

NAPUS
MINNESOTA CHAPTER

The Gopher Postmaster

Volume 63, Number 4

April 2015

Networking

**Answers to
Your
Questions**

Training

**Attend
the 2015
Minnesota NAPUS
State Convention
at the
Courtyard by Marriott
Mankato MN
April 29th-May 1st**

**Consolidation
Info**

**USPS
News**

**Be
Informed**

**NAPUS
Data**



**Greg Geheren
President**

Hugo MN 55038

Office: 651-407-1991

Cell: 651-808-7486

Email: glg1022@yahoo.com

agenda at the convention was the proposed consolidation and merger with the League of Postmasters. Make sure you read the March issue of the Postmasters Gazette for the full printing of the articles of incorporation and the bylaws for the proposed Postmasters and Managers of America (PMA). Copies can also be found online at the NAPUS website. At the State Convention, National Secretary Treasurer Dan Heins will give a presentation and answer questions about the consolidation/merger. We will be voting on the proposal during the Thursday session of convention. If you are unable to attend, feel free to send your questions or comments to myself or any Chapter Officers so they can be addressed and presented.

Speaking of State Convention, by the time you are reading this article the convention will be right around the corner starting Wednesday April 29th with a golf tournament. The tentative agenda is published in this issue of *The Gopher*. If you have an interest in serving on any of the committee needed to make things run smoothly, please contact me at glg1022@yahoo.com on 651-808-7486. Anyone looking for a roommate to help with expenses can contact myself or any Chapter Officer. The convention will be held jointly on Friday May 1st with the Minnesota League of Postmasters. Hope to see you all at the Marriott in Mankato.

Lets do together what we cannot do alone now has added meaning.

Leadership Conference Recap:

Another trip to Washington, DC is in the books. The Minnesota Chapter of NAPUS was well represented by 11 attendees. We were able to have face to face meetings with Senator Franken and Congressman Ellison along with the aides from the other congressional offices. While there was agreement that the Postal Service needs relief from the pre-funding mandate for the future retiree health benefits, there is currently no legislation pending that would address that issue. NAPUS Postmasters need to continue to monitor the situation so that action can be taken when bills come up for votes. Stay tuned and as always stay informed by reading *The Gopher* and *The Postmasters Gazette* or checking the web at www.napus.org.

The other topic of discussion besides the legislative

Tentative State Convention Agenda

Wed Apr 29

- 11 am Golf tournament
- 4-8 pm Registration
- 4 pm Audit Committee
- 6 pm Executive Board dinner/meeting
- Free night

Thu Apr 30

- 8 am Door Prizes
- 805 am Call to order/Invocation
- Presentation of Colors/Pledge of Allegiance
- Welcome from Marriott
- Roll call of counties
- Secretary/Treasurer report and audit committee report
- NAPUS Sec/Tres D. Heins
- Retiree President A. McDorman
- Intro Past Presidents
- 10:30 Break/Retiree Meeting
- Presidents Address
- Memorial Service
- PAC/Service/Legislative reports
- Committee reports-Editor/Nominating/Membership/

PM rep

- State constitution/by laws changes
- 12 pm Lunch/Live Auction
- 1:15 pm Door Prizes
- Election of Minnesota NAPUS President
- Vote on constitution changes
- Installation of officers
- PAC report/silent auction results
- 4 pm Adjourn
- 4:30 Rolle Bolle
- 6 pm Picnic Supper
- 8-12 pm Dance

Fri May 1

- 8 am Door Prizes
- Invocation, call to order, pledge of allegiance
- Joint Session with League
 - District Mangers addresses
 - District training-TBD
- Final PAC report
- Adjourn/Lunch
- Executive Board meeting



**Margie Jacobson,
Area 14 National Vice President and MN Editor**

PO Box 11
Waterville MN 56096

Office: 507-362-4648
Cell: 507-649-1034

Email: margiepm@yahoo.com

NAPUS and Postal Issues

Legislative Conference was a very busy time for your NAPUS National Executive Board. We had full sessions on Friday and Saturday.

Bob Levi, NAPUS Government Relations, went over all the legislative issues and covered the questions to be asked on Capitol Hill.

Doug Toulino, USPS Labor Relations, met with us. He talked about the remedy for the Global Settlement Agreement. He also discussed the Web 1260 Program. All Level 18s need to be tracking any clerk work done and to do so accurately. Make sure you are staying within the 15 hours per week as set by the arbitration. Remember the electronic 1260 program is a work in progress. He also talked about the local negotiations with the NALC.

Jeff Williamson talked about training. The new Supervisor training is slightly delayed. There is more discussion on employee engagement. There is also a new eIDEAS program coming out with a quicker response rate to the employee submitting. He talked about an integrated Wellness Program. Also the NPA program is a decade old and needs adjustment. They are now looking at the whole picture. He also talked about the wealth of talent we have in our employees but we need to do better at training. The Postal Service has about a 30% turnover in career employees, 52% in CCAs and 36% in PSEs. We need to build a people system and create a skills bank.

Ron Worthy, USPS Employee Resource Management, talked about the VOE now the new Postal Pulse. The Postal Service is looking more at engaging employees and doing something with the results. There is a difference between satisfaction and engagement. They are looking at productivity, profit, lower absenteeism and safety.

A lot of our time was spent on discussing the possible consolidation of NAPUS and The League. NAPUS has 7,851 members and The League has 3,762. Some of those are dual members. There were some "must haves" by both sides as the discussions started such as equal representation, a transition period, voting by percentage, dues structure, and Postmaster Retired organization. This will be discussed at length at our State Conventions and we will vote on the consolidation there. Please be sure to attend and be informed. The details were printed in the March issue of the *Postmasters Gazette* and there is more information on the National NAPUS website (napus.org). Take the time to look it over and bring your questions so we can get them answered.

Hope to see you all at this years State Convention in Mankato.

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POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to *The Gopher Postmaster*, Margie Jacobson, Editor, PO Box 11, Waterville MN 56096

President: Greg Geheren
PM Hugo MN 55038
gig1022@yahoo.com
Cell: 651-808-7486

Exec Vice-President: Dan Heins
PM Stewartville MN 55976
507-437-6948 (home)
507-438-2676 (cell)
postmasterdan@ymail.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Renae Ingersoll
PM Moorhead MN 56561
r.s.ingersoll@midco.net
Cell: 701-866-4483

Editor: Margie Jacobson
PM Waterville MN 56096
margiepm@yahoo.com
Cell: 507-649-1034

PM Representation Committee:

Bill Bires
PM Spring Valley MN 55975
507-993-0134
Mrbill_58@yahoo.com

Renae Ingersoll
PM Moorhead MN 56560
701-866-4483 cell
r.s.ingersoll@midco.net

National VP Area 14
Margie Jacobson
PM Waterville MN 56096
margiepm@yahoo.com
Cell: 507-649-1034



Renae Ingersoll
 Secretary-Treasurer
 PO Box 415
 Moorhead MN 56561-0415
 Office: 218-236-6003
 Cell: 701-866-4483
 Email: r.s.ingersoll@midco.net

NAPUS consolidation.

Postmasters and Retired Postmasters are you NAPUS members? Get your membership form submitted and stay informed with all the changes. By joining this group, you will have a network of Postmasters throughout the country. Think of the possibilities! Join now and enjoy all the benefits associated with that membership.

See you soon, Renae



Megan Brennan, Postmaster General

MANKATO HERE WE COME

During our Legislative Conference in DC, Dan Heins outlined the proposed merger with the League. Both sides have made concessions and the final package seems very reasonable and workable for all Postmasters and Managers.

It is more important than ever to attend our State Convention in Mankato! Get info from your District Manager, hear about the merger and meet new Postmasters. We will have a joint session with League members on Friday. See the tentative agenda outlined in this issue on Page 2.

Get your registration in now for the National Convention in Mobile Alabama to be held in late August. A vote will be taken at that time relating to the League/

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 29TH
 10:30 AM**

**NORTHLINKS
 NAPUS GOLF OUTING
 MANKATO MN**

**ENTRY FEE \$ 55
 (INCLUDES GOLF, CART & PRIZE
 FUND)**

INDICATE BELOW YOUR PERFERRED
 FORESOME:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

RETURN REGISTRATION TO:
 MEL MILLER
 808 SAINT LAWRENCE DR
 NORTHFIELD MN 55057

ROLLE BOLLE TOURNAMENT

**THURSDAY APRIL 30th
 COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT
 MANKATO MN**

**ENTRY FEE
 \$ 15**

**INCLUDES PRIZE FUND
 AND REFRESHMENTS**

TEAM NAME _____
 (IF YOU DON'T PICK ONE I WILL)

TEAM MEMBERS:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

RETURN REGISTRATION TO:
 MEL MILLER
 808 SAINT LAWRENCE DR
 NORTHFIELD MN 55057



Dan Heins,
Executive Vice President and
Membership Chair
Stewartville MN 55976
Office: 507-533-4571
Cell: 507-438-2676
Email: postmasterdan@ymail.com

REMINDER

Please bring items for the
 silent and live auctions for
 PAC and Scholarship fund at
 the State Convention.

**Please Note Time Change for the
 State Convention Golf Tournament**

The Golf Tournament at this years State Convention will
 begin at 10:30 am. If you have any questions, please call Mel
 Miller at 612-703-2665 or email at melthegolfer@yahoo.com.

Pay Attention to MEMBERSHIP

Greetings to each and every one!

Well, we had a very successful Leadership/ Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. As you can imagine, there was a large amount of time that was spent discussing the proposed consolidation between NAPUS and The League. There were a lot of good questions asked and hopefully we were able to answer most of them. It was also good to go up on Capitol Hill and talk with the representative's aides. We clearly have a lot of educating that needs to happen for us to get any real meaningful legislation passed.



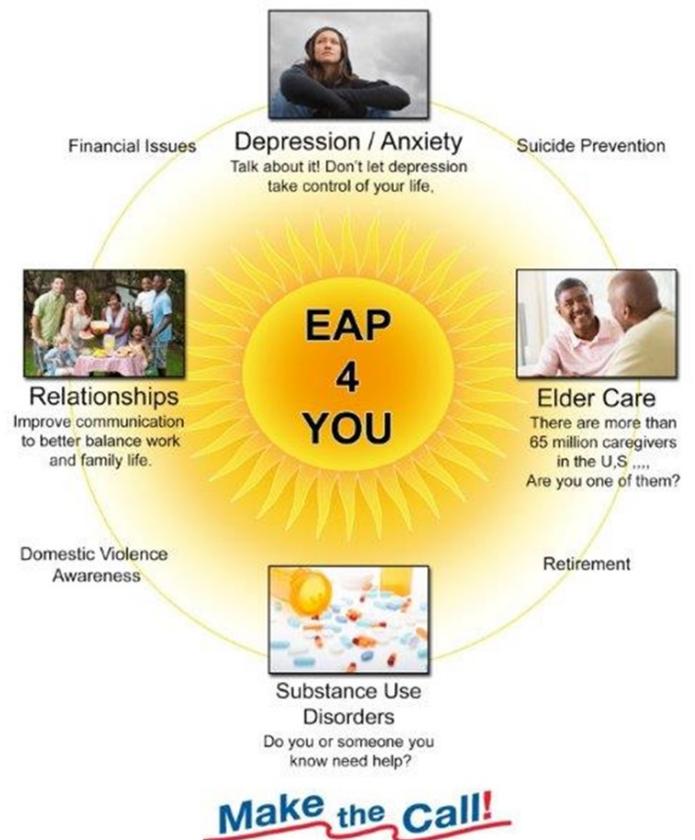
Our membership continues to need all of our attention. If you recruit a new member, be sure that they understand that if we do indeed go through with the consolidation that they will automatically become part of the new organization when it goes into effect on November 1, 2016. Also, we still have the six months of free membership that is available to anyone that wants to join at this time.



If you need any assistance with membership, please let me know. Also, if someone is named to a new Postmaster position in your area, please send me their name and I will get the membership materials out to them. In addition, be sure to encourage them to come with you to the State Convention in Mankato. What an excellent opportunity to get to know their fellow Postmasters, receive some training and have time to relax and enjoy the time away from the office.

I leave you this month with this quote (author unknown), *"When life gives you a hundred reasons to cry, show life that you have a thousand reasons to smile."*

APRIL is EAP Awareness Month...



Make the Call!

USPS Employee Assistance Program
1-800-327-4968
 (1-800-EAP-4-YOU) TTY: 1-877-492-7341
www.EAP4YOU.com

- ✓ Free and Confidential
- ✓ Available to Employee and Household Members
- Other Services Available:**
 - Life Coaching
 - Telephonic Counseling
 - Consultations

**2015 MN NAPUS STATE CONVENTION
REGISTRATION FORM**

**Courtyard by Marriott
901 Raintree Rd, Mankato MN 56001
April 29th-May 1st, 2015**

Name: _____
(As it will appear on your name badge)

Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Office: _____
(As it will appear on your name badge)

| Please check all that apply: | Received by April 1st | Received after April 1st |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Postmaster | \$55.00 | \$70.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OIC | \$55.00 | \$70.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Member | \$55.00 | \$70.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guest Name: _____ | \$55.00 | \$70.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retiree | \$55.00 | \$70.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retirees Lunch only | \$20.00 | \$30.00 |
| | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One Day Only Thursday, April 30th | \$45.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One Day Only Friday, May 1st | \$45.00 | |

Make checks payable to MN NAPUS CONVENTION.

**Send registration to: Renae Ingersoll, Secretary/Treasurer
PO Box 415
Moorhead MN 56561**

**Hotel Reservations: Courtyard by Marriott
901 Raintree Rd
Mankato MN 56001
507-388-1234**

**Room rate: \$83.00 (Govt rate)
Postmasters Room Rate
Reservations should be received
by April 1st**

Check the Committee on which you would be willing to serve.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Registration | <input type="checkbox"/> Sergeant of Arms | <input type="checkbox"/> NAPUS Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auction | <input type="checkbox"/> Constitution and ByLaws | <input type="checkbox"/> Nominations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Door Prize | <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Convention Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Timers | <input type="checkbox"/> Audit and Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Parliamentarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> PAC | <input type="checkbox"/> Recording Secretary |

NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL: _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS: _____

GRADUATION DATE: _____

POST-SECONDARY SCHOOL: _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS: _____

****Please write about your school and community accomplishments, awards, degrees and activities:**

****Please write about your educational and/or vocational goals:**

****Please write about what you personally have done to make a difference in your community, in your school and at your work:**

NAME OF SCHOOL YOU WILL BE ATTENDING: _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS: _____

Any questions about the scholarship application can be directed to: 18374 Cedar Lane, Richmond MN 56368



Terry Neneman
 Vice President and
 Legislative Chair
 Preston MN 55038
 Office: 507-765-3334
 Cell: 507-279-2702
 Email: papaT62@outlook.com

issues. I feel he is strongly in our favor in regards to postal reform. The other three visits were with the aide in charge of keeping up with postal issues. Some were better informed than others. I was unable to stay and meet with Senator Franken since I was not feeling well.

I have a lot of information available and intend on sharing it with all attending the Minnesota NAPUS State Convention.

Please plan to attend our State Convention in Mankato. It is never too late to sign up. Our numbers have dwindled significantly and we all need to band together in order to continue the future of our changing Postmaster organization.

**Send
 your PAC
 Contribution
 To:**

**Scott Billings
 4125 220th St
 Lake Bronson MN
 56734**

Legislative Info

My first Legislative Conference was interesting. It was interesting to hear what the speakers had to say whether or not I agreed with what they said. I definitely would not want to be in their positions. Well, that's politics.

Meeting our Director of Government Relations, Bob Levi, provided me with a new understanding of just what happens on the hill. I learned more during the five hours spent in his informational sessions than I ever knew on the workings of the committees. Unfortunately, there is not a single representative from Minnesota on any of the committees overseeing postal legislation.

I visited the offices of four representatives. My first was with Keith Ellison of the 5th District. He was actually present and extremely interested in postal



Scott Billings
 Vice President and PAC Chair
 Hallock MN 56728
 Office: 218-754-2911
 Cell: 218-843-1379
 Email: crazyacres@wikel.com

come and hear from National Leaders, State Leaders, and Postal Management and know what's coming up, first hand, the rest of this year, the next couple of years or the next five year plan. Get information on your Form 150, 1260, 1723, and maybe a few we are doing but don't need to be. Network with fellow Postmasters that are having the same issues as you. Postmasters that have found solutions to issues you have and Postmasters that know the struggles you are having. Postmasters that are in one place and are the best family to have in these frustrating times.

There will always be change and we want you do be in the forefront to make the best decision you can. But NAPUS needs you too, to help us make the best decision on how we want to face the future. What ever it takes: Up, Down, or Over to get to Mankato, take some time off, let your voice be heard, and get the answers you need to make good decisions and together help NAPUS make good decisions for our future as Postmasters.

See you in Mankato.

Information—Information—Information

Information overload—You are getting information from the USPS, getting information from NAPUS, information from the League, and information from neighboring Postmasters. The end of this month, April 29th, 30th, and May 1st, will be the best time to have your Postal Family help you analyze all this information at the NAPUS State Convention in Mankato MN. You can ask those questions you didn't know who to ask or better yet, hear someone else ask a question and get a answer you didn't even know you needed. You can

Jo Ann Swanson
Postmaster Retired
Chaska MN 55318

The foursome then moved on to Ft. Myers to watch the Twins at spring training. Entering the stadium, they ran into Doreen Dressel and her husband working as ticket takers. What are the chances of that? They had a great trip.

Retirement—Grandkids and Travel

Grandkids and travel seem to be the theme of retirement. Peg and Lou Longhenry, experts in both departments, can attest to it and are passionate about both.

Peg and Lou are avid Vikings fans. This past October they followed the team from TCF Bank Stadium to Tampa Bay for the game against the Buccaneers. They cheered the Vikings on to an overtime victory. Peg and Lou enjoyed Florida so much they returned in February accompanied by Marlys Timm and her husband Marv. The foursome went to Key West and had a blast. They then moved up the state to New Smyrna Beach. There they spent five days with Mary Jo Loehr and her husband Jim seeing the sights, catching up and enjoying each others company. Peg and Lou took a bi-plane ride. They wore the Snoopy/Red Baron helmets and flew over the beach area. What a sight. It was awesome.



Peg and Lou's travels then took them across the country to San Francisco, which brings us to the other theme, the grandkids. Two of Peg and Lou's children and their families live there. This includes five grandchildren. They spent precious time with them at the beach, hiking and relaxing. When Peg and Lou are at home in Carver, their other two grandchildren keep them busy.

My husband Bill and I do not have grandkids but we did travel to Texas to see a WW II veteran friend. Dick was General Doolittle's co-pilot on the raid on Tokyo. He is 99 and in great shape. It is so fun and interesting every time

we get together.

Have a great summer.

Submitted by
Jo Ann Swanson



Dave Wintheiser
Vice President and
Services Representative
New Ulm MN 56073
Office: 507-354-5628
Cell: 507-384-1551
Email: spdraser@charter.net

any new Postal legislation in the current congressional session. While everyone agrees that the pre-funding of retiree health benefits needs to be modified, nobody seems willing to push a bill forward that will fix that one issue for us as so many other "riders" to the bill will be tacked on and thus ultimately defeated in the process.

In D.C. I was given some specialized Service Officer training relating to the NAPUS Federal Credit Union. In April, the new name of the credit union will be the "Signature" Credit Union.

Capitol Hill Visits

This was my first visit to D.C., and naturally the sites were awesome to visit; however the results from our Capitol Hill visits were not as encouraging. The group I was with was fortunate to meet personally with Congressman Keith Ellison, who like the other Congressman/women is very much on our side when it comes to necessary Postal reform. Unfortunately, as Mr. Ellison and the other aides we met with throughout the day clearly expressed, they do not expect to introduce

This year's joint NAPUS/LEAGUE Convention begins April 29th at the Marriot in Mankato! I will have information on the new credit union name change, as well as some great new promotions they are offering to its members.

I look forward to seeing you at this year's State Convention in Mankato!





Pauline Colamatteo
Area 9 Director
Postmasters Retired MN ND SD WI
22695 Elm St
Cornucopia WI 54827-4720
715-742-3925 Home
608/434-0647 Cell
Email: pncola@tds.net

prudent budget was presented for FY 2015. We had a frank and open discussion concerning the dissolution of NAPUS and the League of Postmasters and the consolidation of the two organizations into PMA, Postmasters and Managers of America. The Chapter Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, and National Bylaws have been written and submitted to our leaders, and have been published in *The Gazette* and are also available on the NAPUS website (napus.org). This will be voted on by the active members at the respective National Conventions, the League will be voting in June, and then NAPUS will vote in September. National NAPUS President Tony and our Retiree NAPUS President Ann worked through the issues that concerned us in the consolidation process. We will maintain the same dues structure and will continue to have the right to vote on membership dues and time and place for a National Convention. It is time for these changes. We must continue to have a voice for Postmasters and any organization is about the people, it's not about the name. There will be much discussion and an opportunity for all of us to voice our opinion and concerns at the Spring District meetings and State Convention. Please attend these functions and join in the conversation, it is so important for us to stand together during these challenging, yet at the same time exciting times.

Challenging Yet Exciting Times

How time flies, just a few days ago your NAPUS leaders convened in Washington DC to represent you in meetings with the Congressmen and women that shape the policies of the USPS. This affects us, as Retirees, Active, and Associate members, our future is in their hands. We cannot stay idle and let our Senators and Representative forget how important Postmasters, universal service, and brick and mortar Post Offices are to the people of the United States. We must remain ever vigilant to thwart attempts to take away, or chisel at our earned benefits. We took our message to the Hill and will continue to do so on our home turf, it is so vital that all of us take the time to attend town hall meetings and educate our representatives on these issues.

The Retiree General Session on Sunday at the Leadership Conference was very productive; President Ann and the Retiree Executive Board did a fine job staying within budget for FY 2014, and a realistic and

Let us face these changes as opportunities to go forward into the future.



Article Deadlines

For the May Issue
Of *The Gopher Postmaster* is
April 15th, 2015

Periodicals

Dates to Remember

State Conventions

April 29-May 1, 2015
Mankato MN

2016 Alexandria MN

National Conventions

August 29-September 3, 2015
Mobile, AL

2016—New Orleans, LA

Leadership Conference

Washington DC

March 14-18, 2016

