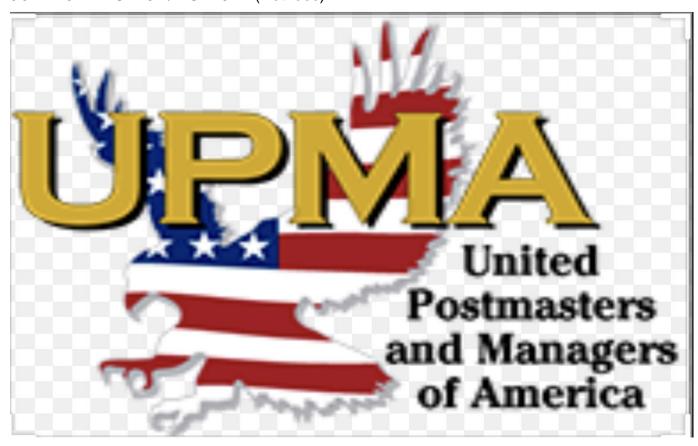
GREEN MOUNTAINEER

Vermont Chapter
United Postmasters & Managers of America (United UPMA)

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JOIN NOW! PS 1187 / PS 1187R (Retirees)



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Check out our website!

Go to unitedupma.org....LOOK FOR LINKS for VT or NH.

Change of Address

Log on to unitedupms.org-membership service. Change the address using the code above your name on the UPMA Leader label. Just log-in and edit your information Any problems I will help - just contact me!

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES
AND PHOTOS FOR THE
NEXT ISSUE OF THE GREEN
MOUNTAINEER BY
November 10,2019

NONE OF US ARE AS GOOD AS ALL OF US

Fall Confrence

Freeport ME October 19 & 20 Hilton Garden Inn











President Linda Kirkpatrick



Ikirky @gmail.com

Hello everyone. I want to start by thanking you for taking the time to read your Green Mountaineer. A lot of hard work is done throughout the year by your officers to report on and Randie is doing a great job learning the ropes of Editor. I also want to take the opportunity to thank the newest members of the Board of Directors, Michele Lingley, Executive VP, Education/Membership; Linda Brinkerhoff, Secretary/Treasurer, and Randie Fontaine, VP Editor for stepping up and a special thanks to Jane Draper, VP Legislation & PAC, for being my right hand. If you happen to interact with any of these officers please let them know you appreciate the time and effort they put in holding these positions.

We just recently returned from the 3rd Annual UPMA National Convention that was held at Mohegan Sun in Connecticut. It was nice to have it so close to home for a change. 2020 convention will be held in St. Louis and 2021 was just voted in to be held at Kalahari Resorts & Conventions in Sandusky, Ohio. The first day of convention is on Sunday and there are meeting breakouts for the officer positions and retirees. General session is Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. This is when the Postmaster General and other Headquarters officers address the membership and take questions from the floor as well as conduct business for the association such as By-Law changes and elections.

Some highlights from Postmaster General, Megan Brennan. She spoke about the 10 year plan and the need to of flexibility to change. Not to hurt current

Legislative Chair Jane Draper



frekels@aol.com

Well our 3rd annual UPMA convention was excellent. The Venue has so much to offer even if you don't gamble. As usual, it didn't disappoint. Connecticut chapter did an outstanding job.

Since we were in our neck of the woods we had a few speakers we are familiar with. Our Area Vice President Eric Chavez and our District Manager Kevin Clark. Mr. Chavez brought up a few issues: he touched on DMS and the 50-foot backing issue. Eric stressed, we can control this and improve our awareness of poor safety behaviors. This is in our control as managers. He also touched on our scanning. He said, our numbers and success are all because of you. Share with your staff and take a bow....

Kevin gave us our welcoming speech and filled us in on the Connecticut Valley District. He praised all their hard work and welcomed us to the area. Kevin checked in on his NNE crew after hours.

On the Legislative front we were all briefed on what still hasn't happened in Congress. We still have the same issues we have had for most of the years I have been a member of our organization. Medicare integration and pre-funding are still at the top of the list.

We received training from our new Legislative team. They've been on board for about a year now. Brian, Joel and Chris ran most of our training this year and it was very informative. It was nice to see the new people

Continued on page 5

continued on page 5

Postal employees but to change benefits for future employees to cut costs to the organization. Also spoke about how do we create new revenue. Fed Ex is expected to take 2.5 parcels back into their infrastructure. We all have heard that Amazon is building more plants and hiring more direct employees which removes takes away revenue. With that said, parcels use to be the only product that showed an increase in volume throughout the last few years and now that product is even in the negative for growth. She was going to be meeting with Wayfair after she left convention to discuss a working relationship and new revenue. We need to have a customers as repeat customers and the way to do that is give them great service and prove to them that mail still matters. Also looking at how we can grow our infrastructure to gain more revenue. With respect to vehicles, they are currently analyzing results to tests and expect to see some new vehicles in the field in 2021 or early 2022. I know we are all looking forward to that.

Key note speaker quotes to think about "Impressions you make today may last a lifetime", "A good idea can come from anywhere", "Understand the chain of command" and "Don't go for the one big thing, learn the little lessons".

Other seminars I attended were on Labor Relations, Mitigation, Membership and Retirement. I won't bore you with any particulars but if you are interested in discussing any of these topics, please feel free to give me a call.

I want to thank Mike Renkert, Postmaster Rumney, NH for getting the website up and running. You can find them at Vermontupma.org or www.nhupma.org. We will be starting to post dates, special events, newsletters and more. The next event for training will be the 2nd Annual New England Conference to be held in Freeport, ME. Thank you to retired Postmaster, Barbara Swiderski, for organizing this event. Following we will be scheduling 3 digit meetings. These will be held instead of a state membership meeting. We are making every effort to provide a learning experience for every member. Our last few year state membership meetings have been unsuccessful to get more than a couple of active Postmasters to attend other than the officers. We are in hopes that these meetings will attract more members to attend and benefit from the training and networking. If you have any ideas for training that you would like to see presented at these meetings, please contact Michele Lingley.

Goodbye for now. Please feel free to contact me for any questions. If I don't have the answer I will find out for you. I am also here as your Membership Representative if ever you need me. As I have said before, do not suffer alone if you are struggling with anything in your office.

receive the training they needed from the beginning to the end. We as a group shared ideas for raising our PAC contributions. They stressed how important our PAC dollars are when we need representation from the hill. They also mentioned how impressed they were by all our hard work and the way we "storm the hill" ever year to gain support for the Postal Service and it's employees past and present. They have started with plans for our Legislative Summit in February and want as many of us to attend as possible.

We as your board also attended afternoon trainings. I attended retirement training and it was very informative. I still have a few years to go but thought I would check it out. They suggested we check out keeping posted.org and using the checkbook guide to health plans located on liteblue. They suggested we don't over insure when we retire. Don't have the Cadillac of healthcare plans and sign up for Medicare. There are a lot of guestions when we get ready to retire but here are two they suggest we ask ourselves: What do you want to do when you retire? "It's about what you are going to do". They also stressed that Postal employees are leaving millions of dollars on the table by not contributing at least 5% to their thrift savings to receive the match. They challenged us all to go back and educate our employees. It was an excellent training.

Until next time, keep the faith.

Jane

Executive Vice President Michelle Lingley



postedonna@icloud.com But...we all know that

How can I begin to explain how it felt to be a 'first timer' at National Convention to all of you? First I will say it started out with me having to deliver mail on Saturday and not being able to get there until Sunday. But...we all know that getting the mail deliv-

ered is vital. Then I finally get down to Mohegan Sun but I have no idea where to go. I'm parked and I walk in, I get lost as the place is like a city! Well, once I was situated thanks to Linda Kirkpatrick talking me down from the ledge, it was all pretty amazing after that!

The days were filled with opportunities to meet and network with colleagues from around the country and informative group sessions on the most essential of topics. We had conversations about staffing and the networking provided such similarities and other dissimilarities. It was perplexing to hear how operations were scrutinized so much differently around the country...I cannot even explain.

What was most striking was that most of the colleagues I connected with were in VERY LARGE post offices. They were in level 22 and looking to climb! And Im thinking, 'climb where'??!! It is amazing how small a fish I felt like in the big sea. But not so small a fish regarding knowledge of policy and then the conversations went from there...how does everyone apply this? Large or small we all had the same issues to discuss. And I made great contacts with individuals from all across the nation. I'm just so interested in how their Districts apply the same policies and work through issues.

With all the differences there were so many similarities as well. The ONE consistency we all talked about was staffing and how hard it is to get the right new employees on board. In addition to this, how hard staffing is in general and how there is a need to SHARE our staff. I discussed this in my main article. And the other issue was feeling like the District staff was overburdening with email messages that were redundant. Not just that the email messages are redundant; that much of the information is not vital to our operations.

In the general session the topic of the overburdening of email messages was addressed. The average manager receives emails that could require them to spend 2 hours a day reading, researching and responding to them. And then there are the teleconferences...those could be up to 2 hours a day, especially for larger offices on mandatory teleconferences, and then the special teleconferences for accidents or failing RCE shops. Sincerely, it works down to that a Postmaster could spend 4 hours or more of their 8 hour work day or more not governing operations. This speaks huge to the amount of time we don't

have to manage our operations. I believe, as many, in finding a more productive way to work with addressing the same information that is discussed in teleconferencing and emailing. Just think if you had the bulk of your day to spend governing your operations how much of a difference you could make?

I was very impressed with the break-out sessions I had the opportunity to attend. They were performed by very strongly educated individuals in the subject matter. Much of what I learned in the break-out sessions has now come to light through information you have received from the District in regards to the hiring system change and the contract ratification of the rural carriers.

One valuable class I attended discussed protecting ourselves against the ramifications of employees not abiding by that which we certify in talks. We all know we get sent deadlines from the District to certify safety or other discussions that were sent to us from different departments in District. The message I received is this—and I encourage all of you to hear this message; 'do not certify a talk until you have had the time to truly do it.' Just don't certify it because the District put a deadline on it. There are multiple reasons why you could not get this talk out to every one of your employees and you just need to express to the individual at the District and your POOM why it is not certified. I encourage you to just communicate with the department head and your POOM about why it is not done. Do not certify before you have actually performed the duty!

The most remarkable thing I want to note from General Session is David Williams, Chief Executive Officer and Executive VP's response to the Postmaster of Ketchican, AK. The Postmaster of Ketchikan stood up for questions to him and gave an unbelievable argument about the safety of her employees due to the fact that she needed two LLVs because her two had gone to service and due to the nature of the salt effect the chassis were not longer attached to the frame. And they went back and forth with conversation for a bit—but not long. She outstandingly expressed her safety issue and he said 'I will get you two LLVs'...the crowd roared. I'm going to email her just to find out if it happened!!

I will say in conclusion that my first time experience at the UPMA National Convention provided me with amazing information and unbelievable networking and just the beginning of the education I need to help all of us prosper and succeed! Please join us for future meetings and state and national conventions. You will not be disappointed.

Secretary/Treasurer Linda Brinkerhoff



laughalot_6@yahoo.com

The UPMA National
Convention in
Connecticut is now in
the past. We were
pleased that it was held
close to home. The
information and training that was provided
was once again well
worth the time spent.
Chief Many Hearts welcomed the attendees to
Mohegan Sun and
admonished all to "Leave

footprints for the next generation." Kevin Clark, District Manager, Connecticut Valley District (previously District Manager, Northern New England District) welcomed us to his District and advised the attendees to Listen, Learn, and Network.

The good news that was shared:

- 1)There is an increase in SPRs
- 2)Scanning is at 99.9%
- 3)Northeast Area is #1 for Retail Customer Experience

David Williams, USPS COO, once again took questions from the floor and provided follow up on questions from last year. He said that reducing redundant reports was a work in progress and that he was committed to continue the effort to eliminate excess emails, audits, report, meetings, and telecoms.

He also addressed the hiring of RCA's, the age/safety of LLV's, speed of facility repairs/responses, and the need to match the workload to budget.

Paul Bianca, Northeast Area Coordinator stressed Integrity in reporting: do not falsify surveys – don't certify until complete.

As you can see, I have only touched on the highlights of the convention. For those who attended, the value of information they received will impact their day to day operations.

The VT Chapter of the UPMA will be holding 3-digit meetings in each area to further educate and assist the Postmasters. Please plan to attend those closest to your area. As Kevin Clark said: Listen, Learn, and Network.

The views
expressed within the pages of the Green
Mountaineer
are solely those of
the writer
and do not
reflect any official
endorsement or policies
of the
United Postmasters and
Managers of America or VT
Chapter
United UPMA

Editor Randie Fontaine



randie.fontaine@gmail.com

I attended my first national UPMA convention in August at the Mohegan Sun Resort in CT. As a first timer to the convention, I felt welcomed from the entire organization. I was not prepared for the work and training that goes into attending the convention. The days were filled from 8 am until around 5 pm. I really enjoyed being able to go to the trainings to gather information on how to make my job easier and more efficient.

I had a great time meeting Postmasters from different parts of the country and discussing the issues that we all deal with on a day to day basis.

The general sessions that I attended offered me an opportunity to listen to Mr Chavez, Megan Brennan speak of the future of the USPS and what needs to be done to continue to make us a successful, competitive company.

I look forward to the Fall Conference that will take place October 19th and 20th in Freeport ME.

FEATURED POSTMASTER



Mike Ryan, Postmaster Shaftsbury, VT 05257

As of this writing I have forty five days left in a career that is over thirty nine years in the Post Office. It is a career that has brought me from one end of the state to the other. I was a PTF clerk for seven years, a regular clerk for seven years, and twenty five as a Postmaster. Almost every day I love my job and the people I work with. The customers once they get to know you and you to know them are what makes the career the best. I currently hold the distinction of being in the same office as a Postmaster in Vermont. I became the Postmaster in Shaftsbury at the end of October in 1995. My advice to everyone is to get involved in the community that you serve in. Join the local clubs like the Lions, Legion, Churches, and Historical Societies etc. Take time for your family and friends because time goes by so fast.

Here is a small list of helpful things that can make your job easier and maybe give you some added revenue:

If you do Passports or want to do passport pictures. Pre address Priority flat rate envelopes. It will save you time. We prepare the envelopes for the new applications, new expedited applications and the renewal applications. For any office that wants to do Passport pictures you can have pre-addressed envelopes for the two different addresses for the renewals and the

address for expedited renewals. My office is a Passport acceptance office. We do as many renewals as we do new applications. I always refer to it as a twenty dollar bill. (Actually \$22.35..) We do as many renewals as we do new applications.

Order your Christmas stamps, Priority, and ready post items early. Order your Christmas stamps in October or November. If you wait any later you may not get them in time. If you do not know how many to order check with a prior manager or look at what was ordered the year before. The numbers do not change very much year to year. For us we go through about 800 books. Get your ready post priority supplies ordered in October.

Treat the Postal resources as your own. Save where you can so you can purchase the things that you really need in your office.

In my career I have seen everything you can think of happen. Former coworkers and friends have, kited money orders, stolen money to support gambling habits, gambled away their homes, got caught operating heavy equipment while out on disability, stolen credit and debit cards, left in handcuffs, murder, affairs, drugs and list goes on. There was even a fire in my office a year before I took over.

We like to think that those things can never happen to you or someone that you know. Be sure to stay involved and join the postmaster and manager organization UPMA. Become active and do not depend on other people to save you once you have made a mistake. Find out before because it could save your career.

Don and I have been Sargent's at Arms for over a combined 40 years. I have been a National chair of the Sargent's at Arms for around 15 years. Get involved. Go to your state and national and get involved in the different committees.

New England Council Fall Conference

The second annual New England Council Fall Conference will be held October 19-20 once again at the Hilton Garden Inn in Freeport, Maine. Registration is \$75 for Saturday and \$25 for Sunday lunch. Registration forms were handed out at the New England Council meeting in Connecticut. Contact your state president or me if you need one. Come early on Friday to enjoy some shopping or sightseeing along the coast. Catch a movie at the Nordica Theater (within easy walking distance of the hotel) or join us for hospitality from 8-10:30 PM.

We will begin on Saturday morning with breakfast at 7:30 in the Town Hall Meeting Place, followed immediately by the general session. President Dan Heins will be in attendance along with National Vice President Rich Hui, National Membership Co-Chair Deanna White, and one of our Government Relations consultants, Chris McCannell. After lunch there will be training for chapter officers and anyone aspiring to an officer position. All are welcome. We will end by 4 PM with free time to allow you to partake in a delicious lobster (or whatever you like) dinner and check out the pumpkin festival on the LL Bean property. Come back together from 8-11 PM and dance to the tunes with DJ Damon Nix.

We will reconvene Sunday morning at 8:30 (breakfast is on your own) with postal-related training to piggyback with our Maine Training Day. New England Council members are welcome to stay for part or all the training on Sunday; or spend the day exploring the area before heading home. The agenda is still a work in progress. We will post it on our website (MaineUPMA.org) and I will email it to those who have registered as we get closer to the event as well as to the state presidents. Room rates at the Hilton are \$225 per night. Call soon to reserve your room before the room block is filled. The number for the hotel is 207-865-1433.

If you wish to stay somewhere less expensive, there are several other locations within a four-mile radius of the Hilton, all located on Route 1. They are listed below along with an estimated room rate.

Hampton Inn	207-865-1400	\$178	1.3 miles away
Econolodge	207-865-3777	\$113	1.8 miles away
Quality Inn & Suites	207-536-5568	\$ 94	2.0 miles away
Holiday Inn Express	207-865-9020	\$221	2.2 miles away
Casco Bay Inn	207-865-4925	\$134	3.8 miles away
Best Western	207-865-3106	\$105	4.0 miles away

FALL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 19-20, 2019
HILTON GARDEN INN, FREEPORT ME
NAME
ADDRESS
PHONE HOME EMAIL
OFFICE
NAME OF GUEST
POSTMASTER SUPERVISOR/MGR ASSOCIATE PM RETIRED
SATURDAY (INC BREAKFAST & LUNCH) \$75.00 # \$
SUNDAY (LUNCH ONLY) \$25.00 # \$
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$
Make checks payable to Maine Chapter UPMA
Registration must be received by October 1, 2019
Mail to: Barbara Swiderski
New England Council President
8 Bickford Dr
Topsham ME 04086-1305

2nd ANNUAL NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL

^{**} Please note any food allergies _____

Welcome New Members!!

Fill this out if you are a Postmaster, Officer-in-Charge, Associate Member or Postmaster Relief



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

Ch. Andrews	Section A: All N	iew Membe	ers Complete		
USPS Employee Identification Number (EIN)	Social Securit	y Number	Date of Birth		Gender Male □ Female □
Name (PRINT Last Name, First, MI)			Contact Telephone		
Home Address (Street and Number/Box)		City	State ZIP+		
Personal E-mail Address			-		
Section B (Check One):	Postmaster	☐ Manaş	ger/Supervisor 🔲 A	ssociate [] PMR
Profition		PO/City/State/7	TIP .		
Post Office/Work Telephone Number			Pay Schedule Level		
Post Office/Home Payed Office Einance Number			Designation Code		75.0

Section C: For Use by the Employee Organization



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

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

Section 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 Borm No. 1188, "Revocation of Voluntary Authorization for Allotment of Compensation for Payment of Employee Organization Dues" are available from my eroploying 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.

	Se	ection E	
Check this box to signify you'	ve read and understood the terr	ms in Section D of this form.	
Who/what most influenced	your decision to join UP	MA?	
Person's Name			



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 Herbert St. Alexandria, VA 22305-2600 (703) 683-9027

*OPM assigns the CSA number to all Civil Service and FERS annultants and/or surviving spouse Social Security Number My Annuity Number is: CSA Name of Retired Employee (PRINT Last Name, First, Middle) Date of Birth Street and Number/PO Box ZIP+4 City State Month/Year Retired Home or Cell Number Gender Chapter Male Female **Email Address** Sponsored by: Note: If not receiving an annuity contact National Office for information on membership. SECTION A - Authorization The United States Office of Personnel Management is authorized to make an appropriate deduction from my annuity payments, not to exceed the amount certified by the United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA) as the amount of dues for which I am obligated, and to pay the deducted sum to UPMA. This authorization shall apply to any and all dues changes certified by UPMA. This authorization shall be valid until UPMA receives and processes my written notice of cancellation in accordance with its agreement with the United States Office of Personnel Management. Any disputes regarding this allotment authorization shall be a matter between UPMA and me; I hold the United States Office of Personnel Management harmless for any erroneous deductions made pursuant to this authorization. I also request the United States Office of Personnel Management to disclose any information necessary to execute this request. Signature Date:

Postmasters Retired monthly dues withholding is currently \$5.00.

Revised 03-17

2020 NH VT Convention Concord NH April 30 - May 3, 2020

If you haven't been to Concord in a while you will be pleasantly surprised. There is a great revitalization of downtown with plenty of shops, restaurants and bars and more. In addition to the downtown scene there is plenty to do in and around the area. You can visit the Capital building, McAuliffe and Shepard discovery center, the Franklin Peirce Museum, Capital Center for the Arts and much more.

The Concord hotel is in the heart of downtown. Easy to get to from Rt 93 north and south, 89 from the west and Rt 4 from the east. *It is a Beautiful boutique hotel* that you will find not only comfortable but offers great amenities and access to everything that Concord has to offer.

The rooms are modern, spacious, well-appointed and have views of the downtown area. Rooms will also come with coffee and continental breakfast daily. The hotel also boasts free wifi and parking for guests. Lunches and dinners will be being provided by O'Steak and Seafood restaurant who are well know in town for their quality dishes.

So there is plenty good reasons to come and enjoy your stay not to mention have some fun and camaraderie with your fellow Postmasters and Managers for two days. Friday will be training and our welcome banquet and Saturday will be UPMA chapter business.

Watch for registration information and more details in the next issue of the NH Postal Leader. Early registration will save





The Hotel Concords 38 guestiones are modern, sophisticated and evoke an authentic New Hampshire assibled. Each pustoom is in different size and happe, a purposseld dependure from the standed 'cookie couldry' hotel priors, while felling a quite enrolmment, high ceilings and large windows that invite light and offer downtown views, with many having beloonies. Amenities include wall mounted 55 to 50-tinh feat-ones HD balancians, Alexa-analytic devices, complimentary high-speed internet, mini refrigerators and oversized bethrooms offering a selection of fine products.



All guestrooms offer the following amenities:

- 320 to 608 Square Fee
- King or double Queen beds
- Well-lit workspace with multiple USB charging port
 California-style closets
- Castomia-style closet
 Amazon Echo Dots
- Amazon Echo Dota
 55-inch to 65-inch Flat-soreen HD televisions with premium mo
- channels

 Complimentary high-speed intern
- Original arteroit.
- Kaurig coffee machine
 Fulls
- Lucurious bed linens and plush robe
- Refrigerators
- Marble-filed bathrooms with hand held shower wands
- William Roam Lucury tolletries

The Concord Hotel 11 South Main St Concord NH

For Reservations Call 603-504-3500

Prebook
NH UPMA RATE
\$144 Per night
APRIL 30 - MAY 3, 2020
6th fl Executive Kings
Venue is on 6th floor!

Also avail. 4th floor Queen Doubles

Book in advance as there are only 11 rooms on the 6th floor Double Queens are on 4th floor Our EVENTS will be Friday and Saturday- May 1 & 2 Book NOW



4th UPMA National Convention

Aug. 1-7, 2020

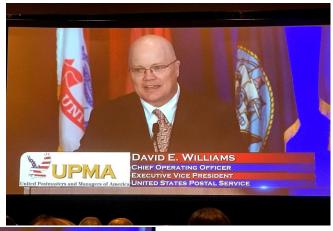
Please complete one form per registrant. Photocopy the form for additional registrations. First Name: Last Name: Last Name: State: Sta							Form itedpma.org	
First Name: Last Name: State: First Name (for your badge): State: Post Office You Represent City: State: State: Supervisor Manager CAS Professional Associate City: State:	Please complete on	1000						
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Call 703-683-9027

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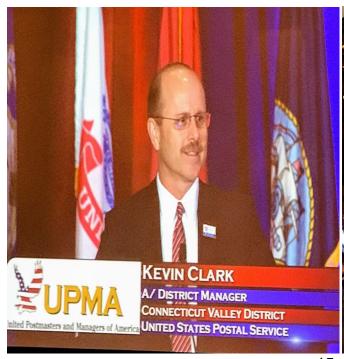
Registration, 8 Herbert St., Alexandria, VA 22305-2600.







2019 UPMA National Convention Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT







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