ultimately it was a great bonding experience for the group and made the time pass quickly.

Next year I encourage you to attend the UPMA DC trip, the city is amazing with so much history and things to do. It was a great experience to speak with representative's aides and get a glimpse of the legislative process. It was important to educate the aides about the postal service validity and our concerns. UPMA also hosted an interesting meeting with several keynote speakers including DeJoy, the former Postmaster General and a senator and two congressmen. I know it is difficult to get off of work, but I can assure you it is well worth the trip.

Katie Hughart , Associate Member

It was a cold frosty morning, the Simpleton Orient Express had come to a dead stop due to snow blocking the tracks. The conductor announced that there had been a murder! 14 of the passengers looked around each wondering who had done it and were they next. The passengers

gathered to introduce themselves and were badgered with a slew of questions. Each had a connection to the victim, the widow with her grief yet bitterness, the professor who spoke in circles, an archeologist seeking a priceless artifact, the detective with all his confidence, the doctor with his questionable treatments, the nurse with a grudge, a spy hiding in plain sight, the butler whose loyalty was questioned, the actress with a tarnished image, a psychiatrist who was fascinated by the subject, a Dutchess that would never stoop to such a lowly thing, a strong man who was all too happy to do as told, an illusionist popping in and out at the most convenient times, and the most memorable Sister Soprano with her family connections. In the end the nurse was found out. Everyone had played their parts magnificently and we had an amazing time entertaining the entire train car with our Murder Mystery party on our long journey to Washington DC.

**"Sister Soprano"
aka Postmaster Hughart**



PS 1187



PS 1187
(on line fill and
submission)



PS 1187r

HUSBAND:

I want you to have this bracelet. It belonged to my Grandmother.

WIFE:

Why does it say, "Do not resuscitate?"

**MOST PEOPLE
DON'T THINK I'M
AS OLD AS I AM
UNTIL THEY HEAR
ME STAND UP**



**My luck is like
a bald guy who
just won a
comb.**

LAZY
IS SUCH AN UGLY WORD
I PREFER THE TERM
**SELECTIVE
PARTICIPATION**



Bill Tierney, PM Retired
..... Bill's Buzz

Hello Everyone

What an interesting trip to D C this year for the Legislative Summit. Without question there was a lot of celebration surrounding the repeal of WEP/GPO. 40 years of lobbying to get it repealed finally paid off. I saw so many smiling faces on CSRS retirees that had just gotten their backpay for 2024 and were looking forward to increased monthly amounts going forward. But we can't take our foot off the gas, we need to work on Social Security sustainability.

As far as Hill visits go, I am still dismayed on the lack of cooperation from Senator Johnson's office. The lack of professionalism towards constituents is appalling. Other than that I felt our message was received and it is up to UPMA to follow-up.

Ah, and what about the trip via Amtrack to DC and back.....I will leave that to my traveling partners to share.....I take up enough space in the Zipline.

On to this editions health tip:

SPRING YARD WORK SAFETY TIPS

Blue skies, chirping birds, warming temperatures — April is prime time for getting home exteriors, yards and gardens back into shape. A home maintenance routine can help your house operate more efficiently. Before you get started on your outdoor to-do list, consider these lawn care safety precautions.

DRESS FOR YARD CLEANING

Wear protective footwear. Wear shoes or boots, not sandals, to protect your toes.

Wear properly fitting gloves. This improves your grip on tools and also helps keep skin safe from blisters, sunburn, bug bites, poisonous plants and chemicals.

Wear hearing protection when using loud equipment.

Wear safety glasses to keep flying objects out of your eyes.

Apply bug spray to keep pests away. Shower after use to remove the chemicals from your skin. And

while you're at it, take a minute to look for ticks. If you find one, gently pull it out with tweezers.

Apply sunscreen or skin products with SPF to any exposed skin to help prevent sunburn. Don't be fooled by cloudy days; you can still get a sunburn.

WORK SMART

Stretch your body. Take time to stretch and warm up before the work begins. Weeding, trimming and raking are repetitive motions — change your posture or stance every few minutes and switch activities every 30 minutes.

Lift things carefully and safely. Lift properly by bending at the knees and hips and using leg power rather than bending at the waist and putting the strain on your back. Instead of carrying heavy or unwieldy loads, employ a cart or wheelbarrow.

Drink water and take breaks in the shade. Even if it's



not hot or humid, yard work is exercise, and staying hydrated is important to avoid heat related illness.

SPRING YARD CLEAN UP SAFETY TIPS



Don't use power tools under the influence. The same rules that apply to vehicles apply to power tools, including lawn mowers. Say no to distractions and anything that might cloud judgment.

Use caution if operating gas-powered equipment or tools. To help prevent carbon monoxide buildup and breathing in harmful chemicals, do not use this type of equipment in an enclosed space. See that the space you are working in is well ventilated with fresh air.

READY THE TOOLS

Inspect equipment. Check for and replace any damaged parts.

Familiarize yourself with power tools and how they work. Read owner's manuals (many are available online) and know about various switches, modes and required maintenance.

Check cords on tools and extension cords. Look for cuts, cracks and frayed wires and do not use them if damaged. Also check the label to make sure you don't use an indoor extension cord outside.

(Continued on page 28)



Val Nehls, Postmaster Retired
Legislative Summit 2025

What a RIDE!!!!

MEMORABLE
ORGANIZED
ENJOYABLE

What Happens On The Train Stays On The Train!

Someone told me "Lets take the Amtrak", "It will be an adventure", and boy was it!

From waking up and seeing an email telling us our Portage train had a 2 hour and 25 minute delay due to a freight disturbance. This would prevent us from making our connecting train in Chicago.

So.....

We scrambled, but were able to get our tickets exchanged for the Milwaukee train and after coordinating with Scott and Katie, the four of us traveled 1½ hours to meet the rest in Milwaukee.

Next stop was Chicago with a slight

layover and then it was "Smooth Rail-ing", except for the lack of sleep. I was told that "traveling on a train is like experiencing childbirth...you eventually forget about the pain until the next time"....we will see about that!!!

We arrived in DC the next afternoon around 2:00'ish.

There were 16 of us traveling together on the train...some that had never met each other...some that knew each other a little....and some that were old friends.

Through the course of this trip we all came home knowing everyone a little better, shared stories and made some great memories.

Not only is the Legislative Summit worthwhile but the friendships that were made are so valuable. If you ever have the chance or desire to attend, please don't hesitate, I don't think you would regret it.

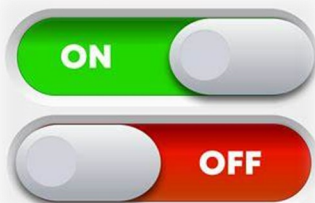
I've attended several Legislative Summits over the years and I have to say this one was the most MEMORABLE, most ORGANIZED, and the most ENJOYABLE that I've experienced.

Thanks to Melissa, Paul and all that worked so hard to make this happen.

UPMA Retired PM
Val Nehls

(Continued from page 27)

Make sure tools are in the "off" position before plugging them in or unplugging.



Use ladders safely. Set ladders on a firm, level surface; do not stand on any of the top three rungs; and use a utility belt to hold tools so you can properly

climb facing the ladder.

Call 811 before you dig. This notifies local utilities to check your property before you plant a tree, dig a trench or set fence posts.

PROTECT LOVED ONES

Watch out for children and pets. See that children and pets are inside (or well supervised if out) while you work.

Securely store tools and equipment. Store sharp tools, weed killer, fertilizer and other dangerous items in a locked cabinet out of reach of curious hands and mouths.

Educate and supervise kids with

equipment. Before allowing any child to operate a mower, sound judgment, strength, coordination and maturity are necessary. Healthychildren.org from the American Academy of Pediatrics, recommends that children should have these characteristics and be at least 12 years old before operating any type of



Until next time, be sure you mail something today.....you know I will!!!

PS: I almost failed to get that done in DC, but I did!!!

PSS: DeJoy resigned shortly after we returned.....I am Dejoycing!!!



**Linda Hobbs, PM Retired
Memorial Committee Chair, 2023**

Hello Everyone



Please let me know if you hear of a death, or see an obituary of an active Postmaster, Retired Postmaster, Supervisor, Manager, Associate Member or Spouse. If I get the information in time, the funeral arrangements can be sent out by email. To join the email network, contact Rick Dama at radpm3262@gmail.com. Happy Spring and Summer.

Linda Hobbs
PO Box 65
Rudolph WI 54475-0065
Phone # 715-435-3267 or email address clhobb@wctc.net



Wendy Sue Knutson
August 11, 1957 - March 22, 2025,

Wendy Sue Knutson, 67, of Eau Claire, Wis., passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 22, 2025, in the comfort of her home after a courageous battle with cancer.

She was born August 11, 1957, to Donald and Marge Seehaver, the second oldest of four children. She graduated from Colfax High School in 1975.

She married Terry Knutson on Sept. 15, 1975, and they had three sons, Chad, Aaron, and Trevor. They later purchased the Knutson family farm from Terry's parents, located southeast of Ridgeland. They dairy farmed for many years there while raising their three sons. She also worked for the United States Postal Office for 30 years in various cities around the area, where she eventually became the Postmaster in Altoona and later retired in 2021. She was a very strong, and hard working woman that took pride in everything that she did.

Later in life, she married Gary Norrish. They were united in marriage May 24, 2013 and resided in Eau Claire. They enjoyed scenic drives throughout the countryside, camping, going to various craft and thrift sales, spending time with their children and grandchildren, and occasional trips to Cady Cheese Factory to stock up on cheese to share with her boys.

Wendy enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, gardening and meticulously taking care of her home and yard, going for bike rides, and cheering on her beloved Green Bay Packers! She had a caring heart that showed through in various ways, including being a loving caretaker for Donnie Hastert, always having a popsicle or treat on hand for her grandchildren, and ensuring she always brought the three boys their favorite food when she saw them.

Surviving are her beloved husband of 11 years Gary; sons Chad (Karla), Aaron (Kelsey Ash) and Trevor (Megan); a stepson Derek (Julie) Norrish; grandchildren Emma (Cody), Chase (Kenzie), Briella, Myles, and Hadley; her beloved puppy, Oreo; her mother Marge Seehaver; brothers Greg (Lisa) and Tom (Tara); sister Tami (David Lee) Seehaver; as well as many nieces, nephews and other loving family members and dear friends.

Wendy was preceded in death by her father, Donald Seehaver, and sister-in-law, Margo Jevne.



Send Obituaries To:
Linda Hobbs
PO Box 65
Rudolph WI 54475-0065
Phone # 715-435-3267, email clhobb@wctc.net



**Debbe K Kassie****June 19, 1948 - October 27, 2024**

Heaven gained a true angel, and earth lost a sweet lady October 27, 2024 when Debbe Kassie (Drumm) passed away. Debbe died at the age of 76 after a brief but courageous battle with cancer, surrounded by loved ones who will honor her legacy by living life to the fullest.

Debbe was born in Michigan and came to Wisconsin as a young adult. She met and married the love of her life, Michael (Mike) Kassie 1978. Although she was misled about all farmers being rich, they lived a life rich in love in their 46 years of married life. Debbe's greatest joy in life was being a mom and then a grandma.

Debbe enjoyed a long career in the postal service, especially her years as the Stetsonville postmaster. Her giving and generous spirit came through with her involvement in the Stetsonville Lions, reading at local schools and volunteering at the Colby library. She was active with Showcase Players and Holy Rosary parish, serving as a leader of prayer and catechism teacher.

Debbe was always up for adventure and even went scuba diving at age 75! She loved to travel to visit family and friends. She made the most of her last year, with travels to Spain, Germany and an Alaskan cruise. When she wasn't traveling, she was an avid reader and crafter with her quilts and card making. Family friends came every hunting season as much for Debbe's fabulous cooking and baking as for the hunting.

Debbe is rejoicing in heaven with her parents and stepdad, in-laws, and brother-in-law. She is survived by her husband, Mike of Colby; son John (Lindsay) of Center Point, IA; daughter Kerry (David) of Oshkosh along with grandsons AJ and Teddy; stepmother Lee and sister Dee of Maryville, TN; and her other beloved siblings and in-laws: Rob (Linda) of Ft. Pierce, FL; Pam (Larry) of York, NC; Barb of New Berlin; Carole (John) of Coila, MS; Tom of Colby and her nieces, nephew and their children. She is also survived by Lois of Owen, who truly became a mom to Debbe in her adult years

**Sandra Jean Walsh****January 22, 1950 - February 22, 2025**

Sandra J. Walsh, 75 of West Salem WI went to live with her Heavenly Father in her eternal home on February 22, 2025. Sandy was born on January 22, 1950 to Catherine (Moan) and James Erickson in La Crosse, WI. Sandy was baptized and confirmed at the Halfway Creek Lutheran Church. Sandy attended Holmen area elementary schools and graduated from Holmen High School in 1968. Sandy wed Charles Peterson in 1968. They later divorced. Sandy later wed David Walsh.

Sandy worked various jobs until earning an associate degree from Western Technical. After earning her associate degree, Sandy embarked on her career with the United States Postal Service. Along the way, while continuing to work for the Postal Service, she earned her undergraduate degree from Viterbo University and was valedictorian of her graduating class. She served the Postal Service in various duties including Postmaster in Sparta, WI and Tomah, WI, where she retired, ending her career of over 30 years with the Postal Service.

Sandy enjoyed music, playing piano, and singing. She and her husband Dave enjoyed 19 years playing together in a country western band which they formed, the FMS Ltd. band. Sandy and Dave enjoyed trips out west and fishing/boating on local waters. Sandy had a deep love and devotion for her family. She was proud of her son, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Family gatherings were a treasure to her. In her retirement years she spent a lot of time with her grandchildren, volunteering at their Christian grade school, volunteering at Good Steward in La Crosse, WI and singing in the church choir.

Sandy was predeceased by her parents and a brother, Edward Erickson. Sandy is survived by her husband of 33 years, David Walsh - a son, Donald (Zana) Peterson of West Salem - three grandchildren, Brooke (Benjamin) Bakken, Lance (Katelyn) Peterson, and Alec Peterson - three great grandchildren, Silas, Elias, and Micah Bakken as well as one great grandchild on the way. Sandy was overjoyed about her next great grandchild. Sandy is also survived by four brothers and two sisters, James (Gloria) Erickson Jr., Richard Erickson, Allen (Judy) Erickson, Marlene Branson, Michael Erickson and Clarissa Erickson, as well as many loving nieces and nephews.



John A Jalinski

November 18, 1938 - February 2, 2025

John Anthony Jalinski, 86, of Minocqua, Wisconsin, passed away on February 2nd, 2025. He was born November 18, 1938, in Wausau Wisconsin, to Edwin and Gertrude (Westphal) Jalinski. John spent his childhood in Wausau, attended Saint Michael's Catholic Grade School, and graduated from Newman Catholic High School in 1957. He only left his hometown to join the US Army in 1959. He was honorably discharged as SFP, on May 31st, 1963. He met his wife, Carol, in June of 1960, and married October 28, 1961.

He worked for Steinagel Concrete from 1960 to 1963, pouring sidewalks and curbs for various towns and cities in the Wausau area. He worked his way up to concrete work for basements and garages. He then transitioned into a career with the United States Postal Service in 1963. He retired as Postmaster of the Harshaw Wisconsin Post Office in 1992, after 29 years of postal service. He elected to retire at the age of 53, after receiving an artificial heart valve. He vowed to make the most of the time he had left, knowing his heart valve would not last long (or so the doctors told him).

He set out to help friends and family with the time he had remaining. In his retirement he built a new house, finishing the basement, plus built a garage, completed multiple basement projects for his children. He's built decks, firepits, poured cement sidewalks, and always needed a project on the horizon to keep him active.

When he wasn't "working" during his retirement, he spent his time with his 10 grandchildren, and one great grandchild. He enjoyed attending as many of their sports and school activities as he could. He also kept busy with his garden, growing a bounty of fresh blueberries and raspberries each year. During the snowy northern Wisconsin winters he was the only neighbor on the block who's driveway was always 100% clear of snow.

In his 30+ years of retirement, he was dedicated to serving the needs of others. He served as Financial Secretary with the Knights of Columbus for 13 years, resigning in 2011. He prepped meals for Meals on Wheels. He also made 25,011 rosaries from 1994 to 2024, sending them off to various missions around the world.

He is survived by his wife, Carol Rae Jalinski (Egle), Minocqua, son, Christopher Jalinski (Mary), daughter, Dawn (Jeff) Wenzel, daughter Rose (Phil) Newman, son Daniel (Trista) Jalinski, and daughter, Bride (Chad) Curtis. Also survived by his twin brothers, Dale (Phyllis) Jalinski, and David (Bonnie) Jalinski. We know that John was met at heaven's gate by his mother, father, brothers Thomas (Sandy) Jalinski, and James (Anne) Jalinski, maternal grandparents, (Anthony and Mary Westphal) paternal grandparents, (Joe "Jumbo" Jalinski and Cecilia Sczepaniak.)



Judith A. Azmitia

November 12, 1941 - February 12, 2025

Judith Ann Azmitia, 83, of Superior, died on February 12, 2025, at Aspirus St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth.

Judy was born in Superior on November 12, 1941, the daughter of Lois (Prior) and Robert Parker.

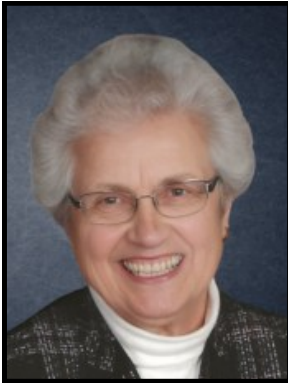
Judy retired from the US Postal Service after a lifetime of service, and her last appointment was that of Postmaster for the Lake Nebagamon post office.

She was a very active person. She always had a project or small business to occupy her time. Over the years, she has raised horses, and a variety of birds and dogs. At one time she owned a ceramic shop, sold jewelry, sold handcrafted bronze pendants and statues, and her last venture involved creating, making and selling Renaissance costumes that were ordered and shipped all over the nation. Judy then expanded to open Grandma Judy's Creations tailor shop where she repaired and tailored clothing for the local community. She stayed busy with her costumes and tailoring until 2022.

She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Jeffery Fujan; and grandson, Andrew Mertz.

Judy is survived by her daughters, Donna (Wayne) Stone, Dianna Kauther, and Rhonda Cyr; grandchildren, Cassie (Caley) Evans, Travis (Emily) Stone, Elden Field, and Dakota Fujan; and great grandchildren, Rowan and Alexis Evans, Ariaahna and Merek Stone, and Vivienne Cyr.

Per Judy's wishes, no service will be held.



Eileen Fern Fingerson

January 22, 1934 - October 26, 2024

Eileen Fern Fingerson, age 90, passed away on Saturday morning October 26, 2024, at Crestridge Memory Care in Dodgeville with her family by her side. She was born on January 22, 1934, on the family farm in Montfort, the daughter of Milton and Fern (Everson) Leix. Eileen was united in marriage to Roger Fingerson on June 27, 1953, at the Montfort United Methodist Church.

Eileen graduated from Cobb High School in 1951. She then received her associate's degree in paralegal studies from Madison School of Business. Roger and Eileen began Fingerson Service Station in Cobb in 1956, which was later passed to their son Mark. Eileen loved being able to be home raising her family, while helping Roger with the bookwork for the business. In 1969, Eileen started working for the United States Postal Service, and eventually, in 1972, became the Postmaster for the village of Cobb for 24 years until retiring in 1996. Eileen loved to sing and play the piano, especially with her two sisters. The "Cobb Girls" (Sheila Nelson, Lois Jean Clifton, and Eileen) shared their love of music by singing for area nursing homes' residents and staff. Family was very important to Eileen, and she could find any reason to have a family get together. When she wasn't with family, she enjoyed being outside at the family farm, playing softball, and bowling in various leagues. Eileen and Roger also enjoyed their many traveling adventures.

Eileen was an active member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church where she was a Sunday school teacher, participated in Bible studies with the women of the church, and acted as a church treasurer at one point. She was also active in the Cobb Lioness, Cobb Legion Auxillary and the Cobb Firemens Auxiliary. Eileen will be remembered for her caring ways and being the neighborhood "MOM" to everyone. Eileen's family greatly appreciates all the care she received by the staff at Crestridge Memory Care and Upland Hills Hospice.

Eileen is survived by her three children: Jan Thomas (Renee Todd) of Stoughton, Mark (Colleen) Fingerson of Cobb, and Pam (Chris) Kreul of Fennimore; four grandchildren: Lisa Kreul, Jamie (Matt) Iserloth, Paige (Mat) Vieth, and Colin Fingerson; and five great grandchildren: Libby, Khloe, and Halle Iserloth, and twins Bennett and Beau Vieth, sister Lois (Laverne) Clifton of Montfort, and brother-in-law Donnie Ritchie of Cobb along with several special nieces and nephews.

Eileen was preceded in death by her husband Roger Fingerson on June 27, 2013, parents Milton and Fern Leix, sister Bonnie Ritchie, father and mother-in-law Lawrence and Pearl Fingerson, brother and sister-in-law Laverne and Betty Fingerson, and dear friends Kenneth and Marian Harris.



Tunnel to Towers Foundation
T2T.ORG



**2025 UPMA
Veterans Project**

\$509 Raised by Supporters at our Wisconsin State Convention



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.



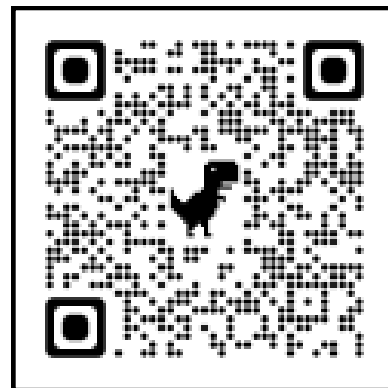
Now for the specifics of the process: There are several ways to donate to T2T foundation. **We prefer the Chapters write a check payable to Tunnels to Towers, but mail the check to Anita Pfiefer, Treasurer, UPMA Retired, 20576 Kearney Path, Lakeville, MN 55044.** She will log your contribution and forward 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.

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



This should be required reading in every school and college in our country. This Captain, an Army doctor, deserves a medal himself for putting this together. If you choose not to pass it on, fine, but I think you will want to after you read it.

This should be required reading in every school and college in our country. This Captain, an Army doctor, deserves a medal himself for putting this together. If you choose not to pass it on, fine, but I think you will want to after you read it.



I am a doctor specializing in the Emergency Departments of the only two military Level One-Trauma Centers, both

in San Antonio, TX. We care for civilian emergencies as well as military personnel. San Antonio has the largest military retiree population in the world living here. As a military doctor, I work long hours and the pay is less than glamorous. One tends to become jaded by the long hours, lack of sleep, food, family contact and the endless parade of human suffering passing before you. The arrival of another ambulance does not mean more pay, only more work. Most often, it is a victim from a motor vehicle crash.

Often it is a person of dubious character who has been shot or stabbed.

With our large military retiree population, it is often a nursing home patient. Even with my enlisted service and minimal combat experience in Panama, I have caught myself groaning when the ambulance brings in yet another sick, elderly person from one of

the local retirement centers that cater to military retirees. I had not stopped to think of what the citizens of this age group represented.

I saw 'Saving Private Ryan.' I was touched deeply. Not

so much by the carnage, but by the sacrifices of so many. I

was touched most by the scene of the elderly survivor at the graveside, asking his wife if he'd



been a good man. I realized that I had seen these same men and women coming through my Emergency Dept. and had not realized what magnificent sacrifices they had made. The things they did for me and everyone else that has lived on this planet since the end of that conflict are priceless.



Situation permitting, I now try to ask my patients about their experiences. They would

never bring up the subject without my inquiry. I have been privileged to hear an amazing array of experiences, recounted in the brief minutes allowed in an Emergency Dept. encounter. These experiences have revealed the incredible individuals I have had the honor of serving in a medical capacity, many on their last admission to the hospital.

There was a frail, elderly woman who reassured my young enlisted medic, trying to start an IV line in her arm. She remained



calm and poised, despite her illness and the multiple needle-sticks into her fragile veins. She was what we call a 'hard stick.' As the medic made another attempt, I noticed a number tattooed across her forearm. I touched it with one finger and looked into her eyes. She simply said, 'Auschwitz.' Many of later generations would have loudly and openly berated the young medic in his many attempts. How different was the response from this person who'd seen unspeakable suffering.



Also, there was this long retired Colonel, who as a young officer had parachuted from his burning

plane over a Pacific Island held by the Japanese. Now an octogenarian, he had a minor cut on his head from a fall at his home where he lived alone. His CT scan and suturing had been delayed until after midnight by the usual parade of high priority ambulance patients. Still spry for his age, he asked to use the phone to call a taxi, to take him home, then he realized his ambulance had brought him without his wallet. He asked if he could use the

(Continued on page 35)

phone to make a long distance call to his daughter who lived 7 miles away. With great pride we told him that he could not, as he'd done enough for his country and the least we could do was get him a taxi home, even if we had to pay for it ourselves. My only regret was that my shift wouldn't end for several hours, and I couldn't drive him myself.



I was there the night M/ Sgt. Roy Benavidez came through the

Emergency Dept. for the last time. He was very sick. I was not the doctor taking care of him, but I walked to his bedside and took his hand. I said nothing. He was so sick, he didn't know I was there. I'd read his Congressional Medal of Honor citation and wanted to shake his hand. He died a few days later.

The gentleman who served with Merrill's Marauders,



the survivor of the Bataan Death March,

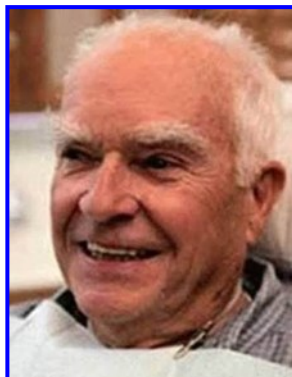
the survivor of Omaha Beach,



the 101 year old World War I veteran,



the former POW held in frozen North Korea,



the former Special Forces medic, now with non-operable liver cancer,



the former Viet Nam Corps Commander.

I may still groan when yet another ambulance comes in,



but now I am much more aware of what an honor it is to serve these particular men and women.

I have seen a Congress who would turn their back on these individuals



who've sacrificed so much to protect our liberty. I see later generations that seem to be totally engrossed in abusing these same liberties, won with such sacrifice.

It has become my personal endeavor to make the nurses and young enlisted medics aware of these amazing individuals when I encounter them in our



Emergency Dept. Their response to these particular citizens has made me think that perhaps all is not lost in the next generation.

My experiences have solidified my belief that we are losing an incredible generation, and this nation knows not what it is losing. Our uncaring government and ungrateful civilian populace should all take note. We should all remember that we must 'earn this.'



If it weren't for the United States Military, there'd be NO United States of America!

And now as you have finished reading this, our Congress enjoys their free medical care, and are in the process of charging these people for their medical care and at the same time possibly reducing their retirement pay. A typical political "Thank you" for their Service.

If you choose not to pass it on, fine, but I think you will want to.

In God We Trust!

UPMA Zip Line
N6196 County Road F
Sullivan WI 53178-9733

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
Paid

At a wedding reception, someone yelled:

"All married people, please stand next to the one
person that has made your life worth living."

The bartender was almost crushed to death.



~ MOVING ~

Send your **Change Of
Address** Information to:

Rick Dama
N6196 County Road F
Sullivan WI 53178-9733

Snow Birds log into
unitedpma.org or email me at
radpm3262@gmail.com

Zip Line

next issue submission cutoff:
June 15th 2025

Submit **Zip Line** articles to:
radpm3262@gmail.com
subject line (Zip Line UPMA)

Submit **Website** articles
and updates anytime to:
mpsimon@me.com
subject line (UPMA Website)
wiupma.org

Submit **Facebook**
articles and updates anytime to:
melissatarlton@gmail.com
subject line (Facebook)
UPMA Wisconsin Chapter

DATES TO REMEMBER

2025

**3 Digit Meeting
Baraboo
June 7th at noon
Pizza Ranch**

**Wisconsin District
Career Conference
Kalahari Resort June 8**

**National Convention
Dallas
August 9 - 15, 2025**

**CAOS Central Area
Officers Conference
Oak Brook, IL
September 26th - 28th 2025**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRESIDENT	3
PRESIDENT ELECT	4 - 5
CONVENTION PICTURES	6 - 7
LEGISLATION / PAC	13
SCHOLARSHIP	18 - 21
MESSAGE WITH A HEART	25
OBITUARIES	29 - 32