

FEBRUARY 2026

The Granite State Postal Leader



NH UNITED POSTMASTERS AND MANAGERS OF AMERICA

WHO'S READY FOR OUR NH/VT CONVENTION... BECAUSE FRIDAY NIGHT IS ABOUT TO GET *REALLY* FUN.

RAM
AXE THROWING TRAILER



Once training wraps up, don't head out just yet — Ram Axe Throwing is pulling their trailer right into the Centennial parking lot for some posttraining excitement. Flying axes, roaring cheers, friendly chaos... it's going to be EPIC. It's a great chance for us all to step out of training mode, share some laughs, and enjoy a little friendly competition together.

After all of the axethrowing glory, let's shift gears and meet up in the Hotel Hospitality area. We'll have light refreshments and snacks waiting so you can unwind, chat, and enjoy some easy downtime together. It's the perfect way to relax, reconnect, and ease out of the day.

Did someone say food? The Centennial Hotel's Granite Restaurant & Bar in Concord, NH is something worth talking about! It's one of the most praised dining spots in the area, and there's a lot to love!

FRESH, SEASONAL, LOCALLY SOURCED INGREDIENTS SAY NO MORE!

Granite Restaurant focuses on refined New England cuisine with a modern twist, using seasonal and local ingredients whenever possible. This gives the menu a fresh, regional feel that diners consistently rave about.

Saturday night's dinner is shaping up to be unforgettable. Between the atmosphere, the flavors, and the company, it's the kind of meal you'll be talking about long after the weekend ends — the kind where you're laughing too hard to remember which fork you're supposed to use, and everything tastes even better because you're surrounded by great people. Get ready

for a night that's equally delicious and downright fun. Get all dressed up to have nice dinner and make some new memories.

Can't wait to see everyone there! Sign up today and take advantage of the affordable room rates we've secured. It's a beautiful location just minutes from downtown Concord, and we're thrilled to offer such budgetfriendly options.

Choosing a central spot for state convention to host every other year is always a challenge, but we've worked hard to make this event convenient for everyone—whether you're joining us for Friday's paid training day or staying for the full weekend.

We've put a lot of effort into getting this event right and keeping costs reasonable for all attendees. If you have any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I'm always happy to listen or help. Cheers!

Diana Hildreth

603-731-7527

hildrethdiana@gmail.com

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IN THIS ISSUE:

A Note From Ed - Iceberg Dead Ahead

Letter from the Editor - Fall Luncheon Wrap Up

Message from The Retirees

SAVE THE DATES:

UPMA Legislative Summit
Arlington, VA, March 15th - March 18th

NH/VT State Convention
Concord NH, April 10th - 11th

UMPA National Convention
San Juan, Puerto Rico, August 1st - 7th

ICEBERG DEAD AHEAD!



So, you have raised your hand, stepped up, were pushed, you weren't paying attention when they asked for volunteers and everyone else took a step back, or some other scenario and now you are an EAS... First welcome and good luck-if you haven't joined UPMA please reach out and join we would love to have and help you.

There are so many things I wish I knew before I took the plunge...but if you really knew everything about the position would you still have pursued it? There is so much that goes into doing it well at a high level that it can seem overwhelming at times. How do you survive until you can thrive? Always try to do what is right, expedient, and best for your employees and the service and that should get you most of the way there. The rest comes from experience and figuring out how to make things work as you go. Networking is your best and safest bet- get to know your neighboring office postmasters and supervisors. Understand that your first responsibility is to complete all the tasks you are responsible for first and foremost. No one will reward you for carrying mail (even if it feels like the right thing to do at the time) but you can bet that if you consistently miss compliance items while trying to do everyone else's job- the ax will fall eventually, rightfully so. Ask for help, your peers, your boss, Postal Facebook forums (including our UPMA one), our good friend Google, there are so many resources out there. Don't go down silently or alone- help is only a phone call away.

We just received notice that the agreement to pay EAS extra straight time for delivering expired 1/23/2026 so we will no longer be eligible to be paid to deliver. Keep pushing on hiring, training, and retaining. This is the way...

April 10th through the 12th are the dates for our state convention at the Centennial Hotel in Concord. Big thanks to our new district manager, Wendy Goddard, for approving Friday (4/10) as a training date for anyone interested in attending even if you can't join us for the whole weekend. The rates are great and are significantly cheaper than what we paid in Vermont in 2025 - How often have prices gone

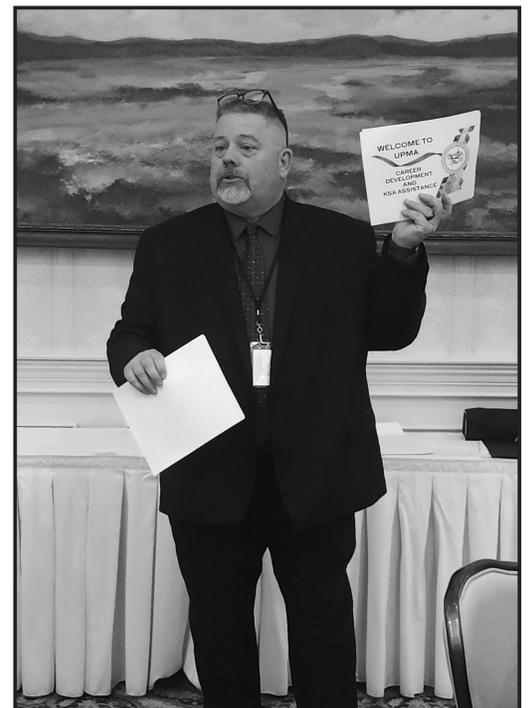
down for anything recently? Great job by Jeana Woodbury and Diana Hildreth for finding the venue and negotiating the terms... We are trying to get some dynamic speakers to address the attendees and are hoping to provide some useful relevant training as well, there are some fun surprises already scheduled, I am told the food is quite good at the venue and we hope everyone who attends and uses some of their valuable time off to participate will feel like it was time well spent and a worthwhile investment in their career. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

In March a group of us are headed to Washington DC to lobby on the hill for Postal legislation and concerns as we do each year. I know the main push this year is about legislation to make it so anyone who has non-career time will hopefully be able to buy it back like what veterans can do with their eligible military service. If you have any items, you wish to be raised with our elected representatives please let an officer know and we will be sure to bring them up as appropriate. If anyone is interested in attending and getting involved, we will have some funds available to help defray the costs associated with the trip.

In closing I wanted to share a small piece of advice I received as a young marine fresh out of training that has stuck with me directed especially at our newest EAS members but applicable to everyone... Pay yourself first always- Life will always present you with challenges, bills, kids, vehicle breakdowns, medical emergencies, vet bills etc. The service does a 5% match in the TSP, and you should absolutely maximize this if you can. It is an investment in your future and insurance for your retirement. If you wait until it is convenient, time can get away from you quickly and before you know it retirement will be upon you if you have the good health and luck to get there.

I look forward to seeing you all at an event or training as the year progresses and I hope everyone has a safe and prosperous year...

Regards,
Ed
Edward
McCormack
NH State
President UPMA
Postmaster
Deerfield, NH



Continued from page 1

Located in Concord, 21 miles from Mall of New Hampshire, The Centennial Hotel has accommodations with a fitness center, private parking and a bar. This 3-star hotel offers room service and a 24-hour front desk. State Park is 16 miles away and Robert Frost Farm is 30 miles from the hotel. At the hotel, the rooms are equipped with a desk. Complete with a private bathroom equipped with a shower and free toiletries, all rooms at The Centennial Hotel have a flat-screen TV and air conditioning, and certain rooms also offer a seating area. Guest rooms will provide guests with a fridge. Buffet and continental breakfast options are available at the accommodation. At The Centennial Hotel you'll find a restaurant serving American cuisine. Vegetarian, dairy-free and vegan options can also be requested. New Hampshire State Capitol is a 13-minute walk from the hotel, while New Hampshire Supreme Court is 2.3 miles from the property. Manchester Boston Regional Airport is 22 miles away.



UPMA 2026 LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT (MAR. 15-17, 2026)

The United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA) will hold its 2026 Legislative Summit from March 15 to March 17, 2026, at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Crystal City, Virginia (near Washington, D.C.). This summit is a key advocacy event for UPMA members — including postmasters, managers, and supervisors from the U.S. Postal Service — providing a structured forum for legislative engagement, policy briefings, and meetings with Members of Congress and their staff.

Key features of the summit include:

- **Policy discussions and legislative priorities:** Members advocate for issues impacting postal leadership and operations, such as Title 39 reforms and protections for managerial employees.
- **Engagement on Capitol Hill:** Attendees meet with congressional offices to represent UPMA's positions directly to lawmakers.
- **Networking and professional development:** Participants connect with peers and policymakers to strengthen advocacy efforts.

This event is part of UPMA's national calendar and a central gathering in its advocacy efforts for the year.

WHY THESE CONFERENCES MATTER,

Legislative conferences play a critical role in connecting

stakeholders with policymakers, shaping public policy agendas, and equipping advocates with the skills and networks needed to influence legislation. Attendees often leave with a clearer understanding of legislative processes, advocacy strategies, and legislative priorities for the year ahead.



I attended this event for the first time last year, and it was an amazing trip. From seeing all my UPMA friends from across the country, sightseeing in the Capitol, and dinners and cocktails it was a blast start to finish. However, the coolest thing was actually meeting with our elected representatives in the House and Senate offices. They and their staff were genuinely engaged in the conversations we had and had many questions about our perspective on Postal issues. They truly wanted our input to help shape their opinions and policy when dealing with Postal matters.

If you wish to attend this conference please reach out to any UPMA Officer, we would love to have as large a delegation as possible! You will need to register at unitedpma.org to attend, spouses are welcome to attend and with registration are invited to join us on Congressional visits.! If you would like join us let us know as soon as possible!

Mike Minot

PM Center Barnstead
UPMA State of NH VP

GREETINGS HONORABLE POSTMASTERS,

Now that peak is over, it's time to start thinking about State Convention and all things. Spring! This is a busy time for UPMA. Our Legislative Summit is just around the corner and NH/VT State Convention is quickly approaching. You will find registration forms for both events in this edition of the Granite State Postmaster.

The Legislative Summit takes place from March 14th – 18th, in Washington D.C. If you are interested in attending the Legislative Summit, please reach out to me or another board member. There may be some financial assistance available for those who want to actively attend the Summit and meet with our Senators and Congressmen. This is our chance to bring issues and challenges that our Postmasters and the Postal Service are facing their attention.

Our NH/VT State Convention will be held at The Centennial Hotel in Concord, NH. We reserved a room block from April 9th – 12th. If you require overnight accommodation, please make reservations directly with the hotel by March 10th, and mention the NH/VT UPMA State Convention to receive our special rate.

You will also find the Scholarship Application in this issue. If you have a child or grandchildren that is attending college this fall, are eligible for this \$1000.00 scholarship.

Application criteria are on the form, and it is due by April 1st. The scholarship committee will announce the successful applicant at State Convention.

I look forward to seeing you at our NH/VT State Convention.

Respectfully,

Jeana Woodbury
Secretary/Treasurer
NH Chapter of UPMA



Newly retired Liz, Jeana, Lori and Ed

FALL LUNCHEON WRAP UP!

Thank you to everyone who joined us at our fall luncheon. It was wonderful to see familiar faces as well as a few first-time attendees. We hope to welcome even more new members at the Spring Convention at the Centennial Inn in Concord.

A special thank you to Scott Cassidy and Joe Loguercio for being with us. Joe, your presentation was insightful and appreciated. We value the time and effort you both took to visit us.

We have made it through another peak season and are heading into January with plenty of snow and frigid temperatures. Winters like this certainly make our work more challenging, especially when it comes to ensuring every piece of mail is delivered. Despite the weather, equipment issues, and staffing hurdles, everyone gave their best to keep things moving.

The week before Christmas, our office had two trucks lose their blower motors within days of each other, far from ideal timing with the cold temperatures and triple parcel volume. Even with low mileage and a Mercedes badge, our trucks still find ways to test us.

As we push through the rest of winter, I think many of us are counting the days until spring. I know I am—bring on the sunshine and 70degree weather.

Join us for a spring luncheon — a chance to get involved, gain new knowledge, and connect with people who understand the daytoday challenges we all face. Let's learn, share, and grow together."

Diana Hildreth
PM Con-too-cook
Editor



ACCOUNT BALANCES

AS OF JANUARY 21, 2026

CHECKING \$ 4864.50

SCHOLARSHIP \$ 6259.01

INVESTMENT (CD) \$ 6205.49



A BALANCED WAY TO STAY HOPEFUL

If you're trying to stay optimistic about the USPS — whether you work there, retired from it, rely on it, or just care — a grounded mindset helps:

- **Acknowledge the problems honestly** instead of sugar-coating them.
- **Celebrate the resilience** of the people who keep the system running.
- **Recognize that reform takes time**, but momentum exists.
- **Focus on the human side**, not just the headlines.

The PO is imperfect, but it's also one of the most enduring public institutions in the country. Its struggles are real, but so is its capacity to adapt and endure.

HAPPY SPRINGTIME NEW HAMPSHIRE RETIREES.

I'm so looking forward to the warmer weather already and it's just beginning to start. I hope you all had a wonderful winter and enjoyed nesting for a while. Now that you've had time to regroup it's time to get active again. It looks like our state convention will be held at the Centennial Hotel in Concord, right in the heart of downtown within walking distance to everything. It's a very quaint niche hotel so I hope you'll join us. Our retired finances are sound, and we continue to have enough to have our spring fling meeting and offer a discount at the state convention. This year the retirees will be offering \$30 towards your registration at the state convention for retirees in New Hampshire. I'm sure your elected state eboard will have a great schedule planned.

I really look forward to seeing everyone and catching up. Don't forget we are having elections for President and Secretary treasure this year. Deb Hall and I will not be running, and we will be turning over the reins to whomever steps up to take over. We hope one of you new retirees will step up or one of our seasoned retirees may jump back in. We understand how busy life these days with everything going on but it's a nice way to give back just a little. I know it's quite crazy these days and it's hard to find time to reset and catch up with friends. I hope you'll take the time to come to the state convention, participate in some fun, have some laughs, and some good food. It's a good time to also catch up on what's going on nationally to help protect our retirement rights and benefits. It's just 2 days a year! So put your smiles on and get yourself registered for the 2026 New Hampshire State UPMA convention. See you there.

Fondly, *Ken Vengren*

UPMA
United Postmasters and Managers of America

Career Development Benefit

"You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great." - Zig Ziglar

To access the material or request assistance, go to Unitedpma.org and from the Career Development drop-down, select the Guidelines or KSA assistance links.

There are two choices under this tab. Guidelines will provide you with 3 USPS documents that contain instructions on creating an eCareer profile and submitting an application for promotion.

The UPMA Advice booklet is also located in this section. We suggest that you read it first as an overview of what the USPS specifically addresses. This information will allow you to set up your eCareer profile and prepare you to complete your profile when you are ready to apply for an EAS position. The requirements for Supervisor positions or Postmaster positions may be similar for practicing your KSAs, but you **MUST CHECK THE QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FROM THE SPECIFIC JOB POSTING BEFORE APPLYING, AS SOME DO VARY.**

The KSA Assistance portal will connect you to a qualified assistant who will coach, guide and mentor you through the eCareer process. Integrity is a priority, so assistants do not create or write your KSAs. They educate, suggest, encourage, and support your work to help you develop a quality eCareer profile. Quality KSAs give you the best chance to reach the interview level.

When you are ready to take advantage of this benefit, enter your information in the portal (EIN, Name, Phone, Email, Current Job Position and State) and answer the questions. There is also a space available for comments. Here you may request a quick review, enter your work hours for contact availability, or add any other beneficial comments. An Assistant will contact you to coach you through this accomplishment.

It is recommended, though not required, that you use the (STAR) *Situation, Task, Action, and Result* format, to write your KSAs to address each qualification. It may require several edits to get the best results. Together, you and your UPMA assistant can make your STARS shine!

Follow the Career Development path on the back of this card to the eCareer/KSA Assistance Program. Scan the QR code to go directly to the web page.



Joe and Scott



Diana and Mike share a quick selfie



Mike, Mike, Diana, Riley and Abbigail



Marjorie from BlueCross



Mike and Ray

**NH/VT STATE CONVENTION
APRIL 10-13, 2026
THE CENTENNIAL HOTEL
CONCORD NH**

NAME: _____

POSITION: POSTMASTER _____

SUPERVISOR _____

ADDRESS: _____

MANAGER _____

RETIREE _____

GUEST _____

POST OFFICE: _____

FULL REGISTRATION \$150 _____

INCLUDES ALL PROVIDED MEALS, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

NH CHAPTER RETIREES \$120.00 _____



TRAINING DAY ONLY \$ 45 _____

INCLUDES LUNCH AND MEETING

Rooms are available at the UPMA rate of \$149/night + taxes & \$16 resort fee
Please make reservations directly with the Centennial Hotel 603-227-9000

Please send registration form and check payable to NH UPMA to:

Jeana Woodbury
NH UPMA
PO BOX 1
Hinsdale, NH 03451

NH CHAPTER of UPMA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

ELIGIBILITY: Sons, daughters & grandchildren of NH UPMA Chapter member (Active, retired or deceased) Postmasters and Mangers.

Postmaster/Manager Name: _____

Active/retired/deceased (circle one)

Relationship: _____

Application information

NAME: _____ BIRTH DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

HIGH SCHOOL: _____ GRADUATION DATE: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

COLLEGE OR VOCATIONAL SCHOOL (Attending/Accepted): _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY: _____

Application Requirements:

Please attach a list of all activities stating the year of participation in each. Include all community organizations, all honors, awards, and achievements.

Attach a personal statement on why you feel you should be considered for an UPMA Scholarship. Enclose one (1) letter of recommendation.

Enclose transcripts from High School (four years) and SAT scores. Current college students MUST include college transcripts as well as High School transcripts.

SPECIAL NOTE: If you are applying for a second time, please be sure that your information and recommendation are up to date (no older than two years).

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY APRIL 1, 2026 AND SENT TO:

Jeana Woodbury
NH UPMA Scholarship Committee
P.O. BOX 1
HINSDALE, NH 03451

UPMA Legislative Summit



2026 Legislative Summit Information

The 2025 UPMA Legislative Summit will be held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport, March 15 – 17, 2026.

Every member wishing to attend the Legislative Summit must register.

A Town Hall will be held in the afternoon on Sunday, March 15. Training sessions will be held on Monday, March 16, beginning at 8:30 AM and are expected to conclude by 5:00 PM. Tuesday, March 17, will be spent on Capitol Hill.

Necessary materials for Capitol Hill Day will be provided on Monday, March 16.

Legislative Summit Registration:

The registration fee is \$100 per person on or before February 13, 2026.

Starting February 14, 2026 the registration fee is \$150 per person.



Hotel Reservations:

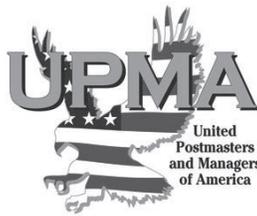
Contact the Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport to book your hotel room and mention that you are attending the United Postmasters and Managers of America Meeting. UPMA rates (\$229/night for king and double; \$25/night for each additional guest in a room beyond two) are available until February 27, 2026 or until the room block is sold out, whichever comes first.

A one-night deposit is required upon booking. The deposit is refundable for cancellations received no later than January 15, 2026. After January 15, 2026, refunds are not available.

Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport
Phone Number: 877-803-7534
Group Code: G-RUTK



Hotel Reservation



UPMA Legislative Summit

March 15 - 17, 2026 Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington VA

Registration and information available at www.unitedpma.org

Legislative Summit Information:

The 2026 UPMA Legislative Summit will be taking place at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, March 15 - 17, 2026.

Every member wishing to attend must register.

A Town Hall will be held in the afternoon on Sunday, March 15. Training sessions will be held on Monday, March 16 beginning at 8:30 AM and are expected to conclude by 5:00 PM. Tuesday, March 17, will be spent on Capitol Hill. Necessary materials will be provided Monday, March 16.

Full Name:

Address:

City, State: Post Office You Represent:

Postal Code: Phone Number:

Email:

Chapter:

Title (check one) : Postmaster UPMA Retired Associate Member Manager
 Supervisor PMR EAS Professional Guest

U.S. Representative :

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE AND PAY BY CREDIT CARD

The registration fee is \$100 per person on or before February 13, 2026. The registration fee is \$150 per person starting February 14, 2026. Payment is due at the time of registration.

REGISTRATION PAYMENT BY CHECK

Check payable to UPMA. Check number:

By signing this form:

- I understand that I am responsible for booking my hotel room and managing my reservation.*
- I have read and understand the registration cancellation policies. Cancellation requests must be submitted via email to UPMA@crispevents.me. Requests received 30 days in advance of the event, on or before February 13, 2026, will be assessed a \$40 cancellation fee per person. Cancellations received on or after February 14, 2026 will not receive a refund. Registration transfers/name changes are not permitted.

Signature:

HOTEL INFORMATION:

Hyatt Regency Crystal City

2799 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA 22202

[CLICK TO BOOK YOUR HOTEL ROOM](#)

Phone Number: 703-418-1234

GROUP CODE: G-RUTK

Contact the Hyatt Regency Crystal City to book your hotel room and mention that you are attending the United Postmasters and Managers of America Meeting. UPMA rates are available until February 27, 2026 or until the room block is sold out, whichever comes first

Room rate for up to two people in a room: \$229/night
Room rate for three people in a room: \$254/night
Room rate for four people in a room: \$279/night

Mailed forms are due to the National Office by 3/1/2025 :
UPMA National Office
8 Herbert St
Alexandria, VA 22305

CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellation requests must be submitted via email to UPMA@crispevents.me. Requests received 30 days in advance of the event, on or before February 13, 2026, will be assessed a \$40 cancellation fee per person. Cancellations received on or after February 14, 2026 will not receive a refund. Registration transfers/name changes are not permitted.

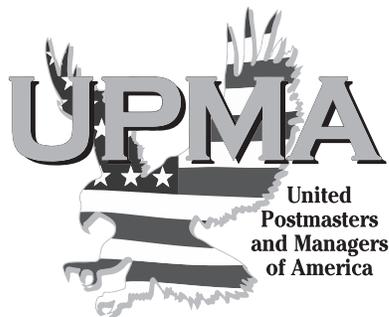
THE GRANITE STATE POSTMASTER

POB 1
HINSDALE NH 03451

WWW.NHUPMA.ORG



The opinions expressed in this publication are of the participants and not necessarily the views of the United Postmasters and Managers of America!



CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OFFER – ONE YEAR FREE!

The UPMA National Executive Board is excited to still be offering **new EAS members a full year of free membership!** That's right—no dues for your first year. Dues withholding will begin only after your 1-year anniversary with UPMA.

This is the perfect time to join a community that advocates for your career, your benefits, and your future. Don't miss out—join now and take advantage of this limited-time offer!



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