

The Hoosier Postmaster

Volume 11 Issue 5
Sept/Oct/Nov 2011



Helping Postmasters Fit The Pieces Together



Change, Change, Change and More Changes

Mail count is over, and a new year is upon us. I'm afraid it will be a rough and rocky road too. San Juan, was beautiful and a little wet. Tropical storm "Maria", decided to visit the same week we were there. We were scheduled to take a Catamaran trip, however, after we sat on the bus for 30 minutes, they told us the trip was going to be canceled because the boat was under the water and the crew couldn't get to it. If the boat had to be under the water, I'm glad it was before we got on it and not after. We did take in the Bacardi Rum Distillery, and a tour of Old San Juan.

NAPUS National President Bob Rapoza opened the 107th National Convention. Bob said the issues facing NAPUS are symptomatic of the Postal Service's financial condition and Postmasters need to keep pressure on Congress. If you haven't had a chance to contact your Congressman and Senators, please do so. The numbers are listed below. PMG Pat Donahoe joined us via video conference. He talked about closing plants and a possible reduction in service standards. Ruth Goldway from the PRC also spoke to us. She said they welcome our input and public participation.

We must oppose HR 2309 in the House and S 1625. The legislation to support is HR 1351. Here are the numbers to call:

Senator Richard Lugar
DC: 202-224-4814
IN: 317-226-5555

Senator Dan Coats
DC: 202-224-5623
IN: 317-554-0750

Bob Levi summarized the current legislation proposed by various members of Congress. He said Post Offices are going to be closed, but the closures will comply with the law. NAPUS needs to protect Postmasters.

I have said it before and I will say it again. It is going to be a tough year for everyone. Rumors are flying about numerous things, but don't spread fear where it isn't needed. Call a neighboring postmaster if you have the need to vent. I have done it several times and they always have a way of making me smile.

IKO will be coming up November 4 & 5th. If you haven't made your reservations, please make plans to do so. We have some great training scheduled for you.

Sandi
Indiana NAPUS State President

2011 State Officers

President

Sandi Greiwe
Hope, IN 47246
sandragreiwe@yahoo.com
H-812.591.3359

Secretary-Treasurer

Karen Wolf
Gas City IN 46933
In.napus.sec@hotmail.com
O-765.674.2880
C-765.251.6465

Editor

Kimberly Sharpe
Pierceton, IN 46562
Ksharpe.napus@yahoo.com
O-574.594.2627
C-574.527.0441

Legislative Chairman

Marvin Gilliland
Margill473@comcast.net
O-765.286.9617

Membership Chairman

Judy Dishman (Retired)
Jdish1@frontier.com
C-765.524.0485

PM Rep Chairman

Pam Ford
North Manchester 46962
fordpamelas@gmail.com
O-260.982.2313
C-574.354.0024

Jim Simon-PM Rep

6811 W Fall Creek Dr
Pendleton IN 460645
simonsimon95@gmail.com
765.778.4347

Anita Park-PM Rep

French Lick IN 47332
jedalu@hotmail.com
O-812.936.9899
C-812.630.9474

Roberta Price-PM Rep

Boone Grove, IN 46302
urpriceless@frontier.net
H-219.872.9165

PAC Chairman

Scott Bowser
Avilla IN 46710
Sbowser134@aol.com
O-260.897.2221
C-260.385.3700

Sevice Representative

Kathy Bowman
Sandborn, IN 47578
Bowman2@tds.net
O-812.486-3496
C-812.694-8999

State Chaplin

Greg Bradford
Liberty Mills, IN 46946
Labrad02@hotmail.com
O-260.982.7730

479/463/464/465/466/469

AREA A-VP

Shawn Grube
West Point, IN 47992
Hexaman2000@gmail.com
C-765.426.7255

467/468/473 AREA B-VP

Stephanie Bauman
Warren, IN 46792
bauman@jayco.net
H-260.997.6204

474/475/478 AREA C-VP

Anita Parks
French Lick IN 47332
jedalu@hotmail.com
O-812936.9899
C-812.630.9474

470/471/472 AREA D-VP

Maricarol Cox
Waldron, IN 46182
tmc304@tds.net
O-765.525.6040

Area 5/6 National Vice Presidents

Pam Ford

North Manchester 46962
fordpamelas@gmail.com
O-260.982.2313
C-574.354.0024

Scott Mann

Edmonton KY 42129
O-270.432.2421
C-270.404.0135

2011 RETIRED POSTMASTERS

President

Glenda Rountree
PO Box 91444
Louisville KY 40291
glendar@insightbb.com
502.417.8702

Vice President

Jim Simon
6811 W Fall Creek Dr
Pendleton IN 460645
simonsimon95@gmail.com
765.778.4347

Secretary-Treasurer

Ralph Halley
315 W Third St
Peru IN 46970
rhalley@comteck.com
765.469.1358

Membership-Registration Chairman

Janice Boettcher

PO Box 265
Granger In 46530
jaboett@aol.com
H-574.675.9190
C-574.596.8468

Post Office Closing

Janice Boettcher (North)

PO Box 265
Granger In 46530
jaboett@aol.com
H-574.675.9190
C-574.596.8468

Vickie Fessel(South)

PO Box 155
Palmyra IN 47164
Vickie.d.fessel@gmail.com
812.364.6950

Chaplin

Elsha Layman
PO Box 1
Commiskey IN 47227
Melayn3@aol.com

Indiana NAPUS Website
www.indianapostmasters.org

ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT HOOSIER POSTMASTER ARE DUE!

by email: Jan 2nd
(electronic files preferred)
ksharpe.napus@yahoo.com

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Log on to www.NAPUS.org -
membership services and change your address
using the code above your name from the
Gazette label.

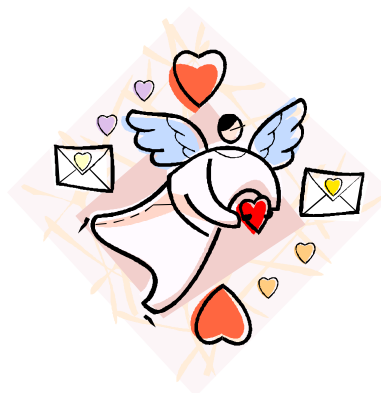
If you do not have computer access, send
change of address to:
Hoosier Postmaster
1711 Jenny Lane
Warsaw, IN 46580-1804

soldiersangelsnetwork.com

Visit this website!
May No Soldier Go Unloved

Right now there are 458 soldiers on the waiting list. They are waiting to have someone write to them or send a package! Last Christmas our post office sent packages to seven soldiers as an inner office project. The community donated items for the boxes and the employees donated the postage.

"May No Soldier Go Unloved," encapsulates the motivation behind Soldiers' Angels. The volunteers of Soldiers' Angels work tirelessly to demonstrate active care and concern for veterans, the wounded, deployed service members and their families.. To date, volunteers have sent hundreds of thousands of care packages and letters to "adopted" deployed service members.





What a wonderful National Convention! Dallas and I both think this was one of our best vacations.

We left a week early to go on a cruise. We flew into Puerto Rico, but Dallas's luggage did

not leave Indianapolis. We boarded the cruise ship and just as we were ready to leave the port the airlines finally brought his luggage over to the ship. Thank heavens it wasn't my luggage! We had many wonderful experiences exploring the different islands. We snorkeled, kayaked, hiked, rode a segway, and enjoyed our friends and this was just the first 5 days! The segway tour was very interesting.

As a matter of fact I was a little intimidated by this machine. We practiced riding in a wooded area and soon each of us were mastering of moving forward, backward and stopping. This



is all done just by the movement of your body! Poor Dallas forgot to let go when he was getting off and had a slight accident!

The convention highlights: Bob Rapoza was elected for a second term as our National President.

The Postmaster General Pat Donahoe joined us via skype. He had a meeting with President Obama concerning the financial

condition of the Postal Service and couldn't attend the convention. The PMG talked about reducing our service standards and eliminating overnight mail and changing 1-2 day delivery to 2-3 days.

The site selection for 2014 was between Baltimore and Atlantic City. Atlantic City was selected as the 2014 National Convention site.

We had Ruth Goldway, the Postal Regulatory Commission Chairman speak to us about how many times their hands are tied when it comes to Post

Office Closings.

The training sessions –something for ev-

everyone. The classes were well attended. The class on the new clerk contract was standing room only.

There was a dance every night and even dance lessons to learn the salsa.

We stayed an extra day and went with a group of KY friends sightsee-

ing across Puerto Rico. We started out going to several beaches. We stopped in a little town and had a wonderful Puerto Rican lunch (I think everything is fried in PR). We ended the day by kayaking in the two bio bay. We explored the beautiful mangrove channels of Laguna Grande. The ecosystems in this nature reserve are nothing like you have ever experienced. If you touch the water it glows with billions of bioluminescent organisms. If you sprinkle water on your hand it looks like diamonds falling. Yes, this was a wonderful two weeks and I am so glad we attended the National Convention. LIFE IS GOOD!

Kim Sharpe
Indiana State Editor



For those of you that missed the National Convention in Puerto Rico, you missed a great time and a beautiful island. It is so important to attend these conventions to find out what is going on with the Postal Service. Of course this is when Postmaster General Pat Donahoe announced he would be closing half of the processing plants across the country. Those attending received great training and received insight into some of the future changes headed our way. Make plans to attend next year's national convention in Oklahoma City.

Do you have a neighbor or friend who isn't a member of NAPUS? I hope you are willing to find out by asking. We need to be spreading the word about NAPUS. We have strength in numbers. Now more than ever we need to be strong. The changes in the Post Office are happening very fast now. Has your office been affected? Could your office be next? What we DON'T need to get caught up in is all the speculation and rumors about possible changes. We can worry ourselves sick wondering what could "happen". What we do need to get caught up in is making sure that the organization fighting for our rights is as powerful as we can make it. Don't sit on the fence until it is too late. Jump in, get active, and get involved.

Make plans to attend the Leadership Conference in Washington next March. Make a difference. Let your voice be heard. This yearly trip is important because we get the opportunity to speak to each of our elected officials about proposed legislation affecting our jobs. Every NAPUS member can go. This is where you need to get personally involved by joining us in Washington or by making an appointment to visit your Representative in your home district. You have as much right to speak with your congressman as anyone else. Congress can disrupt your livelihood with the stroke of a pen.

Please contact me at 765-524-0485 if I can be of any assistance to you and remember talk that non-member into becoming a member.

Judy Dishman, Membership Chairman



RETIREES CORNER

by GLENDA ROUNTREE



If you are not in the picture...where are you? We had a wonderful fall meeting. Lots of fun, food, and fellowship. A few people even won money at the casino.

Ralph Halley was re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer for the next two years. The office of President and vice president will be up for election in 2012. If you are interested in being a candidate for either position, please notify one of the nominating committee members: Janice Boettcher (574-596-8468) or John Douglas (765-894-0957).

The membership voted for the Amish Country Inn in Shipshewana as our 2012 fall meeting location. The dates will be October 1, 2 and 3. The flea market will be open on the 2nd. Other activities and available entertainment will be announced when all the details are finalized.

Our Chaplain, Elisha Layman, has been extremely ill and was in intensive care for many days. I rejoice to report he is in rehab and doing great. He should be home by the time you get the HPM and that is definitely the hand of God at work.

Now – a plug for Glenda:

I announced at Puerto Rico that I am seeking the office of National Secretary/Treasurer for the years 2013 and 2014. If at all possible, please attend National Convention at Oklahoma City next September, and VOTE FOR ME!!!

There is competition – Janiece Taylor from Alabama, and Rodney Boland from Florida are both viable candidates –therefore, every vote is important.

That's all I have to say about that. Take care, and may God Bless.

Glenda Rountree, State President, Postmaster Retired

The Things You Should Know

1. You define your own life. Don't let other people write your script.
2. Whatever someone did to you in the past has no power over the present. Only you give it power.
3. Worrying is wasted time. Use the same energy for doing something about whatever worries you.
4. What you believe has more power than what you dream or wish or hope for. You become what you believe.
5. If the only prayer you ever say is "thank you" that will be enough.
6. Failure is a signpost to turn you in another direction.
7. If you make a choice that goes against what everyone else thinks, the world will not fall apart.
8. Trust your instincts. Intuition doesn't lie.
9. Every day brings a chance to start over.
10. When you don't know what to do, get still. The answer will come.

Welcome New NAPUS Members!

**Denece Correll
Sonya Trice
Michael Colvin
CiJi Fleetwood
Amy Bowser
Ruby Pancake
Karen Bickel
Brittany Hernly
Jeremy Neely
Lannie Madden
Douglas Byrn
Ron Mack
Art Cruz**

Puerto Rico was a beautiful location for the NAPUS 2011 National Convention. The convention center and the beach were breathtaking. Old San Juan was quaint and historic, yet there was unrealized potential at every turn. Hotels stood boarded and partially completed building projects that had been abandoned stood next to picture perfect properties. Homeless people and trash were seen along boardwalks that bordered beautiful beaches and ocean fronts.

I had an opportunity to travel into the country side one afternoon after convention and found the people to be amazingly friendly and accommodating. As with most things in life there were many positive experiences to be found along with negative. Such it is with the Postal Service. And here as in life in general it is our best interest to focus on the positive.

Your NAPUS Executive Board spent two full days in meetings before the start of the convention. One of the changes that was voted in this year was the elimination of spousal travel effective in 2013 with the exception of those serving as National President and National Secretary/Treasurer for National Convention and Leadership Conference.

Director of Government Relations Bob Levi's contract was renewed during those meetings. Bob has done a great job for NAPUS in these challenging times and the Board was unanimous in recognizing the importance of retaining an individual who has served the organization with dedication, passion, and intelligence. Several other contracts were reviewed and acted on as the board deemed appropriate.

Other proposals that were given consideration were combining the National Convention and the Leadership/Legislative Conference on a rotating basis. Also considered was a change from a two year term for the National President and Secretary/Treasurer with the opportunity for a successive term to a single three year term. Another change that was discussed was the downsizing of the National Board. All of these proposals would require constitutional changes and none were acted on at this convention. I welcome input from members who have opinions on these proposals or have other ideas they would like to have brought before the National Board.

President Bob Rapoza was elected to another two year term. Indiana was one of the few states who split their vote. This reflected the vote which was taken at the close of the Indiana State Convention. Our chapter has a history of honoring each individual's vote and our decision to split the vote at this convention upheld this tradition.

The second week of October H.R. 2309, the Issa-Ross Bill passed out of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform with a vote that was strictly along party lines. This bill is potentially very destructive to the Postal Service. Please watch your email and/or check the NAPUS National website for information on how you can contact your Representative in Congress and urge them to oppose this bill. There is no corresponding bill at the present time in the Senate, which is good news.

NAPUS has two members testifying to the Postal Regulatory Commission on Retail Access Optimization and the pending discontinuance of Post Offices and the affects these closings will have on small communities. NAPUS has also requested that the Postal Service finalize early out and placement procedures for affected Postmasters.

The October 5 deadline for discussion of pay talks was extended. Talks between NAPUS and League and Postal Service representatives will continue in an effort to understand and resolve issues on pay, benefits, and leave.

Remember in these challenging times that there is a limited sphere of influence for each of us. Remain active and informed, do your job to the best of your ability each and every day, and serve your customers well. The remainder will have to take of itself. The times they are a changing, embrace the good in your life.

Take care-

Pam Ford
Vice-President Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio



Haste Makes Waste: The Hidden Cost of Closing Post Offices

From: Savethepostoffice.com

The vast majority of post offices being reviewed for closure are leased properties, and most of them will have months or years left on the lease when they close. The Postal Service could run into some serious buy-out costs over the coming year, perhaps close to \$100 million.

About 250 post offices have closed so far this year, and another 70 or so have received final determination notices, meaning they'll be closing before the end of the year. About half of the post offices closing in 2011 had several months, even years, remaining on the lease. There are 166 post offices, closed or closing in 2011, that have at least two months left on the lease, and the total cost for lease buy-outs on these post offices is approximately \$10 million. In addition to those that have already closed, there are 3,600 post offices currently being studied for closure under the Retail Access Optimization Initiative (RAOI). Of these, there are over 2,100 that could require lease buy-outs. Assuming March 1, 2012, as the closing date, the total amount owed on leases would be about \$77 million.

There are another 727 post offices being studied for closure that appear on a list that came out the day after the RAOI in July. Some of these "non-RAOI" post offices have already closed, but most are still under study. About 350 post offices would owe some rent if they closed by March 1, 2012 — over \$8 million in total.

That brings the grand total of potential buy-out costs for post offices that could close over the coming months and those that have already closed or received final determinations to about \$95 million.

That number is just an estimate, of course, since it's impossible to know how many post offices will close and exactly when. But there's another factor that we don't know about — how many of those post offices have leases with "early termination" clauses?

In order to avoid buy-out costs, the Postal Service has apparently been pressuring lessors to include an "early-out" clause in new leases so that the it can terminate the lease with three or four months' notice, with no obligation to pay off the months or years remaining on the lease. The mere fact that the Postal Service is doing this is yet further evidence, as if we needed it, that the Postal Service has plans to close many more post offices in the future.

Lessors don't like the clause because it makes it difficult to plan ahead, and it can complicate matters with mortgage lenders, who also like to know that the tenant will be sticking around until the end of the lease. But if a lessor objects to including the early-out, the Postal Service can say there's "a problem with the lease," declare an "emergency suspension," and close the post office on the spot. Lease problems are one of the most common reasons for suspending a post office, and the practice has been the subject of an on-going investigation by the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC).

The issue of lease buy-out costs has also come up in at least one appeals case before the PRC. A few months ago, the community of Akron, Ohio, appealed the decision to close its post office. There were two years left on the lease when it closed, and that cost the Postal Service nearly \$200,000. PRC Chairman Ruth Goldway cited the buy-out costs in a dissenting opinion that challenged her colleagues' ruling to affirm the Postal Service's decision to close the post office. Apparently perplexed why the Postal Service was buying out the lease when it would have been less expensive to keep the post office open until the lease ran its course, Goldway wrote that "in my view, the final determination does not offer a rational explanation of why the Postal Service would make a determination to close this facility despite the closing's negative impact on the Postal Service's finances."

Expecting the Postal Service to provide a rational explanation for its decisions may be asking too much. Nothing the Postal Service does make any sense.

I took this information from the website savethepostoffice.com. A few weeks ago the lessor who owns the Pierceton Post Office called to tell me that they are liquidating all of their Post Offices. The company is based out of California and at one time owned 250 post offices. They are now down to 50 post offices. He told me the Post Office is requiring cancellation clauses in the contracts and the banks will not support loaning out money if this clause is in the contract. I am sad to lose this lessor they have been wonderful and have updated our office several times since acquiring it a couple years ago. I have always reminded each of you to make sure your repairs are kept up because this would be just another excuse to put your Post Office on the chopping block. (Kim)

May be you did not know but we qualify for Government Employee Travel Opportunities at <https://www.gettravelop.com>

The *Government Employee Travel Opportunities*® (GETO) is a "space available" program that offers federal, state and local Government office personnel, along with any affiliated agencies and associations members the opportunity to enjoy vacations at popular destinations around the world – for the incredibly low price of just \$369* USD per unit, per week.

Those eligible and their family and friends have access to spacious accommodations at more than 3,500 resorts, apartments, condominiums and homes in more than 80 countries.

Stay with your loved ones at a beach front resort in Mexico, a well-appointed cabin in the Canadian Rockies, or a centuries old home in the English countryside. Take your leave at a do-everything resort near Orlando's theme parks, Greece's ancient ruins or Tuscany's rolling hills. With *Government Employee Travel Opportunities*, your vacation options span the globe.

Who Qualifies?

The program is available to current and retired members of any Federal Cabinet Offices and State and Local County and Municipalities; as well as Independent Agencies and Various Trade Organizations.

The United States Post Office is considered one of the eligible Independent Agencies.

What "Space Available" Means

GETO is a part of *Endless Vacation Rentals*, one the world's largest hospitality companies. This makes it possible to offer a vast collection of condominium-style timeshare resorts.

If you enjoy off-season activities in popular locations without the hassle of high-season prices, crowds and lines (or if you can travel on 10 days notice or less), the GETO offers an incredible vacation value.

More Spaces in More Places

Availability varies but frequently includes destinations in the United States, Mexico, South America and Europe. The condominium-style accommodations typically include a full kitchen with refrigerator, stove,

dishwasher and microwave. Many *GETO* accommodations also include washers and dryers, balconies or patios, and many other comforts of home.

Many resorts provide amenities you aren't likely to get with a typical hotel or motel room, such as on-site recreational facilities, swimming pools, fitness centers, game rooms, gift shops, restaurants and organized activities.

Golfing and skiing are available on-site at some resorts, as well. Add in exciting area attractions, and you have an exceptional vacation for far less than you would normally expect to pay!

Convenient Booking Options

The GETO offers a variety of rental programs and booking options, including:

- **Space-A (Space Available)** – This is the most popular option and includes a seven-night vacation rental for the set price of \$369* USD per week. Rentals are typically available during offseason times and often become available on very short notice. Additional fees may apply at some luxury or all-inclusive resorts.
- **High Demand** – This option offers weekly rentals in high-demand locations and during peak season at discounted commercial rental rates (variably priced by location and unit).
- **Nightly Getaways** – This option provides the convenience and amenities of a resort condo on a nightly rental basis. Discounted rates vary.
- **Special Offers** – Take advantage of special deals from independent hotels, bed and breakfasts and campgrounds. Other offers include car rental and river cruise discounts, emergency roadside assistance, and more.

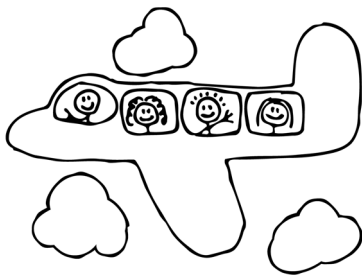
Always Low Fees, Never Any Pressure

While accommodations are mostly at timeshare resorts, you will not be required to attend a timeshare presentation. Some resorts are already sold out and do not have active sales centers on-site. If the resort is still in sales, at some time during your stay, you will probably be given an opportunity to attend a presentation in exchange for a premium or gift (free dinner, theater/show tickets, amusement/theme park tickets, etc.). Everyone at these resorts is given this same opportunity. If you like the incentive gift and want to attend the presentation, you are welcome to do so. But you are under no obligation and can simply say, "No, thanks."

I hope this helps a postmaster go on vacation sooner rather than later. I am of course speaking to myself too.

Roberta Price, OIC of Saint John Post Office and Postmaster Rep

(Roberta submitted this travel info. I looked at the website and the \$369 per week doesn't include taxes and some other fees. Many of the vacation units are located at timeshare resorts. Check the site out for yourself and see what you think. KS)



Get Well Wishes and Prayers

Eliza Layman, recently in the hospital and is home recuperating now

Karen Wolf, Indiana NAPUS Secretary –Treasurer and her husband, Rick have both had recent surgeries

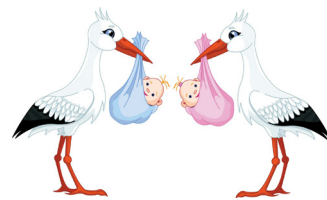
Cheryl Trisler, Past Indiana NAPUS President recently had surgery and is recuperating in the hospital. If you would like to send a card here is the address:

Cheryl Trisler
CCU
601 W 2nd St
Bloomington IN 47403



Max and Pat Griffith are great-grandparents for the 4th time. Their first great-granddaughter was born on July 1 weighing 7 lbs. 5.9 ozs.

18 1/2 ins long. Her name is Madilynn Leigh Bedsaul and welcomed by her big brothers, Tyler and Trevor. Max and Pat were there for her birth in Gulf Shores, AL for 3 weeks. She is their little princess.



Please Help-Submit Change of Address online at www.napus.org. Click on Membership Services, then Change My Record (log on with membership number from your Postmaster Gazette label). This will save your Indiana NAPUS \$\$ each issue we pay out \$5-\$10 address changes.

Did you know?

Postal G-10 envelopes cannot be used for your own personal business?

Do you think this is a silly question? Yes, our Postmasters continue to use these envelopes for other than postal business.

Did you know?

There is a recent change in a required driving training course? Rural carrier's who purchase a right-hand vehicle are required to take a driver's training for right-hand vehicles.

Registration form NAPUS National Convention - Oklahoma City, Sept 1-6 2012
Registration available on-line at <http://www.napus.org>

Send the love to the PRC

Write the Postal Regulatory Commission and say how much you value your post office:

Ruth Y. Goldway, Chairman

Postal Regulatory Commission

901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200

Washington, DC 20268-0001



Send the love to DC

Congress.org makes it easy to contact your elected representatives. Just type in your zip code, and you'll get a list of your senators, congressman, and other elected officials, complete with contact links and addresses.

The 2011 National Association of Postmasters of the United States is now history. A very big thank you to the Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands Postmasters for a smooth and enjoyable convention.

We are still experiencing a big push from management to close smaller Post Offices, and many P&DC, and insignificant stations. What will the future be for Postmasters, plant employees, clerks, and PMR's??? Postmasters do not want "landing spots" they just want to be Postmasters.

The new universal employee... the PSE... Charlie Moser stated that they are still trying to "figure out" this employee situation. Mr. Donohue stated PSE/PMR use what you need to cover your office... Will the new PSE employee ever get figured out (I hope soon). We have been informed that the PSE, concerning accountability credits, will follow the bargaining employee standards as set in the Handbook F101. As a PMR they will count within every 4 months. As a SSA it will be cash count monthly.

Way to go and a big standing ovation to Paul Edd Butler as he ends his tenure of National Retirees President. Paul Edd and Jo Ann have served us and the NAPUS organization very well.

With that I will bid you Farwell as my term of National VP for Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio (IKO) expires. I am confident that Pam and BJ will serve you well in the coming trying times. Keep your office according to standard, keep your chin up, and land on your feet. Looking forward to seeing you all at the IKO conference this fall. Thanks for all your help.

Scotty Mann, Indiana, KY, Ohio
Area Vice President



Are you interested in a cruise?



We are planning a cruise May or July 2012. Each person would make their own travel arrangements. This 12 day Baltic Seas Cruise would start in Amsterdam, and go to Sweden, Norway, St. Petersburg, Russia and other ports. We have gone on the Alaska and Puerto Rico cruises with postal friends and it was a lot of fun. Email us if you are interested: dsretpm@kconline.com

2011 National NAPUS Convention





2011 NAPUS National Convention

Puerto Rico

INDIANA NAPUS/LEAGUE HOLIDAY HAPPENING



December 3th, 2011

Marten House Hotel
1801 W. 86th St.
Indianapolis, IN. 46260
Phone 800-736-5634 or 317-872-4111

ROOMS \$75.00 + TAX PER NIGHT.
LAST DAY FOR ROOM REGISTRATION AT ABOVE PRICE IS NOVEMBER 20, 2010
USE CODE "POSTMASTER X-MAS" WHEN MAKING RESERVATIONS.
MEAL RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY NOVEMBER 20th

Cash Bar at 6:00. Dinner at 6:30.
Fun and games courtesy of Karen & Friends.
Music by Mr. D. J. & Co.

.....
NAME _____ GUEST
NAME _____

OFFICE _____ ZIP _____

PRICE PER PERSON: \$35.00

This year you have a choice of entrée. Please indicate number of each dinner preferred:

Prime Rib _____ Salmon Fillet with Lemon Dill Sauce _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

SEND TO:
Karen Wolf
109 N 4th Ave.
Jonesboro, IN 46938-1038

I will attend the Board Meeting at 10:00 _____
Number of guest accompanying me to Board Meeting _____
(Lunch provided for members. Payment of \$15.00 each required for guests.)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS.... JOIN YOUR FELLOW POSTMASTERS!

IMPORTANT DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS

- **December 3rd, NAPUS Christmas Party, Marten House Hotel**
- **December 3rd, NAPUS State Board Meeting, Marten House Hotel**
- **March 24-29, 2012 Leadership Conference, Washington, DC**
- **September 1-7th, 2012 NAPUS National Convention, Oklahoma City, OK**
- **March 16-21, 2013 Leadership Conference, Washington, DC**
- **August 16-23, 2013 NAPUS National Convention, Bellevue, WA**
- **2014 National Convention, Atlantic City, NJ**

I want to include joyful events, births, and deaths, in the Hoosier Postmaster. Did a NAPUS member do something special for you and you want to say thank you? Is someone in the hospital? Just email me at Ksharpe.napus@yahoo.com and I will include it in the next issue of the Hoosier Postmaster.



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