

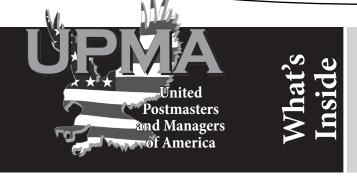
Volume 2025 / Issue 3

July/Aug./Sept. 2025



UPCOMING EVENTS
NATIONAL CONVENTION, DALLAS TX AUGUST 9-15TH
ATLANTIC AREA CONFERENCE, CONCORD, NC SEPTEMBER 25-28TH

See pages 6 & 7 for more info



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NEW YORK CHAPTER

The (ESP) Empire State Publication UPMA (United Postmasters and Managers Association), [USPS 175-740] is published bimonthly by the New York State Chapter of United Postmasters and Managers Association of America (UPMA), 727 Crawford Ave., Syracuse, NY 13224. The subscription rate is paid for from the membership dues. Periodical postage paid at Salamanca, NY and additional mailing offices. Publication content and opinions expressed herein are those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect the views of UPMA. The Editor reserves the right to edit articles for length and to conform to the publication's editorial style. Deadline for the ESP is the closest Sunday to the 10th of each month prior to the date of issue. Notice to Postmasters: Please send all address labels clipped from undeliverable copies, along with USPS Form 3579, to (ESP) Empire State Publication UPMA, 727 Crawford Ave., Syracuse, NY 13224.

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NEWS FLASH

.We just finished up with the State Convention in Saratoga Springs, a membership drive in that area and two Career Conferences located in Farmingdale and Albany. Year to date, we have recruited 184 members into the UPMA family to mentor, represent and fight to protect our benefits and rights. Of these 184 new members 73 were craft looking to move up, 4 retirees coming back to help with their career knowledge and 107 EAS with various job descriptions looking to be part of the solutions to keep us moving forward. Special thanks to Dominic Spadaro who teamed up with me to spend several days recruiting and continued to recruit while the convention was going on. Together we recruited over 60 new members in one week. We as an organization have a lot to offer with mentoring to working with the USPS to grow the bench and to prepare our future leaders for success. Mentoring craft personnel creates a culture change which helps reduce sick leave, accidents and increases productivity by changing their mindsets to succeed. Seeing this change and movement should lead others in this positive direction.

Recently some of these benefits have been under attack through legislation. Currently, between most federal agencies and us we have been successful in removing the change from your retirement to be calculated at your high five years versus the current high three years. Also removed was the retirement contribution out of your paycheck if you weren't paying the full amount, it will remain at the same percentage

you are currently paying. A joint effort is still working on keeping the Social Security Bridge as it is now where if you had not reached the age of 62 to collect Social Security and retired with 30 years or more with the minimum retirement age or reached 60 with 20 years of service you could collect 75% of the age 62 benefit. There are other items with new hires we are fighting against as well. Continue to call your Senate and House Representatives voicing your opinion on how these will affect you. You are their constituent and your vote matters when the next election rolls around.

The new officers elected for the Actives (currently employed members) for the Executive Board were Executive VP Membership James Mosher, Legislative VP Rachel Barber-Forrest, Education VP Lea Becker, re-elected to PAC VP Jennifer Hayes and myself as President until I retire next year.

Our National President Anthony Leonardi was present at the convention and participated in the Farmingdale Career Conference where 46 new members were brought on board. It is always great when you can have the leader of the organization present answering all questions on our current State of Affairs. Currently, as I write this, we are in Pay Talks. Until that is done, no information is given out on the negotiations within, so as not to jeopardize the talks.

The National Convention this year if interested in attending is August 9th through the 15th with the 9th and 15th as travel days. (Cont. on page 5)



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The recent UPMA New York State Convention in Saratoga Springs was a tremendous success. From the energy in the room to the unity among our members, the event truly showcased what our organization is all about—leadership, commitment, and service. I'm honored and humbled to share that I was elected as the new Executive Vice President. I look forward to serving all of you and working together to strengthen our mission.

While we celebrated many achievements and shared valuable insights, one message echoed louder than any other: We must grow our membership.

Our organization's strength lies in its people. Every member brings experience, perspective, and value to our community. That's why I am challenging each and every one of you—sign up just one new member. Whether it's an associate or an active member, your effort directly impacts our momentum and future success.

To support this initiative, we are offering a special incentive:

- \$50 for every associate member you sign up
- \$100 for every active member

This is more than a financial reward—it's an investment in the future of UPMA.

Power in numbers. That's not just a saying—it's a reality. The more members we have, the stronger our voice becomes. Whether we're advocating at the national level, protecting our rights, or supporting each other in our careers,

increased membership enhances our ability to make real change.

More members mean:

- Greater representation in policy decisions
- Stronger local and state networks
- More opportunities for mentorship and leadership
- A deeper bench of experienced professionals for support and guidance

Let's carry the energy from Saratoga Springs into the weeks and months ahead. As your Executive Vice President, I'm committed to working alongside all of you to grow our ranks and strengthen our future.

One member. One action. One stronger UPMA.

Let's rise to the challenge—together.



NYS UPMA BOARD
(From left to right) Dan O'Neil-Secretary/Treasurer,
Dan Leonard- President, James Mosher-Exec.VP,
Jennifer Hayes-VP PAC, Lea Becker-VP Education,
Rachel Barber-Forrest-VP Legislative,
Kristine Lion- VP Chapter Member Rep

GROWING OUR MEMBERSHIP

The New York Chapter represented UPMA very well at the New York 2 District Career Conference this past Sunday June 1, 2025, in Farmingdale, NY. In the 1st picture, is New York Chapter President Dan Leonard who showed up bright and early 1 hour before the conference started fresh off a 3 day recruiting trip with UPMA National Membership teammate Dominick Spadaro that started on Wednesday in Albany, NY when they visited the Albany Plant on all 3 tours beginning at 4:00 AM and ended on Friday when they split up with Dominick heading towards Schenectady, NY and Dan heading to Long Island, NY to visit some more offices in route to the Career Conference in Farmingdale. All together they signed close to 50 new members before the Career Conference even started! In the 2nd picture to the left, is current New York Chapter Legislative Vice President James Mosher and incoming Legislative Vice President Rachel Barber-Forrest sitting a their very professional UPMA table that included plenty of rail cards in those nice professional holders, past editions of their chapter newsletters, some candy giveaways, and of course those 1187s on clipboards ready for new members to sign up.

UPMA National President Tony Leonardi was in



attendance for this Career Conference and told me how much of a success the new KSA Assistance Program was. He said that USPS Chief Retail and Delivery Officer and Executive VP, Elvin Mercado was the keynote speaker and from the podium told all in attendance how impressed he was with UPMA's new KSA Assistance Program and encourage all attendees to take advantage of it. Wow, what a HUGE endorsement! Let that show everyone that the work we are collectively doing together is being noticed and appreciated at all levels of the postal service and us this as encouragement and as a fill up in your fuel tanks for you to keep driving this UPMA membership for another thousand miles! Collectively, we are changing people's lives and improving the quality of the USPS at the same time. Remember the only way for us to make really positive and sustainable change is from the bottom up!

Earl Husbands

National Membership Director

(Continued from page 3)

It is in Dallas Texas, and you can register and book your hotel from our website unitedpma.org. I would suggest you act now, if haven't already as the registration price keeps going up and the flights become more expensive as seats on the planes are taken. The incentive reimbursement to attend given by the state is \$1000.00.

The Atlantic Conference is coming up, September 25th though the 28th in North Carolina at the Great Wolf Lodge in Concord. See the application in this ESP. If you are unaware of the context of this conference, it is where states from Maine to N. Carolina that are in the Atlantic Area get together for some training and area information.

Be safe, be honest, keep your integrity, follow your directives, mentor and enjoy the family time when off. After all, that is why we go to work every day for our families.

Dan Leonard, State President



Information on Upcoming Events UPMA 9TH NATIONAL CONVENTION AUGUST 9-15, 2025 SHERATON DALLAS, DALLAS, TEXAS

Hotel Reservations:

Contact the Sheraton Dallas to book your hotel room. Mention that you are attending UPMA National Convention.

UPMA rates are available until July 18, 2025 or until the room block is sold out, whichever comes first.

Sheraton Dallas Phone Number: 888-627-8191 Group Code: UPMA National Convention 2025

Tunied 9 UPMA Na	tional Conve	ention Dalla	is, IX Augu	st 9 – 15, 2025			
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UPMA Retired Associate	Guest – includes ti	cket to UPMA Reti	red Luncheon				
Guest – does NOT include ticket to	UPMA Retired Lund	cheon Ch	nild (17 and under)			
Circle the appropriate fee:							
2025 National Convention Registration Rates	August 24, 2024 - August 30, 2024	September 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	April 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025	After June 30, 2025			
Postmaster, Manager, Supervisor or EAS Professional	\$200	\$220	\$252	\$300			
UPMA Retired, Associate or Guest This rate includes the UPMA Retired Luncheon.	\$200	\$215	\$239	\$275			
Auxillary or Guest This rate does not include the UPMA Retired Luncheon.	\$150	\$165	\$189	\$225			
Children 17 and under This rate includes child's meal at the Thursday Grand Banquet.	\$100	\$110	\$126	\$150			
Please let us							
If you are attending as a guest, who a			_				
Do you have any food allergies or diet							
Payment Information		Hotel Res	ervations				
Convention Fee:	\$		UPMA has a special rate at the convention hotel. You mu book online or call the hotel directly to make a				
Additional tickets for UPMA Retired		reservation.	reservation. The National Office will not handle room reservations. All room cancellations must be made directly with the hotel 72 hours prior to arrival to avoid				
Lunch \$50 each:	\$						
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☐ Check payable to UPMA	To secure the	e special UPMA rat	e, you must identify				
☐ Visa/Mastercard		yourself as part of the 2025 UPMA National Convention. The rate is available only until July 28, 2025, or until al					
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One form per registrant. Cancellation Policy: Cancellation re							

\$1000. Reimbursment when attending

sessions

YOU MUST REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT ONLINE OR FILL OUT FORM AND MAIL IT.

Website is: UNITEDPMA.ORG

Go to Events

National Events

Links to Register and Book hotel

What airport should I fly in to? The closest airport is Dallas Love Field (DAL). DAL is located approximately 9.6 miles from the Sheraton Dallas Hotel.

The Dallas Fort-Worth (DFW) airport is located approximately 20 miles from the Sheraton Dallas Hotel.

Is there a shuttle to/from the airport? No. The hotel does not have shuttle service to/from the airport.

Is there a train I can take from the airport to the Sheraton Dallas Hotel?

Both DAL and DFW airport offer access to the DART light rail system which operates daily.

The two closest stations to the Sheraton Dallas Hotel are Pearl/Arts District and St. Paul.

received on or before July 25, 2025 will be assessed a \$50 cancellation fee per person. Cancellations received on or after July 26, 2025, will not receive a refund. Tickets for cancelled registrants are not available for use by other registrants. Registration transfers (name changes) are not permitted.

2025 Atlantic Conference September 25 - 28, 2025 Charlotte/Concord NC State/Zip _____ Address _ Phone February 1 - May 31, 2025 - \$180 Team Building June 1 - On Site - \$200 Competition Six meals including Saturday Afternoon Most current postal training Saturday Night Banquet and Awards Chapter Officers Training Refund Policy: Off-Site Transportation Provided 50% after June 1 Retiree Business & Breakouts No refund after July 1 GREAT WOLF LODGE RESORT 10175 Weddington Road, Concord North Carolina 28027 Make reservations today by calling 1-866-751-9653. Be sure to mention 2509UPMA, reference code to receive the special discounted rate. Room Rates \$179, includes Free Waterpark Passes, Free Parking Available until 8/25/25 or sold out. (One registration per page) Checks to NC UPMA AC - Mail to: Watch for updates soon on our Facebook Page: **Courtney Martinez** 225 Campbell Road **UPMA Atlantic Conference 2025** Vanceboro NC 28586 (Vendors must register to participate in More information contact hospitality room, meals and events) Dominick Spadaro - 252-342-0614 Dominick28512@gmail.com **AC Registration**



Jennifer Hayes PM Grahamsville 12740 153 Firehouse Rd.



VP / PAC

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I had a wonderful time at the New York UPMA convention. It was nice to see old friends, new friends, and also to do a little learning on the side. The PAC table was set up with multiple games to play, 50/50 with two winners and raffling off a decorated crate with Saratoga items. Between the 50/50 the raffle and the envelopes that were collected. NY PAC raised a total of \$2001. Additionally, there were two cash prizes of \$173 and \$201 from the 50/50 raffles. I was re-elected to be your NY PAC VP for my second term and am looking forward to keeping PAC strong with your help. So, keep on sending those envelopes and contributing through e-Pac, I can't wait to see you guys at the convention next year. Thank you for all your help



5th District had their meeting in June at Cohens Bakery, 89 Center St., Ellenville NY 12428. Food was provided by Gaby's Restaurant. Twenty-two people attended. Speakers, Justin Posner from Field Accounting introduced Andrew Trabona the newest member of Field Accounting. Justin talked about the importance of making sure the 3971s are signed by both employee and management, are on file and that they have been entered into Erms. He also spoke on abuse on E- travel, that the gas cards must match up and the Z cards are not being abused. If anyone has problems call Justin. He also touched on all the accounts. Thankfully nobody in attendance was behind. Cathy Winnie and Kristine Lion talked about CMR representation. They gave examples of how to stay out of trouble and also touched on the abuse of E travel as well as other hot topics. They handed out information to people that may need advice. Cathy Winnie also talked about KSA's and how UPMA can help members develop improved skills. It was a very informative meeting. PAC collected a total of \$200, from the 5th District. I am looking forward to our fall meeting. I will keep you posted of the time and place.

UPMA PAC for Postmasters and Managers
Member Voluntary Contribution Please send to:
Jennifer Hayes
153 Firehouse Rd.
Wurtsboro, NY 12790

Thank you for returning this form with	h your contribution	• Date:/	non-
I'll do my share! Enclosed is: \$25 _	\$50\$100 _	\$200 Other: \$	er favor contribur to this n
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I just returned from our annual UPMA State Convention held at different locations yearly across NY. A time for Postmasters, Supervisors, Managers, and associates to gather, connect, and strengthen their commitment to service and leadership within the USPS. This year's state convention was a success, offering attendees the chance to participate in leadership training, hear from our leaders, and engage in dialogue about the evolving challenges and opportunities facing us today. From networking to workshops, the event empowered us as members to return to our offices with renewed energy and tools to enhance our roles. By the time this edition gets out we should have learned our fate with the supplement. We are all in this together and it needs all of us to be active and participants in our future and letting our voices be heard. I for one am counting on that supplement to be there when I am 57.

Next up on the agenda, excitement is building for the UPMA National Convention, set to take place in Dallas Texas August 9-15. This National Convention brings all 50 states together to share best practices, celebrate achievements, and participate in critical organizational decision-making. Keynote speakers, USPS leadership, and leadership experts will be present to provide insight into the future of the postal service and UPMA's role in that vision. It is a great time to make connections, network, and learn from our leaders. UPMA is offering a \$1,000. incentive for going to National Convention simply for attending.

Whether it's your first time or your 22nd, it is not

just a professional event, but also a celebration of hard work, dedication, and community spirit that defines UPMA. If you haven't already, please make plans to attend and represent NY, connect with peers, and help shape the future of our organization. Be sure to pack your cowboy boots and hat and be ready to ride the bull. There also is an option to go to the Texas Ranger stadium and watch a game or two for a fee.

The District 2 meeting was held at Giuseppe's on May 6 in Horseheads. Among those in attendance was our Acting POOM and a Postal Inspector who provided a presentation on revenue fraud. Revenue fraud commonly occurs at widow transactions with package acceptance, under-declared postage, misuse of labels, or manipulation of the tracking system. Forged or reused labels evade postage. A good rule of thumb is if the package does not route to check the tracking number in the system. Generally, those packages will contain no information in the tracking details. Take pictures of what is believed to be fraudulent and send the picture and tracking numbers to Revenue Fraud Reporting K8J3B0@uspis.gov. The Inspector will respond to confirm the postage is fraudulent and how to proceed from there. In a period of 21 days I sent 77 pkgs up for verification and 59 came back as fraudulent.

We had also engaged in discussion about the new Elmira S&DC. The conversation encompassed operational changes, new vehicles for the rural, potential impacts on local facilities,

(Continued on page 11)



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What Is a FERS Annuity Supplement that the BIG Beautiful Bill is trying to eliminate why it is so important to Federal employees' financial stability?

The FERS annuity supplement, also known as the special retirement supplement, is a retirement benefit for eligible federal government employees who retire before they turn 62. The supplement represents the income an employee would be earning from Social Security if they were old enough to start claiming it.

Key Facts About FERS Supplement

The FERS annuity supplement is a monthly benefit for federal government employees who retire before age 62.

The FERS supplement represents what the employee would receive from Social Security if they were old enough to claim those benefits.

The FERS supplement amount is calculated using the number of creditable service years an employee has and the estimate of what they will receive in Social Security benefits if they start collecting at age 62.

The more years of service you have when you retire and begin claiming FERS benefits, the larger your monthly supplement will be.

Federal employees who are covered by the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) receive benefits from three sources: Social Security, the Thrift Savings Plan and the FERS basic benefit, which is distributed in the form of an annuity. Those who retire before the age of 62 are ineligible to receive Social Security benefits, so the FERS annuity supplement kicks in to provide an income stream until the employee can access Social Security.

The supplement is paid by the federal government's Office of Personnel Management. Common recipients of the FERS supplement include law enforcement officers, firefighters and air traffic controllers, all of whom have special provisions for retiring early.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the FERS annuity supplement, an employee must have at least one calendar year of FERS service.

The person's retirement must apply to one of the following scenarios.

- 1. **Early retirement (VERA or VSIP)** age 50 with 20 years of service or any age with 25 years or more of service
- 2. **Special Provision Employees who retire as such** law enforcement officials, firefighters, air traffic controllers, and customs and border protection officers.

- 3. Have reached their MRA and have at least 30 years of FERS service, or
- 4. Age 60 with at least 20 years of FERS service

Once you start receiving the supplement benefits, your eligibility continues until one of two dates; either the last day of the month you turn 62, or the last day of the month before the first month you are entitled to receive Social Security benefits, whichever comes first.

How To Calculate a FERS Annuity Supplement

The formula to calculate a FERS annuity supplement uses your years of creditable civilian service and the value of the monthly benefits you'd get if you start collecting Social Security when you turn 62 to determine what benefits you'll receive from the supplement.

So, to calculate your FERS supplement, you must first calculate the monthly Social Security benefit you'd receive if you started collecting at 62. Once you have that number, you can calculate the supplement benefit by dividing your service years by 40 and then multiplying that number by your estimated monthly Social Security benefit.

Here's an example of what that calculation might look like. Charlie is a 50-year-old FERS employee. When he retires in 10 years, Charlie will have 30 years of creditable civilian service. Charlie's estimated Social Security benefit is \$1,371 a month.

FERS annuity supplement estimation formula and an actual calculation with the numbers.

Service years = 30

Divided by 40 = .75

Social Security Estimate - \$1371

\$1371 X 0.75 = \$1028.25 = estimated FERS Supplement

Rachel Norton-Rowland

(Continued from page 9)

and concerns regarding logistics and staffing at effected offices. The conversation gave us some awareness as to the changes that continue to affect our area surrounding the S&DC.

I am looking to hold the next District 2 meeting in Buffalo sometime in September. If you have a place that you think would be a great place to hold a meeting that provides food as well, please reach out to me. Local knowledge is key

to providing a central location so that we can reach as many members in the area as possible.

Rachel Barber-Forrest,

District 2 Coordinator

"Help those to exceed their limitations and excel beyond their expectations."



Career Development and KSA Assistance Testimonials

DEANNA THIGPEN, SUPERVISOR CUSTOMER SERVICE POPLARVILLE, MS

I am DeAnna Thigpen, recently promoted to Supervisor Customer Service of Poplarville, MS. I would like to give an extra special acknowledgement to the UPMA Mississippi Chapter. I had been considering upward mobility for a while and had even set my e-career profile up and applied to EAS 17 positions. I would get to the interviews but not the positions. I felt a little discouraged. So, one day a few months back a current UPMA MS Chapter member invited me to join UPMA and I did. I went to a meeting that same day. And the love and information that was



given really helped me out. After leaving there I felt great because they gave me hope. They are all about networking and helping one another fulfill their next level journey. After leaving there I started back working on my KSAs more vigorously. Once some positions opened that I thought would be a good fit for me, I had a member of UPMA look over my current KSAs and give me some pointers and I mean this was an expert of KSAs and when she did, I fixed what was needed and applied for the position. I am forever grateful for the UPMA Mississippi chapter you GUYS' ROC.

"I am going to apply for the office where I have been OIC. Would you look over my KSAs for me? Thank you."

"Good morning, I was trying to get some help with my KSA and profile. So I didn't know about an eCareer profile. I just signed up, thank you for everything!!!"



"UPMA has been so helpful to me. It has been such a success that I had my first Postmaster interview today! Thanks, UPMA, for all your help!!" Tamika

I can't wait to tell you about my new job!" (Employee received a Workforce position)



MAGGIE ROTELLA, POSTMASTER, HURLEY, NY

On June 22 last year, I attended a Career Conference in the New York 3 District in Syracuse. This was my second conference. I had attended a safety symposium in the past, which gave me motivation and drive to further my postal career. I was looking forward to hearing from the speakers and learning how to get promoted. The conference was a great way to network and learn about the different opportunities in the Postal Service. Classes were given by Postmasters, POOMs and the Labor group. Between seminars, booths were set up for us to get additional information. While looking over the information, I was greeted by Cathy Winnie, a friendly and familiar face who said she gladly would look over my KSAs. I was a PTF on an OIC assignment in West

Hurley, NY. When the office finally opened, Cathy worked with me to understand what was needed on my KSA and what I needed to prepare for the interview process. As a retired Postmaster and UMPA leader, her help was invaluable. I credit this assistance for me being the successful candidate and getting appointed Postmaster of Hurley. Becoming a member of UPMA was critical to my success in advancing my postal career.

SANDRA THURMAN SUPERVISOR, PARK CITY, UT

I am so grateful for UPMA and the assistance I received in putting my candidate profile together. I had no idea about the STAR (situation, task, action, result) system that



should be used when showing one's qualifications. My team walked me through each requirement, keeping me on point, explaining how many words should be used in each paragraph and how best to display my leadership skills. The gems I gained from this experience were a realization of the things I truly have accomplished, my weaknesses and the things I need to focus on learning. There is not any place in the Postal Service to receive this kind of help. Fortunately, UPMA pulled through and I am now empowered to move forward with my career as a shining star! Thank you.

ROBERT EDWARDS POSTMASTER, JOHNS ISLAND, SC

Having a mentor is crucial in an industry like ours; I cannot emphasize this enough. Fortunately, I was introduced to UPMA and a leader served as my mentor. Without that guidance, I would not be where I am today. I was provided invaluable support and coaching that facilitated my success. UPMA assisted me in mapping out my KSAs, which significantly enhanced my competitiveness during the interview



and selection processes. UPMA's commitment to my professional development went beyond the typical responsibilities of a Postmaster or Manager. My UPMA mentor always was available to offer advice, share a wealth of experience and provide constructive feedback that helped me grow and excel in my role. The dedication to nurturing talent and fostering a positive work environment truly is inspiring. My mentor's leadership style is characterized by empathy and inclusivity. They ensure every team member feels valued and heard, creating a culture of collaboration and innovation. The ability of UPMA to lead by example and motivate others has not only transformed me and my team, but also positively impacted the entire organization as we pass it along. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to learn from such extraordinary leaders. UPMA's influence has been instrumental in shaping my career. I am confident this impact will continue to resonate with me and others who take advantage of this mentorship for years to come.



Cathy Winnie PM Retired Accord 12404 33 Cat Trail Williamstown, NY 13494



National Chapter Member Representative C: 845-742-7774 cathywinnie@yahoo.com

WE ARE READY...

YOUR CAREER

Phone: 845 742 7774

Website: www.unitedpma.org

Email:

cathywinnie@yahoo.com



Rev. N	W-9 larch 2024) ment of the Treasury	on	Give form to the requester. Do not send to the IRS.					
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For anyone that is recruiting new members and exceeds \$600. you must fill out the W-9 and send it to the National Office or they will not be able to send you your check.

> \$100. per active recruited \$50. per associate recruited

W-9 form can be downloaded from the irs.gov website

General Instructions



Carol Commisso
Retired PM Fishers
11 Ambassador Dr.
Victor, NY 14565



Scholarship Chair 585-905-5164 ccommisso12@gmail.com

2025 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

We had an impressive group of applicants for our scholarships this year, and the committee had a difficult time selecting only three for each fund. All these young people demonstrated not only academic excellence, but involvement in a wide array of extra-curricular and community activities. We had a unique situation this year, so I would like to explain the process that was used for choosing the recipients. The committee consisted of two retired teachers and a retired banker. To make the process completely impartial I made a copy of each application and then blacked out all the personal information for the student, as well as the parent or grandparent before giving the applications to the committee. They had a scoring matrix that considered each factor or requirement on the application and the winners were chosen based solely on their scores. It was more difficult than you might think choosing only six recipients.

The winners of this year's Frank and Helen Burger Scholarships, who will receive \$1000 each, are as follows:



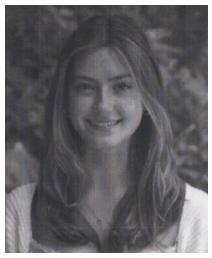
Hannah Johnson is the granddaughter of Warren Johnson, Postmaster Retired of Watertown. She has a 4.3 GPA, and is a member of the National Honor Society, and the National Technical Honor Society. In addition to her academic success, Hannah plays lacrosse, runs cross country, and participated in winter track and field. Hannah's community activities include volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House and assisting Afghan refugees through her church. She has also worked as a camp counselor. Hannah would like to become a physician and has been accepted at the College of William and Mary, where she will be a pre-med student and Division 1 lacrosse

Charlotte Couchman is the granddaughter of Marie Couchman, Postmaster Retired of Chautauqua. Charlotte is the valedictorian of her class at Cassadaga Valley High School where she is a member of the National Honor Society and has a received a number of academic awards. Charlotte is also very involved in 4H, as a horse member, and was the 2024 National Champion Public Speaker at the Eastern National 4H Round-up in Louisville, Kentucky. Along with her 4H activities in the community, Charlotte helps pack care packages for the troops through Blue Star Mothers. Charlotte has worked as a lifeguard since she was 15, and that influenced her decision to become a health care provider. She will begin the pre-nursing program at Jamestown Community College this fall.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ((

(Continued from previous page)



The third recipient is Hunter Johnson, another granddaughter of Warren Johnson. Hunter's interests include tennis, field hockey, the recycling club, and AB Buddies, which promotes inclusivity among students on the spectrum. She volunteers at the local Alzheimer's Association, and on her own raised \$1500 for them. Hunter will be attending the University of Colorado at Boulder this fall, majoring in Biochemistry, and hopes that working in that field she may help find a cure for Alzheimer's.

The Edwin D. Jennison Sr. Scholarship winners each receive \$500. The board at our fall meeting had voted to award only two scholarships this year to help build up the fund, but I was contacted by an anonymous donor this spring who wanted to give \$500 so that we could give the third scholarship. The student receiving that scholarship and I are very grateful for this person's generosity.

Carly Berndt, granddaughter of Betty Berndt, Postmaster Retired, Martville, is the first winner. Carly will be attending SUNY Purchase this fall. Her passions are music and history, and Purchase will allow her to pursue a dual major in those areas, something she believes will give her the skills and experience needed to enter the work force. Carly has been accepted into the Music Conservatory Classical Composition program which is highly competitive. She loves writing music and will be working with professionals from New York City. Carly is also interested in law and would eventually like to become an entertainment lawyer. She is an advanced placement student and has already earned some college credits. Carly is a member of several honor societies, the class council and student senate. Her community activities are through the honor societies, and also as a volunteer at local and regional theaters where she volunteers and performs.





Preston Roosa is the grandson of Jeanne Roosa, Postmaster Retired, New Hampton. Preston will attend SUNY Plattsburgh in the fall where he will major in Information Technology and Computer Science. While this has long been a passion of his, he is also interested in the technical and backstage components of the theater. Preston is a member of the National Honor Society, and in addition to community service through that organization he is also a Life Scout working toward becoming an Eagle Scout, and volunteers through his church. He runs cross country, plays tennis and is a member of his school's Nordic ski team. Preston is also in concert band and chorus and has helped with set construction and sound on several school musicals

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS (Continued from previous page)



Our final recipient of the Jennison Scholarship is Emma Riley, the granddaughter of Helen Cascanette, Postmaster Retired, St. Regis Falls. Emma is the valedictorian of her class, a member of the National Honor Society, the Science National Honor Society, and the Epsilon Honor Society. She is also a class officer, member of the cheer leading squad, and on student council. Emma volunteers in her community delivering meals to homebound seniors, has helped with Red Cross blood drives, and a 5K run to benefit a local cancer treatment center. Emma will attend St. Lawrence University, where she is enrolled in the predentistry program. Emma believes that by becoming a dentist she can help others in a tangible way, both through her paid work, and volunteering.



Dear United Yostmasters and Managers of America,

I com truly honored and grateful to have been awarded the Edwin D. Jennison Sr. Scholarship. Your generous support means so much to me as I begin my academic journey at St. Lawrence University, Where I will be majoring in Biology on a pre-dental track.

I would also like to share a personal connection that makes this opportunity especially meaning ful to me. My grand mother, now 99 years old, served as Postmaster of the ST. Regis Falls, NY Post Office for 35 years before retiring in 1980. She has always been an inspiration to me, and she was incredibly proud to know that, through her years of service, she played a role in helping me take this important step in my life.

Thank you once again for your generosity and belief in my potential. I am truly honored to be a recipient of this scholarship.

With gratitude, Emma Riley

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

2025 Lifetime Achievement Award Winner -

Eileen (Burnitt) Johnson



Carol Commisso accepting the award for Eileen

Eileen was OIC and PM in Hankins and Roscoe. She was then PM in Hancock and Addison. She held many NAPUS positions including NYS President. She was instrumental in setting up the Frank and Helen Burger Scholarship and dedicated many hours to our members.



BYLAWS OF THE NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE UNITED POSTMASTERS AND MANAGERS OF AMERICA, INC.

Adopted June 8th, 2024

The purposes for which this Chapter is organized as a part of national organization, United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA), shall be to provide a vehicle through which members may assist one another in matters connected with their employment in the United States Postal Service; to foster a favorable image of public service; to; assure the users of the mails the best service possible improve the conditions under which individuals work, having concern for salaries, hours of employment, working environment, and related issues; to cooperate with other groups and levels of postal management in the achievement of common goals.

Article I - Name

This organization shall be known as the New York Chapter of the United Postmasters and Managers of America Inc

Article I Section 1 Subordinate units

The subordinate units of this organization shall be known as Districts

The purpose of this organization shall be to affiliate with and become a part of the national UPMA organization.

Any person as designated by the UPMA Governing Documents to be a member of the national Organization shall be idered a member in this Chapter but no member in arrears for dues shall be recognized or permitted any of the

Article IV - Meetings

The annual convention of the organization shall be held prior to the National Convention. The location will be chosen by geographical areas of interest where potential sites will be solicited. The Executive Boards will determine the location within the geographical areas by potential contract solicitations.

Special meetings may be called by the president and shall be called on the request in writing by a majority of the executive committee or on demand in writing of ten (10) percent of the paid-up membership of this chapter

The chapter secretary/treasurer shall mail notice of meetings to members of the executive committee at least ten (10) days prior to the date specified for such meetings or 5 days electronically.

In any convention of this chapter, all members who are present and registered for the convention shall constitute a

Robert Rules of Order shall govern the deliberations of this chapter except where any provisions of this Bylaw document are inconsistent or in conflict with Robert's Rules of Order; then, this Bylaw document shall prevail.

Article V - Election of Officers

Article V - Election of Officers

The officers of this chapter shall be a president, executive vice president, a secretary/treasurer, the immediate past president (who shall serve for a term of two years beginning at midnight the day after close of the National Convention and will end at midnight the day after the National Convention closes of the year a newly elected president shall assume office), the president of the UPMA retired, who together with the four vice presidents, shall constitute the executive committee, and the governing body of the chapter. The president shall be elected at the annual convention to serve a term of two years. Three vice - presidents which will be the Executive Vice President, PAC VP and Educational VP shall be elected the same year and serve a term of two years. The vice presidents of Adverse Action and Legislation along with the Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected at the annual convention in a subsequent year to serve a term of two years. The term of office shall commence the following day after close of the National Convention and will end at midnight the day the National Convention closes. The position for which an officer is elected shall be limited to two consecutive terms of office. Vice President (VP) positions will be voted on by specific position title as Executive VP Membership, VP Educational, VP PAC, VP Chapter Member Representative and VP Legislative.

If there are no candidates for a position the current officer will remain in office until the next state convention election turn over date or appointment by the Executive Board is made.

In the event a State Officer excluding the President and or Executive Vice President retires from the USPS without it being discipline related during the final year of their term, they may remain on to fulfill their ter

If in any year the State Convention is held and officers are elected and the National Convention is cancelled all elected officers will take office the following day the National Convention would have ended. If the State

Convention is cancelled all officers will continue until the next State Convention in which all elected officers take office according to the above paragraph.

Article VI District Coordinators

District Coordinators will serve the districts that currently exist according to the District Map and be nominated and elected for two-year terms every odd year and be sworn in. They will take office at close of the Swing meeting elected at. District Coordinators are not voting members of the Executive Board but will be required to attend the three Executive Board meetings for member information and audit purposes which are the Executive Board meeting held within the first 120 days of office and pre and post-convention boards. District Coordinators that can't attend an Executive Board meeting should designate an alternate representative for them.

(a) Confer with the Vice President that will serve as the Chapter Member Representative Chair on matters pertaining

- to their respective Districts.
- (b) Call a district meeting at least twice a year for the purpose of advising the district membership of progress within the state and for maintaining communications.(c) Assist the members in their districts in all endeavors.
- (d)Attend all meetings required by the President.

Article VII REPRESENTATION & VOTING AT STATE CONVENTION

Voting will be done by one vote per active member present, with the exception of Time and Place and Dues structure where all members present can vote.

All members must be registered and present at the Convention to be considered to be nominated and voted on for any position. Any exception to this rule must have had an announcement published in the ESUPMA or a letter to the President emailed or hand delivered by them as their intent to run prior to the start of the Convention.

Additional or other nominations shall be made from the floor, if seconded and approved, and shall be included with the list of recommendations made by the nominating committee for determining by ballot, of those present and qualified to vote in said election. If there shall be more than two nominations for any office, balloting shall continue

until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.

If there is a tie vote for any position, the position will be decided by a separate Executive Committee session where a majority vote will decide. If there still is a tie after this the President or (Executive Vice President if in the capacity of acting President) will cast the deciding vote.

With the exception of the positions of President and Executive Vice President, which shall be limited to active EAS members in good standing of the organization, retired Postmasters, retired EAS employees and Postmaster Reliefs shall be permitted to hold office in this chapter provided they are present at the meeting where the vote will be taken and that no other active EAS member seeks the office. Any active member who is an officer of this chapter, who

BYLAWS (Continued from previous page)
during their term shall resign or be removed for any cause whatsoever, from the position that qualified them for active membership, shall immediately become ineligible to hold office and their office shall be declared vacant. If there are no candidates to elect for the position of President or Executive Vice President and the position or positions are vacant the Executive Board will appoint a candidate or share the responsibility until the position can be

> If the Executive Board elects to have an Electronic or mail in option as well as in person, procedures for that will be followed as set up by the Executive Board.

State convention registration fees charged UPMA Retired members shall be twenty-five percent (25%) less than such fees charged active Postmasters and guests and shall include all functions included for active Postmasters and

The president shall preside at all meetings of the chapter, shall call special meetings when requested to do so as provided in Article IV. They shall also preside at the meetings of the executive committee and appoint all committees for the proper handling of the business of this chapter and in general perform such duties as may per to the office. The president shall receive such compensation for their services as the executive committee may provide. The president shall be bonded as provided in Article XVI.

Article IX - Executive Vice President

The executive vice president shall serve in the absence or disability of the president and work with the president as needed. This position will be voted on as the Executive VP, be a two-year position and must be an active member. Should the office of the president be vacated, the executive vice president will serve the remaining term. The remaining term of the vacant position of the executive vice president shall be filled by the executive committee. If there is no Executive VP to fill the position the Executive Board will appoint someone to fill the President's position or share the responsibility until the position can be filled.

In addition, the executive vice president shall serve as the Membership Chair for the chapter. It shall be their duty to promote membership for the organization and ensure that the chapter always has a strong membership. The executive vice president shall receive such compensation for their services as the executive committee may pro

Article X - At Large Vice Presidents

The At Large Vice Presidents will be responsible for the following duties

One Vice President will serve as Education Chair. It will be their duty to work with the President in aligning training that is deemed necessary and appropriate for the membership

One Vice President will serve as the Legislative Chair. It will be their duty to handle legislative activity within the

One Vice President will serve as the Political Action Committee (PAC) Chair. It will be their duty to handle any PAC activities within the chapter.

One Vice President will serve as the Chapter Member Representative Chair. It will be their duty to work with all Chapter Member Representatives to properly represent the members and to assist the District Coordinators with their labor management concerns.

In the event of a vacancy in the vice-presidential epidition of the transpation of the vice-presidential epidition of the

The secretary-treasurer shall combine the office of secretary and treasurer and shall perform all duties commonly incident to both offices. The secretary-treasurer shall be bonded as provided in Article XVI hereof and shall receive such compensation for their services as the executive committee may provide. The secretary-treasurer shall keep all records, record the proceedings of all conventions and meetings of the executive committee, deposit, withdraw and have custody of the funds of the chapter and shall be responsible to keep an accurate and complete account of the receipts, vouchers and membership. In the event of a vacancy in the position of secretary-treasurer, the vacancy shall be filled by the executive committee.

Article XII State Communication

An editor shall be appointed by the executive committee. It shall be the editor's duty to publish the official newspaper ESUPMA (Empire State United Postmasters and Managers of America) of the NY Chapter of UPMA.

A Webmaster shall be appointed by the executive committee. It shall be the webmaster's duty to keep the official website of ESUPMA (Empire State United Postmasters and Managers of America) of the NY Chapter of UPMA

Article XIII - Executive Committee

The officers of this chapter shall be a president, executive vice president, four at large vice presidents, a secretarytreasurer, the immediate past president who shall serve a term of two years beginning the following day after the National Convention of the year a newly elected president assumes office and the president of the UPMA Retired shall constitute the executive committee and the governing body of the chapter.

It shall be the duty of the executive committee to carry out the orders of the chapter as expressed in the convention, it shall have direct control of all business of the chapter and its affairs, it shall be the power of the executive committee to authorize necessary expenditures; to audit all accounts; approve the expenses of the executive officers and in general perform all the functions ordinarily attached to such committee

The executive committee shall have the power to remove any of the States elected officers for good and sufficient reason by two-thirds vote of the committee. The President shall have the power to remove members in appointed or

In case of vacancy of the Immediate Past President, the office shall remain unfilled until the next Past President is

In case there are equal number of voting members on the Board, a tie vote on any matter is considered defeated except as described in Article VII

In the case of a vacancy of the UPMA Retired President, the UPMA Retired Executive Committee, shall appoint one of its members to fill the unexpired term

Vacancies on the State Executive Committee Board shall be filled within 120 days from the effective date of vacancy excluding the past Presidents position as described above. A quorum of the State Executive Committee shall be a majority of the voting positions held.

Any tie in the vote, the president will make the determining vote for the replacement

The new executive committee shall hold an organizational meeting within 120 days of when they take office.

At the opening of each convention the president shall appoint a master sergeant-at-arms and the necessary assistant sergeants-at-arms, and it shall be their duty to maintain order and perform such other duties as designated by the president.

Article XV - National Convention Roll Call Voting Procedure

At the annual Chapter Convention when preparing for roll call votes to be cast on amendments at the National At the annual Chapter Convention when preparing for roll call votes to be cast on amendments at the National Convention a vote shall be taken after discussion by a majority of raising of hands to determine the method to vote by being roll call, paper ballot or raise of hands. When preparing for roll call votes at the National Convention to be cast on elections a vote shall be taken by paper ballot. If the Executive Board votes to cancel the State Convention due to safety reasons or reasons beyond our control, a form of electronic or mail in vote may be used. If electronic or mail in vote may be used. If electronic or mail in vote may be used. If electronic or mail in vote may be used. If every the procedure, by percentage, for how the Chapter's votes will be cast at the National Convention by the Chapter President or designee. The results of the votes will be listed in the official minutes of the Chapter convention. The Chapter President must send the results to the National Office within ten (10) days of the conclusion of the Chapter convention.

convention.

When preparing for roll call votes held at the National Convention on any additional candidates, conflicting amendments or items not available for consideration or a vote at a Chapters convention, those members in attendance at said National Convention, who are eligible to vote, shall caucus. The results of the vote shall govern the procedure, by percentage, for how the Chapter's votes will be cast by the Chapter President or designee.

Article XVI - Bonds

The secretary-treasurer and President shall be required to be bonded in the amount deemed sufficient by the executive committee, said bond to be executed by a surety company approved the executive committee and the premium on such bond shall be paid by the chapter.

Article XVII - Dues

The annual dues of the members of this Chapter shall be the same as provided in the governing documents of the national organization.

Article XIII - Official Publication

There may be established an official publication of this Chapter. The publication will be distributed to the membership and others. The official publication will be named - ESUPMA (Empire State United Postmasters and Managers of America). In addition, the Chapter may maintain a website and a Facebook account for the dissemination of information. The executive committee, as the governing body of the Chapter, shall have editorial control over the official publication(s).

Article XIX - Amendments

All proposed amendment(s) must be submitted in writing to the Chapter president at least sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the annual Chapter convention. The proposed amendment(s) shall be published in one or more ways using the State publication and or Website at a minimum prior to the convention. These bylaws may be amended at any convention of the chapter by a 2/3 vote of the delegates present and voting or if the State Convention is cancelled by 2/3 vote of the electronic returns, mail in vote returned or combination thereof. The Executive Board will decide the proposed method. Any proposed amendment(s) shall be read at one session of the convention or electronic meeting and voted on at a subsequent session with the opportunity to mail in their vote or electronically submit as the Executive Board had decided on the method. A deadline date would be imposed at that time depending on the current concerns of not having a convention. These amendment(s) shall become effective immediately upon the adjournment of the convention unless otherwise specified in the amendment. When proposing changes, although not required, be sure to include all sections affected by the proposed change and why the change is needed. Show current writing and proposed writing.

Article XX Committee's

The following temporary committees shall be appointed by the President:

1. Bylaws and Fiscal Policy - Up to five members

- (a). Solicit input from membership all during the year.
 (b). Hold meetings as necessary to consolidate and formulate.
- (c). Furnish a complete copy of Bylaws and Fiscal Policy to ESUPMA Editor within 30 days of the close of the annual Chapter Convention.

 (d). Present Bylaw and Fiscal Policy proposed changes to the President at least 60 days in advance of the State

Convention in which they are to be considered

- Convention Time & Place Up to five members.
 Nomination of Officers Up to five members.
- 4. Budget Up to five members, of which the Secretary-Treasurer shall be one
- 5. Audit Up to five members which will consist of one member from each District as designated by its District Coordinator, the Chairman of which shall be the Secretary-Treasurer. He/she shall let those members know at the beginning of the year the requirements for the mandatory Audits as described in Attachments A & B.

 6. Special Committees as necessary.

ARTICLE XXI - SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN

The Scholarship Chairman shall have the responsibility and imagination for maintaining and overseeing the fund-The Scholarship Chairman shall have the responsionally and imagination for handlaming and overseeing the future raising efforts for the purpose of scholarships. The Chairman shall act in the capacity of Chairman and Advisor to the Scholarship Selection Committee. The Scholarship Chairman will be reimbursed for any direct expenses, such as, but not limited to, administrative and communication expenses, upon approval of the Board of Directors. The Scholarship Chairman would be an annual appointment made by the State President. The Chairman of Scholarship would act in that capacity throughout the course of the year and not be a temporary appointment for the purpose of

The Chairman shall:

- Coordinate and promote fund-raising efforts throughout the year and during State Convention.
 Maintain any records pertaining to fund-raising.
- 3. Report to the Secretary-Treasurer.
- 4. Select a volunteer Committee to assist in fundraising efforts throughout the year and during the UPMA State Convention.

 5. Assure the compliance of the awards and scholarship process according to the guidelines established by the
- Executive Board
- 6. Have responsibility for the application process for any awards or scholarships to be presented by New York

ARTICLE XXII - ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section 1. The Order of Business at any state convention or other meeting of this Association shall be (a) Call to Order
(b) Invocation then Pledge of Allegiance
(c) In no order Reports of Officers and Committees, Elections, Bylaw voting, training, etc.

- (d) Unfinished Business
- (e) New Business (f) Open Forum
- (g) Benediction (h) Adjournment

ARTICLE XXIII - BUDGET

Section 1. The budget shall be in detail and shall itemize the various amounts for the several officers and committees and for State and National conventions. Items so budgeted shall not be exceeded without specific authorization of the President and the Secretary-Treasurer and disbursed on receipt of proper vouchers approved by the President. Section 2. The total of the budget shall not be exceeded by 5% except by the consent of two-thirds of the Board of

In the Running.....



Here I am with Louise Nix (left) and Kathy Frame (right) both vying to be our next National President of the Retirees.

Your can only vote at National Convention in Dallas August 9-15th. So plan on attending.

See you there!

Liz Forsell,

Retiree VP



Tunnel to Towers - T2T

Again T2T is the Veteran's Project at the 2025 National Convention. There are several ways to donate to T2T foundation. We prefer you make a check payable to Tunnel to Towers, but mail the check to Louise Nix, Treasurer, UPMA Retired, 88 Rodney Nix Rd., Cleveland, GA 30528. She will log your contribution and forward the checks to insure they are added to our UPMA total. If you make a contribution other than sending a check to Louise, you need to let Louise know by email at louisenix@yahoo.com. She will maintain a database to show total contributions from UPMA and our members. 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. No one will know individual level of donation except Louise.

Also you can use the link https://dogood.t2t.org or the QR Barcode.





Veteran's were recognized at the State Convention

Keith Miner presented each veteran with a Challenge Coin and a handcrafted holder to display them.



Keith Miner
PMRetired
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NY UPMA

Retiree President

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Greetings once again to my UPMAR family and friends. Once again it is a rainy dreary weekend. Hopefully one and all are getting ready for the summer.

As I write this letter I am waiting for the Belmont Stakes to come on TV. Historic Saratoga Springs is once again hosting the third leg of the Triple Crown. Saratoga also hosted our 2025 NYS UPMA/UPMAR Convention at the Embassy Suites, I can say we had a great time reuniting, doing our business and having great get-togethers with our friends, especially in the hospitality room. Left, Right Center, anyone?

I'm sure that Dan and others will cover the active meeting so let me jump right to the retiree session. We had a beautiful memorial service organized by Marti Miller and assisted by Eva Gigon and many others. Immediately after that, we called our retiree session to order. We were honored to have four national officers address us. Active President Tony Leonardi came in to thank the retirees for all that they do to assist the actives. UPMAR National President Charley Peters gave a detailed report on national retirees concerns under the watchful eyes and ears of his wife Anita. Especially notable was Charley's explanation of the rationale and reasons behind the bylaw changes that will increase retiree dues and fees paid for national convention. Candidates for National President Kathy Frame and Louise Nix (accompanied by her husband Rodney) each had an opportunity to share their visions and hopes if elected as national president. A letter from national VP candidate Rosa Gonzalez was also read. I would also like to give a shout out to my Marine buddy Dominic Spadaro who both attended our convention and traveled all around NY State trying to assist us in recruiting new members with great success.

We held our NYS elections for the offices of President and two Vice Presidents. I am pleased to announce that I have been re-elected as President, Marti Miller as ExecVP and Liz Forsell as VP. Gerry Geddis will continue on as Secretary/Treasurer. I offer my grateful thanks to the membership for re-electing me. I could not do my job without Gerry, Marti and Lizmany thanks to them for all they do. I would also like to give a shout-out to Cathy Winnie for putting together a great presentation on organizing your benefits and records, having a list of all important accounts with points of contacts, and much more. There are so many people who all contribute wonderfully to the success of our organization. Websites, publications, convention chairs, committee chairs, etc.- everyone contributes in ways both seen and unseen. THANK YOU one and all!!!

The retirees gave out four awards at our convention. Dave Cook and Mike Silvestri received awards for their work on WEP/GPO and every legislative issue that impacts retirees. It is a rare day indeed that we don't receive an email from them keeping us informed on legislative issues. Dan Leonard also received an award for his steadfast support of retirees and retiree issues during his tenure as NYS UPMA President. In addition to the physical awards, a \$300 donation was made to the Jennison Scholarship in their honor. I would like to offer my personal congratulations and thanks to all three for their support of NYUPMAR. Eileen Johnson received this year's Lifetime Achievement Award during the banquet for her work especially in founding and growing our educational scholarships. I am told she is deeply touched and honored by the award.

Finally, I was reminiscing with my wife Lori (Continued on page 26)



Gerald Geddis
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The NYS UPMA annual Retiree meeting was called to order by President Keith Miner @ 8:44 AM on Tuesday June 3,2025. There were 37 retirees and 1 associate present. The posting of the colors was completed by Dick Dalrymple and Michael Silvestri. The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Michael Silvestri and Heidi Freeman gave the Invocation. Welcoming remarks and introduction of special guests, officers and past presidents was given by President Keith. Special guests-National UPMA Retired President-Charley Peters, National UPMA President-Tony Leonardi, also Kathy Frame and Louise Nix who are both seeking election for the 2026-2027 term as National UPMA Retired President. Board members—Keith Miner, President—Marti Miller, Executive VP—Liz Forsell, VP and Gerry Geddis, Sec/Treas. Past Retiree Presidents—David Cook, Michael Silvestri, Deana Wood, Carol Commisso and Mike Robinson.

Tony Leonardi thanked the retirees for their service and all that they do continuing to help the organization. A special Thank You was given to Dave Cook- National UPMA Retired Legislative Chair and Michael Silvestri. National President Charley Peters was then introduced and he also thanked Dave and Mike for the work that was done to get the Social Security Fairness Act-WEP/GPO passed and signed into law. President Charlie also spoke on membership recruiting. If you sign up an Active member or an Associate, you will receive \$100 or \$50 accordingly from the National Office. Membership retention rate is at 90%. There was also a discussion on the Bylaws and Amendments that will be voted on at the National Convention. One of the amendments includes a dues increase plan that will start in 2026 through 2028 and then revert back to increases based on

COLA. 2026 will increase to \$7.00 per month—2027 increase to \$8.60 per month—and then 2028 will increase to \$10.00 per month. The National Convention will be held August 9-15, 2025 in Dallas Texas. The 2026 National Convention will be held in Puerto Rico. Tunnel to Towers is the National Charity supported this year.

A motion to waive the reading of the prior Convention minutes was made by Betty Berndt and 2nd by Liz Forsell. All in favor, motion passed. The minutes were published last year in ESP and a copy was on hand at this year's Convention for anyone that wanted to review them. Copies of the budget and finances were provided to attendees. Gerry Geddis went over the budget and line items with the attendees. FY2024 ending balances totaled \$10,638.38. The balances as of June 2, 2025 were checking---\$2640.82 and Savings---\$9549.49, for a total of \$12,186.31. There are outstanding checks and State and National Incentives still to be paid this year. Motion made by Marti Miller and 2nd by Liz F. to accept treasurers report. The financial audit will be completed by Deana Wood, Carol Commisso and Gerry Geddis.

Dominic Spadaro spoke yesterday in the General Session on the Atlantic Conference and the membership drive. Dave Cook spoke on the Social Security Fairness Act WEP/GPO and on Newly introduced bills- HR1040 and HR1. If you are not receiving UPMA Gold please send him your email address. Check for emails, the Website, the Leader, UPMA Gold and In the Mailbox to stay informed and up to date on all issues. (Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

Kathy Frame and Louis Nix were both given an opportunity to speak on their candidacy for UPMA Retired President. President Keith then read a statement from Rosa Gonzalez who is seeking Election for National VP.

There was a special presentation and hand out by Cathy Winnie on the steps to create an account with LOGIN.Gov for access to OPM and your personal information. She also presented Cell Phone tech tips, including using Note Pad and QR Code scanning. Please reach out to her if you require any assistance.

Unfinished Business--Liz Forsell stated that were 135 auction bags to drop your tickets into to win. We collected a total of \$1,272. dollars that will be distributed evenly to the Scholarship Accounts.

\$424.00 dollars each to the Berger, Jennison and the National Scholarships. She thanked everyone for their support and all of the members that helped her with the Auction.

New Business--Next Year 2025 State Convention is going to be held June 11-14 Riveredge in Alexandria Bay, NY. This will be Thur-Sun and the room rate is \$134. per night. Any incentives for next year Conventions will be proposed and voted on by the State Board members at the midwinter meeting. Nominations for the President, Executive VP and VP for a two year term were presented by Marti Miller, Nomination Chair. Mike S. made a motion, 2nd by C. Winnie to nominate Keith Miner as NYS UPMA Retired President. Mary Lou Zerby made a motion, 2nd by Liz F. to close nominations for President. All in favor and have the Sec/Treas cast one vote for Keith Miner for President. Motion passed. Motion made by Darlene Duffy, 2nd by Deana Wood to nominate Liz Forsell as Vice President, Motion made by Lorraine Courson, 2nd by D. Cook to nominate Marti Miller as Executive Vice

President. Motion made by Keith Miner, 2nd by Ben Johnston to close nominations and have the Sec/Treas cast one vote for each position. All in favor. Motion passed. President Keith presented an award to Dave Cook, Michael Silvestri and Dan Leonard for their legislative work in support of retirees. Keith Miner also donated \$300.00 to Carol Commisso in their names to go towards the Jennison Scholarship fund. Mike S. then spoke on the legislative summit and the importance of it and PAC for the members. Dave continues to send out updated emails. Read them and stay informed. Liz F. recognized 2 retiree first timers—Heidi Freeman and Annette LeRouzic.

Benediction by H. Freeman and retiring of the colors by D. Dalrymple and M. Silvestri. Motion made by Liz Forsell, 2nd by Ray Gardner to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion passed. Adjournment at 10:39 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gerald P. Geddis, NY UPMAR Secretary/Treasurer









FORM 1187-R

Request and Authorization for Voluntary Allotment of **Compensation for Payment of Employee Organization Dues**

Please complete and mail to:

UPMA National Office

	8 H	erbert St	t.							
	Ale	xandria,	VA 223	05-26	00					
		3) 683-9(
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Revised 11-19

MEMORIAL SERVICE JUNE 3, 2025

Patricia Brown - East Norwich
Peter Thomas Galligan - Seaford
John Arthur Gau - Bible School Park
Donald F. Genther - Ulster Park
Charles Gurreri - New Paltz
Gerald Hollowell - Falconer
Jeanette "Emily" King - Caroga Lake
Lewis Loeven - Great Neck
Magdalen M. Metz - Wingdale

Theresa Pennyfeather - Chase Mills
Sharon Prince - Hilton
Joe Sanderl - Hammondsport
William Schwartz - Glenmont
Jane Stanley - Guilford
Dorothy Watkins - Cameron
Sue Wilk - Highland Falls
Florence Elizabeth "Flo" Wood-Leewe
- Callicoon



(Continued from page 21)

about how we used to watch the TV show Dallas back in the early 1980's in her dorm room at Siena as a break from our studies. Remember the question- Who Shot JR? Let's all try to make some more memories about Dallas this year at our National Convention. Please try to attend if possible. We will have votes for national officers and bylaw changes as well as the opportunity to go see Southfork Ranch!

It is truly an honor to serve as your State President. Thanks again for the confidence you have placed in me. Thank you to all of our veterans for your service past and present. Be safe, be well and God bless one and all.

Keith Miner, NYS Retiree President



Charile Peters, National Retiree President swearing in the NYS Retiree Board

Liz Forsell - VP, Marti Miller - Exec. VP and Keith Miner - President



Liz Forsell
Retired PM
Long Lake 12847



NYUPMAR VP C:315-369-5053 lizzie13436@hotmail.com

THE AUCTION WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

There were a total of 135 auction bags to drop your tickets in to win.

Total collected was \$1272.00 which is distributed equally among the 3 scholarship funds



\$424.00 each to the Burger, the Jennison and the National Scholarship

Fun was had by all.







Marti Miller Retired PM Panama 14767 37 South St.,Panama 14767



NY UPMAR Exec-VP

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C: 716-450-2864

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Another New York State UPMA convention has concluded. We had over forty retirees present. As usual, it was so good to see our friends that we haven't seen since last year. The Embassy Suites hotel was great. The suite that we had was very roomy and even the beds were comfortable. For breakfast, they had a chef who custom made your omelets, pancakes, and waffles. The lunches were so good, too. That was buffet style with so many options. The convention was well done. Except for an occasional microphone malfunction, things went smoothly. The retirees were a part of the active's meeting, except for the time of our retiree meeting. Our Tuesday session was opened with a Memorial Service for our deceased members. There were seventeen names that we had on our Honor Role. A carnation for each name was placed into a vase by a retiree. A few were also placed for those who passed of whom we were unaware. Keith also handed out awards he had made to the Veterans in our group of UPMA attendees as a part of the Memorial Service. After that the retirees had their meeting. Our retiree meeting was well attended. Michael Silvestri and Dave Cook were presented with awards for all their work getting HR-82 finally signed. Dan Leonard was also asked to come into our meeting. Keith presented an award to Dan for all the help that he gave to the retirees. We had all thought it would never happen. Thankfully, we were wrong. It was during the Reagan administration that the WEP/GPO was put into place. As for the officers, Keith was re-elected as President, Liz as Vice President, and me as Executive Vice-President. Charlie Peters, our National President of the Retirees spoke to us about the reason for by-law changes. Our dues will go up gradually, but only

Conventions. Charlie's lovely wife, Anita, also joined us at our convention. We had both candidates for National President of the Retirees present for the whole of our convention. Kathy Frame of Pennsylvania and current National UPMA retirees Vice-President spoke to us of her dedication to UPMA. Louise Nix of Georgia, a former National officer, said she learned so much from her past position and would apply that to the office of President. Louise's husband, Rodney, also attended. Tony Leonardi, National President of the Actives, also came into our meeting and talked about finances. Our banquet was on Tuesday night. We once again had a wonderful buffet. During the banquet, Eileen Johnson was named the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award. Since Eileen was unable to attend, Carol Commisso accepted the award on her behalf. Eileen was a past president of NAPUS and many other positions. She also was responsible for starting the Burger Scholarship fund. This was started with funds from Frank and Helen Burger. Fortunately, I believe someone was able to make a video of a part of the presentation that was sent to Eileen and Henry. So many children have been helped with some of that Scholarship money. The night concluded with dancing. Cathy Winnie was the "DJ" for the dance music. She has so many talents! Then it was Wednesday, and we all parted and went on our

Next stop for UPMA is the National Convention in Dallas. Hope to see many of you there.

way home.



because it is needed. He also explained the

reason fees will go up for the National

Attention All Members

District Meetings

TBD

National Convention

August 9 - 15 2025

Sheraton Dallas Dallas, TX

Room rates - \$189 Run of the House/\$199. Queen/Queen

1-888-627-8191 2025 UPMA National Convention

Atlantic Area Conference

September 25-28, 2025

Great Wolf Lodge Concord NC

Room rates \$179.(Includes waterpark passes)

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National Convention Dallas, TX

\$1000. reimbursement when attending sessions Plan now to attend!

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Deadline for Oct/Nov.

NYS ESP issue is August 23rd by 5 pm