

**ROUND AND ROUND AND ROUND WE GO!**



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(effective 10/14/2020)

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# ANDREA KOCZUR-PRESIDENT

Postmaster Lake Park, MN

Cell: 701-566-1064 Work: 218-238-5747

Email: akoczur@feltontell.net

I am hoping everyone is well after one of the most difficult years of my career. I know I am not the only one, just one voice of many. Every one of your leadership abilities were tested this year. Did you learn new techniques or were you just hanging on to the ropes to keep from drowning?

The top 5 leadership qualities in many studies are **honesty/integrity, confidence, inspiring others, commitment/passion, and good communication.** I look at these with a broken heart because I know I did not live up to my capabilities. When I look at the things, I can change to try to make a difference in the upcoming year, I think I will take it in bites, so I do not choke on it.

**Honesty and integrity** are a part of my daily life, I do not waver. I have never been short of **confidence** in my life, yet this year has cracked the shell of that a bit, meaning I will be working on trusting my abilities again. I am positive I have failed to inspire others, namely my employees. The weight on your shoulders day after day causes you to push rather than pull others.

This will be a focus for 2021. **Commitment and Passion** for the Postal Service or my role as a Postmaster. Shaken to the core is how I would term that topic. Over worked causes you to lack commitment in the “extra” time you tend to give your job or office. Passion, I believe became sour with the increased animosity from the public on a regular basis. Surrounding myself with a more positive work environment as well as finding a way to let go of the things I cannot personally change with strangers.

**Good Communicator**- it saddens me to say I am positive I could have been a better communicator in every aspect of my life. Frustration gets to you. I can hear myself saying “I just wish they would do it without having to be told!” Part of realigning my leadership skills is to identify what went wrong. Pick a few things I know I can succeed in changing to get me on the right track of managing. Little bites.

Success as a manager has effects on everyone, staff and customers alike. Identify your week points, ask yourself if you did the best you can. Decide what you can change, one piece at a time. Do not dwell on history it cannot be changed, but the future can. It took a while to fall apart, it will take a while to come back together.

## LEADERSHIP SKILLS

- 1. Honesty and integrity**
- 2. Confidence**
- 3. Inspire Others**
- 4. Commitment and Passion**
- 5. Good Communicator**
- 6. Decision Making Capabilities**
- 7. Accountability**
- 8. Delegation and Empowerment**
- 9. Creativity and Innovation**
- 10. Empathy**
- 11. Resilience**
- 12. Emotional Intelligence**
- 13. Humility**
- 14. Transparency**
- 15. Vision and Purpose**



## ANITA PFIEFER SECRETARY/TREASURER

Retired MGR, TACS Help desk, Eagan, MN  
Cell phone: 507--390-1164  
Email: amp2016@yahoo.com

Yes!! **You** can make a difference !!

In past years, we would be making our plans to attend the Legislative Summit in Washington DC and looking forward to 'storming the Hill'.

But as the case has been for a year now, the pandemic has changed those plans but and the 2021 Legislative Summit has been rescheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>.

**And that gives you so much more time to plan to attend !!**

Most of you know that my interests are more in finances, organizing and defending members than most other topics. But I am finding the current legislative climate very interesting and exciting. New bills are and will be introduced with the newly seated Congress – and let's hope they see the importance of each one.

House of Representatives (H.R) 82 – Social Security Fairness Act – this would eliminate the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset that negatively impacts so many of our retirees.

House Resolution 47 – (not a law but a sense of solidarity in the House) – is about support for the USPS as a quasi-government agency and rejects privatization.

Postal Reform – it will be interesting to see the language coming out of the House Oversight and Reform Committee to support the Postal Service.

It is up to **you** to contact your members of Congress to ask them to sign on as co-sponsors. It is now easier than before – while I would encourage a hard copy letter in the mail, you can easily go their website and type in your message. Every time I send a message via email to my representatives, I get a response and that is very encouraging.

Last year, I contacted Representative Angie Craig about Postal issues and she responded with a positive message. Then she visited several Post Offices in her area to show her support. Not saying that my single message made a difference, but collectively when we all reach out, the message is heard loud and clear.

And with that – I sincerely hope you are all coping in the midst of the stresses of work and managing the pandemic related issues. Know that you are in my thoughts and prayers daily . . .

*Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass...It's about learning to dance in the rain.* Vivian Greene



## JANELLE DUERKSEN-VP EDUCATION/CONVENTION

Postmaster

Office: 507-427-2434

Email: jrduerksen@hotmail.com



We have survived the most challenging peak season we have had, almost. We all know there are still items that have not been delivered as we have to deal with many e360 cases. I guess the good thing about that is that I am more proficient at responding, researching and closing cases. Hopefully the postal service will get fully caught up soon.

Moving on from peak season, the attention of your board members turned to state convention. It seems so distant but will be here shortly. We can once again go into a restaurant and enjoy some social life, but do not know what the mandates will look like in June. Hopefully there will be more easing of restrictions and larger numbers of people can assemble. It has been decided that we will plan convention to be in person and make last minute changes to have a virtual convention if restrictions on the number of people do not allow an in person gathering for the number we hope will attend.

**Convention will be held at the Arrowwood Lodge at Brainerd Lakes, Baxter MN on June 23-25,2021.** The hotel will be respecting the prices we had originally agreed upon for last year's convention. I know it can be a struggle to find people to cover your office ,even to be gone for a few days, but we really hope to see you there. I also need to hear from you and what you would like to see for training at convention, Where are you struggling? Contact me, let me know your thoughts.

**Positive thoughts can create positive things.**



## Arrowwood Lodge



## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual UPMA Minnesota State Convention

### June 23<sup>th</sup>(evening), 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> in Brainerd/Baxter MN

Please complete one form per registrant. Photocopy the form for additional registrations.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** First Name (for your badge): \_\_\_\_\_

Postmaster  
 Supervisor Post Office You Represent City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Manager Your Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 OIC  
 Associate City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP+4 \_\_\_\_\_  
 UPMA Retired  
 Spouse Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Guest E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**First-Timer/  
UPMA Retired  
First-Timer?**  
 Yes  No

Name of committee you would be willing to volunteer for: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMITTEES:** Registration / Audit Committee / PAC / Election and Tellers / Decorations / Sergeant at Arms / Memorial Service / Door prizes / Auctions / Scholarship / Distinguished Guests / 1st Timers / Hospitality / Bylaws

Registration fees per person:

\$20.00 before May 21st

Fee to be refunded upon registering

\$20.00 at the door

**1<sup>st</sup> Timers** will be

refunded their registration at the end of convention after they attend all

business and training sessions

Send registration form with check to:

Anita Pfiefer 20576 Kearney Path  
Lakeville, MN 55044

or scan/email form and pay via  
PayPal: amp2016@yahoo.com or  
507-390-1164

### Hotel Information

Arrowwood Lodge at Brainerd Lakes

6967 Lake Forest Rd

Baxter, MN 56425

(218) 822-5634

**Hotel block:** reserve by June 1st for group rate

\$94.00 + tax/night for sgl/dbl +\$10 add'l person/s

request MN UPMA rate

Water Park pass available at discount rate of \$10

**Things to remember:** \*Silent auction items appreciated

\*Donations (monetary and food) appreciated for the hospitality room.

\* Wednesday Golf and Thursday Rolle Bolle – contact Mel Miller to register.

\*Costume Contest: National/State Convention Theme is "Wild about UPMA" Dress up as your favorite wild animal to add to the fun at Rolle Bolle

For more information or questions contact: **Andrea Koczur, President**  
akoczur@feltontel.net or call/text (701)566-1064

# Vendor Registration Form



## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual UPMA Minnesota State Convention

June 23<sup>th</sup>(evening), 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> in Brainerd/Baxter MN

First Name (for your badge): \_\_\_\_\_

Company you represent: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP+4 \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Set up Wednesday  
2pm – 7pm. Registration  
opens for attendees at  
4pm on Wed

### Vendor Registration Fees :

**\$20.00 (per table, only)**

Fee to be refunded upon arrival.  
\*\*\*\*\*

To be included in meals/activities,  
please complete regular registration  
form along with fees

If you would like to contribute  
items to our convention  
registration bags, please send  
(attn: UPMA convention) or  
bring to the Hotel, so that they  
arrive prior to 12pm on Wed

Send this form with  
payment by May 21st to:

Attn: Anita Pfieler  
20576 Kearney Path  
Lakeville, MN 55044

## Hotel Information

Arrowwood Lodge at Brainerd Lakes  
6967 Lake Forest Rd  
Baxter, MN 56425  
(218) 822-5634

Hotel block: reserve by May 15<sup>th</sup> for group rate  
\$94.00 + tax/night for sgl/dbl +\$10 add'l person/s  
request MN UPMA rate  
Water Park pass available at discount rate of \$10

### Things to remember: \*Silent auction items appreciated

\*Donations (monetary and food) appreciated for the hospitality room.

\* Wednesday Golf and Thursday Rolle Bolle – contact Mel Miller to register.

\*Costume Contest: National/State Convention Theme is "Wild about UPMA" Dress up as your favorite wild animal to add to the fun at Rolle Bolle

For more information or questions contact: **Andrea Koczur, President**  
**akoczur@feltontel.net or call/text (701)566-1064**



## CAREY WELDER VICE PRESIDENT –CMR

Postmaster St Charles, MN  
Cell phone: 507-525-3750  
Email: careywelder@hotmail.com

I hope you have been able to catch your breath after peak season. Although it really doesn't seem like peak is even over with. The pandemic is looming over everything adding to the stress of your already stressful job. Hopefully you can find a way to relieve the stress of everything and keep your focus at work. Right now so many of the things we all do to relieve stress we are unable to do. For me, my family and I like to have a trip or two planned so we can forget about the stress and look forward to spending time traveling and relaxing. Without being able to travel like we want we have found other ways to let off some steam. One of those things is being able to vent about our job to another fellow manager. Sometimes it just feels good to complain about things to someone who knows exactly what you are experiencing. I want to just touch on a couple of points related to all of this.

UPMA is here to help you, and take make your work life better. As a CMR (Chapter Member Representative) I help UPMA members when they may be in trouble or to help prevent them from getting into trouble. The main part of that is to defend you in any investigation by the OIG or your manager. And if needed, the UPMA attorney will be at your service in any escalated administrative actions. It is at minimum a great insurance policy for your job, and at most a great networking and rewarding group to participate in and hopefully relieve some of your stress.

There is also a way you can help us help you. If you are not in need of a CMR due to an investigation but feel you are being treated unfairly, or want to fix something and cannot do that with your manager, you can let us know. We are glad to help but need specific information. I cannot do anything unless I have specific information and can contact whomever it may be to resolve any issues. Please take detailed notes and be able to provide them in order to make any change. The state chapter President will gather any information and meet either at the senior manager level or the district level to try and resolve things. If at

that level things cannot be resolved it will then go to the Area rep for UPMA and the Area level for the USPS. And then if needed to the national level. It may not be ideal but it is the proper process and if followed correctly will yield results.

Hopefully you can find some time to relax and let off some steam so you can focus on work and not let the stress build up to where you may find yourself in trouble. Reach out and always do the right thing, and we will be here to help you.

**Suggested for EAS or PCES employees, if requested, directed, or approached for an interview, the following should be your initial statement:**

*If this interview is part of an investigation of a criminal matter I request to be represented by an attorney prior to any interview. Until I have my attorney present, I do not agree to sign any document, and will not answer any questions. I also will not make any written or oral statement. 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 reserving legal objections to it.*

*If this interview is not part of any criminal investigation, I request to contact my UPMA representative for advice and to be present with me for the interview. I will appear with my UPMA representative and orally answer questions. I decline to provide any written statement and reserve my legal right refuse to answer any questions that may intend to incriminate me.*

**Clip out and save**

Have you every wondered what it's all for? Why do we feel like we are dying just trying to live day to day? I have been in the postal service for over 27 years. Many of you can say the same. How do you look back on that time? On the time that you use every day for the USPS? I thank God for the life he has given to me. Because of God's provision and the USPS, I was able to be a single mom – didn't want to be, but I was able to. I have been able to be a mother, a missionary, a friend and a postal worker. I would like to believe that it has made a difference. But we won't know for sure, will we.

Whatever we do now we can only do our best. I can't wait to be with Jesus. Only then will I know if I fulfilled His purpose for me. I can't be perfect but thank God that I am forgiven. Until that time when I will be in heaven, I will do what I can here on earth to share His word, to share the hope He has given to me.

I have written articles and shared stories that have been inspirational, uplifting and once in a while convicting over the past 13 years for our Postmasters and other members. I have gotten feedback of different kinds. There was a time that these articles were on the address page. You would be amazed at all the comments thanking me for these spiritual words FROM CLERKS! They would see it in the mail and would reach out to let me know they loved the articles. I have also received some great feedback from Postmasters and other members over the years and I so appreciate that too. I do hope that what I write helps others. When I penned the words or shared a story it was always coming from a place in my heart that I wanted to help my fellow sisters and brothers. I wanted to help bring them strength and support, help bring them hope and peace, and help bring them love.

There were a few times...thankfully only a handful of times (much less than the positive feedback) that people hated what I wrote. Some would even go to the National level to complain without letting me or the editor know themselves. They said it was too religious, too Christian. Okay...we all get to believe what we will, right? What should I do? Do I stop? For the past 13 years I did not. But at the same time, I get it. There are some out there that don't believe the same way that I do. There are those that don't believe in a God at all and other that believe in a different god. This is all a



part of our lives. No matter what you believe...I love you all.

You don't have to love me or like me or like what I write. Maybe you could write something yourself. What would you like to say to our membership? How can you help them? This organization is about helping one another. We do this in different ways. We get learning, communication and representation. It's all meant to help us. All I want to do is help my fellow brothers and sisters in the life we are living. My heart hurts for our members that struggle so in the life they are living and working in. I have always been thankful that the Postmaster organizations at each level, have all had chaplains. They have looked to God before meetings with an invocation and before meals with a prayer. If that offends, I can't help that. I am going to continue to share as long as I am allowed. I would not be offended if someone wished me a Happy Hanukkah, Ramadan or Diwali. I pray you aren't offended when I wish you a Merry Christmas or Blessed Easter. I write from my heart with hopes to help in the only way I know how. My peace, my love, my friendship and my hope comes from my relationship with our Lord. And it is my deepest wish that you also have peace and hope during all that happens in this life we are living.

Thank you for allowing me to share that peace, love, hope and support with you. This is my purpose. This is what I feel the Lord has put on my heart. As always, I thank you for allowing me to share.

*1 Peter 3:15 ESV - But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect*

His humble servant with gentleness and respect to each of you, Ann Joos <>< Minnesota Chaplain

## MARGIE JACOBSON, RETIREE PRESIDENT

Postmaster Retired of Waterville MN

Cell: 507-649 -1034 Email: [margiepm@yahoo.com](mailto:margiepm@yahoo.com)



Most of you have probably heard by now that the Legislative Summit has been postponed until possibly September. I have always looked forward to going to our Nation's Capital for the Legislative Summit and did look forward to it again this year. It is really hard to make plans at this time with the uncertainty of Covid and other national happenings. Hopefully by the time of our State Convention in June and the National Convention in August that we will be able to get together and have a regular Convention. The dates for our State Convention are June 23<sup>rd</sup> thru 25<sup>th</sup> at the Arrowwood Lodge at Brainerd Lakes in Baxter MN. The dates that the National Convention is planned for are August 14<sup>th</sup> thru 20<sup>th</sup> of 2021. Make your plans now to attend.

Another thing I am hearing a lot of questions about is a VERA. There have been no offers yet for a VERA or even who or which positions within the Postal Service will be included if they offer one. Please don't let the rumors confuse your retirement plans. Make your decision to retire on what is best for your situation in life. Take the time to learn all about all the aspects of retirement that will affect you and your family. Remember to determine your needs, estimate your income, calculate your expenses, develop a savings plan and start planning now.

You will need to decide how old you want to be when you retire. Remember the age that you retire could affect your monthly income during retirement. If you decide to go early make sure you are willing to or can afford to take the early reductions to retirement income. Remember those reductions are for the rest of your life. You will need to make an educated guess at your life expectancy so you can plan to still have income in the late stages of your life. You should also make an educated guess at the future value of a dollar. Also, do you plan to "work" after you retire from the Postal Service? You will also need to have an investment plan with a high probability for success.

For some, the cost of medical coverage or additional medical expenses can eat up a lot of your monthly retirement income. Be sure to plan for the what can happen if your good health doesn't hold out throughout your retirement. And plan for change—even the best laid plans can be changed by you or may change due to legislation. Leave some flexibility in your plan.

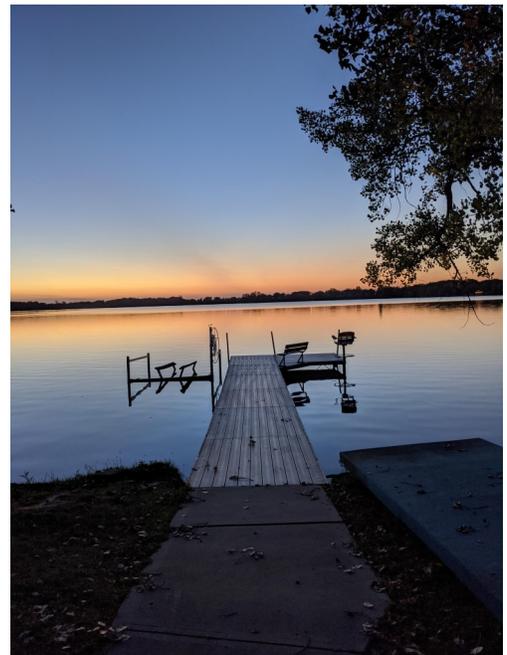
**Retirement is great if you have a good plan.**







Thanks , Janelle,  
for more pictures  
from Ron Windels  
auction (that I did  
not get into a  
previous issue).



**Andrea's Updates** : I am hoping to address a few questions or comments that have been discussed.

**District restructuring**- Areas have been restructured from 7 to 4. There is a birthing period to work out any issues there may be with new reporting structures. The District level will be worked on next. Likely there will also be a period of adjustment we need to work on. Whenever an organization goes through large comprehensive changes there needs to be time to adjust. With this in mind you can count on the hiring freeze to continue and promotions will be delayed due to the movement of staffing from other areas. Patience. Then **VERA** will be looked at after the restructuring. Your retirement or position changes are completely under your control. Waiting or not waiting is your decision so keep watch on timelines but do not count on things that may be unknown.

**Legislative Summit** has been moved to September 26-29. What I will say is now is the time to contact our Congressman. Tell them the difficulties you have faced and the obstacles you have overcome. Express your concerns about the future of the public's ability to be in contact with the outside world without the Post Office providing them with

that contact in a separated world. **HR 82** the Social Security Fairness Act which eliminates the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) has been introduced again.

The Government Pension Offset is the bill that unfairly penalizes our retired federal employees is also on the table. The Postal Reform bill is being worked on again by the House Oversight and Reform Committee. It is imperative to let your Congressman know how important this bill is to the Postal Service. Reach out with an email or phone call. Why we still need to defend the Postal Service against privatization I will never understand. **HR 47** is still out there and needs to be supported. Once again, our UPMA Minnesota Chapter will attempt to hold an in-person **State Conference in Brainard this year in June**. We intend on having trainings that supports your daily work so please let Janelle Duerksen know what would be important to you. The State Convention is about your needs, what you can get out of the Conference to better your life and work. Please be a part of the Conference this year to have a chance to learn and speak with others who understand what you are going through daily. The registration is available in this issue, please consider coming.



## UPMA PAC CONTRIBUTION CARD

United Postmasters and Managers of America Political Fund  
8 Herbert Street  
Alexandria, VA 22305

Yes, I want to join, enclosed is:  
 \$25    \$50    \$100    \$200    Other \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Member ID \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Contributions:  
Acct.# \_\_\_\_\_ CCV: \_\_\_\_  
Exp. Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

UPMA PAC for Postmasters will neither favor nor disadvantage a member based on the amount of a contribution or the decision not to contribute to non-partisan political action fund

**CUT OUT AND MAIL IN TODAY**

## PAULINE LAMBRECHT, EXEC VP MEMBERSHIP

Postmaster of New Prague MN

Office phone: 952-758-7678 Cell phone: 612-702-2941



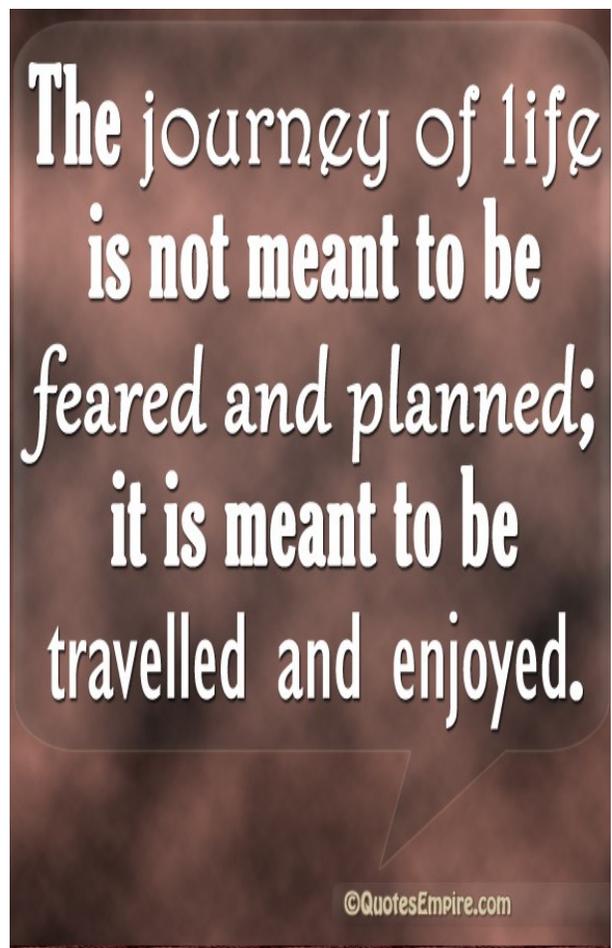
### “You Got This”

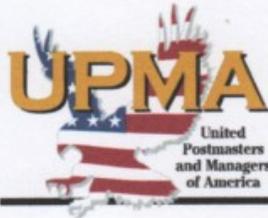
It's finally a new and better year heading our way. Last year brought many changes and challenges to office life. I believe we as EAS can stand up and say we survived a year unlike any other year in postal history. I know we are still experiencing parcels, just like Christmas, and still feel like it will never end, but there is light at the end of the tunnel. Years from now we will still be talking about what we did to survive the pandemic and parcels. So if you haven't rewarded yourself yet, take a lunch, step outside, and take the hour lunch you deserve. I know I struggled to get my lunch, but we deserve it.

Membership has been a bit rough through this season. Most EAS I talked to just don't even have the time to talk. We did manage to get four new members signed up, with the help of Chad Stephen. Thanks Chad!! Currently, our team is in second place in the Membership contest. We have a ways to go to catch up to first, but that still is my goal to help our team.

At our last board meeting we talked a lot on what we can do to help each other through this crisis. I am working real hard just to stay in the moment. I believe that is how we move through change. Truthfully, I can't seem to handle more than a minute anyway, so why project. Hopefully 2021 will be the answer to stop the virus, so we all can go back to some sort of a normal lifestyle. That is my wish for us all. Until then pick up the phone when you have a minute and vent with another EAS. It really helps, we are all in this together, and we are sailing in flying colors. Like my sister always says to me when I just feel like I can't anymore is **“YOU GOT THIS”!! And We DO!!!**

Effective 1/1/2020 - New EAS members joining UPMA on or after 1/1/2020 will receive a rebate of their first 6 months dues once they reach their one-year anniversary with UPMA. The six months dues rebate incentive is being offered for new EAS (active) membership. Join on-line at [www.unitedpma.org/membership/join](http://www.unitedpma.org/membership/join) or by completing Form 1187 and mailing to the UPMA National Office.





# Form 1187

Request and Authorization for Voluntary Allotment of Compensation for Payment of Employee Organization Dues  
*Fill Out Form On-line, Print it out, and Return to UPMA National Office at the Address Below for Processing*

### Section A: All New Members Complete

USPS Employee Identification Number (EIN)	Social Security Number	Date of Birth	Gender Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
Name (PRINT Last Name, First, MI)		Contact Telephone	
Home Address (Street and Number/Box)	City	State	ZIP+4
Personal E-mail Address			

**Section B (Check One):**  Postmaster  Manager/Supervisor  Associate  PMR

Position	PO/City/State/ZIP
Post Office/Work Telephone Number	Pay Schedule Level
Post Office/Home Payroll Office Finance Number	Designation Code

### Section C: For Use by the Employee Organization

# P

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

Visit the UPMA website [unitedpma.org](http://unitedpma.org) for membership benefit information.

### Section D: 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.

Signature of Employee	Date
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### Section E

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

**Who/what most influenced your decision to join UPMA?**

Person's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Career Awareness Conference  USPS Provided Training  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**UPMA NATIONAL OFFICE FOR PROCESSING**

Revised 12/2017 INT

### Birth of Mr. Zip

Mr. Zip, who would become the Post Office Department spokesman for the ZIP Code system, was designed in the 1950's by Howard Wilcox for the advertising agency of Cunningham and Walsh. The cartoon's original purpose was to advertise a bank-by-mail campaign for the Chase Manhattan Bank in New York City. After the campaign ended, the design was filed away. It was later acquired by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T), who offered its use to the Post Office Department at no cost. The Department made a few minor changes to the Mr. Zip design, including elongating his body and at times giving him a letter to hold in his hand. The Post Office Department also eventually changed the cartoon's name from the original "Mr. P.O. Zone" to something catchier – Mr. Zip. Though Mr. Zip's design was rather simplistic and "crude," as noted by Postal employees, his whimsical characteristics would help him gain public recognition.

### Launch of the campaign

**Mr. Zip was officially unveiled to postmasters at a convention in October, 1962**, when the new Zone Improvement Plan (ZIP Code) was introduced. **Each postmaster at the convention was photographed hugging Mr. Zip, and the photos were used on the postmasters' nametags for the duration of the convention.** That same month,

the *Washington Post*, *Times Herald* briefly mentioned Mr. Zip and the message he would bring to mailers across the United States: "Neither wind, rain, or any of those weather elements can slow down a piece of mail on which the sender has written the proper zone number." Another nod was given to the coming of Mr. Zip in the December 10, 1962 issue of *Newsweek* in a short article entitled "Aunt Minnie's Tip...Look for 'Mr. Zip'." Additionally, on June 30, 1963, the day before the official implementation of the ZIP Code system, the *Daytona Beach Sunday News Journal* reported that Mr. Zip would soon be "flashing across the country" in a massive campaign to promote ZIP Code, and that he would be appearing almost everywhere – from the sides of mail trucks to the TV screen. Though all of these articles were printed before the official launch of the ZIP Code system and the Mr. Zip campaign, they foreshadowed the hype and public attention that would eventually surround Mr. Zip, and they contributed to greater widespread awareness of the ZIP Code campaign.

With Mr. Zip at its side, the Post Office Department launched its nationwide campaign to promote the use of ZIP Code on July 1, 1963.

-The Smithsonian's National Postal Museum



# In Memoriam

Maurice J. “Max” Wenker, age 94 of Melrose, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at the Grand Village Nursing Home in Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

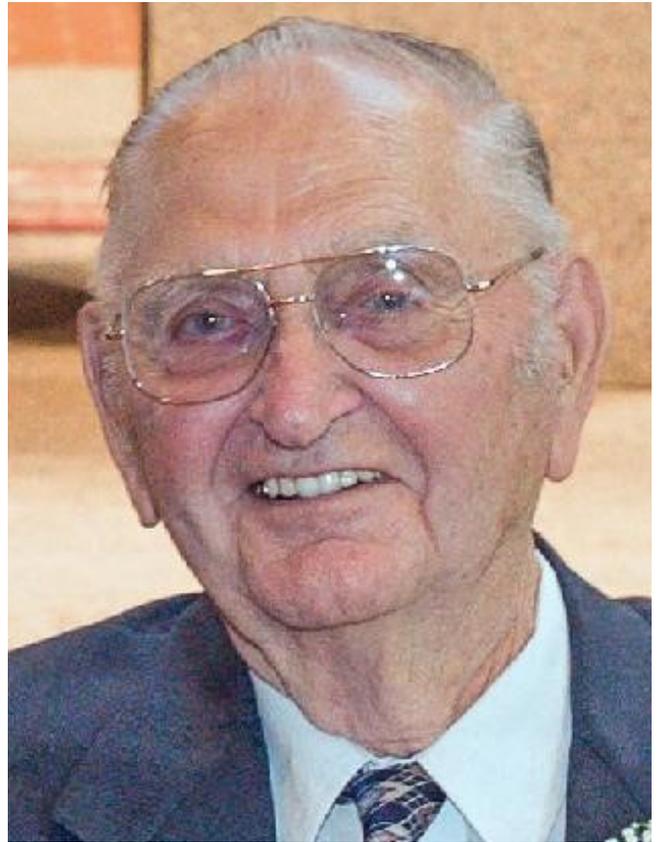
A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11 a.m. Monday, January 18 at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Melrose with Rev. Marvin Enneking officiating. Inurnment will be in the parish cemetery at a later date. Military Honors were provided by the Melrose Veterans Honor Guard.

Maurice Joseph Wenker was born March 17, 1926 in Albany, Minnesota to Bernard and Juliana (Hoeschen) Wenker. He graduated from Albany High School in 1944 and enlisted in the U.S. Army on October 2, 1944. Max served in the 96th Infantry Division known as “The Deadeyes” during World War II. He was united in marriage to June Kramer on September 6, 1954 at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Melrose. Max was Postmaster at the Freeport Post office until his retirement.

He was a member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Melrose and Schanhaar-Otte VFW Post 7050. After retirement, Max and June enjoyed traveling to Texas during the winter months. He enjoyed spending time outdoors, fishing, hunting, and playing cards, especially cribbage.

Survivors include his sons, David Wenker of Los Angeles, California and M.J. (Paula) Wenker of Hastings; grandchildren, Ben (Tori), Allison, and Charles Wenker; and brother, Al (Marge) Wenker of Albany.

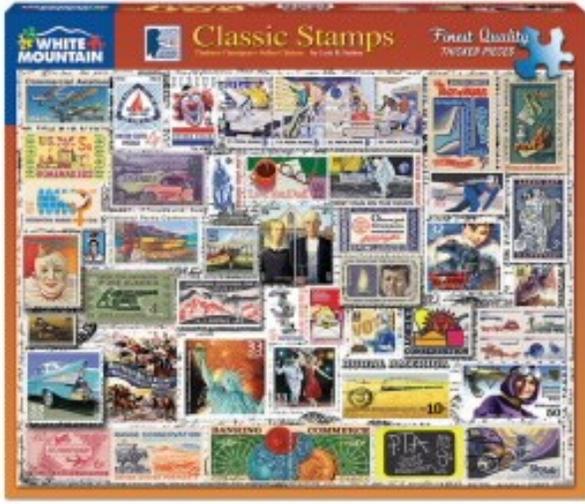
Max was preceded in death by his wife, June Wenker on October 13, 2012; parents; sons, John Wenker on February 25, 2020 and Stephen Wenker on August 7, 2019; sisters, Marie Dirkes, Clara Meyer, and Della Ehlert; and brothers, Joseph and William Wenker.



Watch this page for new assignments and retirements,  
but in the meantime enjoy these new stamps!



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## VANESSA NIELSEN, EDITOR

Postmaster of Onamia MN

Office phone: 320-532-3146 Cell phone: 218-280-0366



My mom was the President of the American Legion Auxiliary in my hometown for several years. She always said the worst part of the job was having to type up an article for the newsletter!

I know that several of our board members feel the same way! I just look at it as a way to be creative and try to connect with our membership-who we have not seen in person in way too long!

With these fancy new phones, having your email, text messages, Facebook, Snapchat and whatever other app you may use, how is it we are constantly connected and still so far apart? I sometimes think it would be interesting to go "off the grid" if only for a while. I actually know a neighbor who has done just that-self sustaining power with solar and wind power.

If anyone would like to let their creative juices flow and send in an article-please do! You must get tired of just reading the same peoples articles all the time. Of course, one other solution to getting your views out there is to consider running for office-become a board member, join a committee, get involved!

I'm hoping we soon get back to "normal" in our daily lives and workplaces. I for one am really tired of wearing masks, aren't you? Stay safe!



All articles are the opinion of the writer and do not necessarily represent the views of Minnesota UPMA.

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Article Deadline  
JAN 22nd, 2021

Dates to Remember

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| April 14, 2021     | MN Chapter Executive Board meeting at 7:00 pm<br>GoToMeeting video conference |
| June 23 – 25, 2021 | Minnesota State Convention<br>Arrowwood Lodge at Brainerd Lakes, Baxter MN    |
| August 14-20, 2021 | 5th UPMA National Convention<br>Kalahari Resorts & Conventions Sandusky, OH   |
| Sept 26-29, 2021   | Legislative Summit, Arlington VA  |

