

THE HOOSIER POSTMASTER



Indiana Chapter NAPUS

Volume 9 Issue 1
Jan/Feb 2009

**Pam Ford passes Presidents
Gavel to Kim Sharpe**



Christmas Party 2008



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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
PO Box 233
Farmland IN 47340-0233

Are you receiving more than one Hoosier Postmaster at your home?

If you are receiving more than one Hoosier Postmaster at your home and would like to receive only one please send a note to Hoosier Postmaster. This can help us save on our printing and mailing cost.

Articles for next
**HOOSIER
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**By email March 15
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Please submit articles
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Hard Copy – Hoosier
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47340-0233
Electronic –
Hoosierposted@aol.com

Indiana NAPUS Website
www.indianapostmasters.org



Kimberly Sharpe President

Happy
2009

NAPUS Members! This is my first article as the Indiana State NAPUS President. I look forward to this opportunity to serve and represent you during the next year. I first want to thank Pam Ford for her tenure as President. Pam leaves me with some big shoes to fill. She was instrumental in organizing the Indiana NAPUS scholarship and has been very successful in the last two years. She took on many projects and wasn't afraid to take your issues forward to help resolve a problem or concern.

I want to thank the NAPUS membership. Those of you, who work on committees, take a leadership role in your District, who work to enroll new members and the list can go on and on. I just want to add that without your help we could not and will not go forward. This next year is going to be a challenging year for Indiana NAPUS. Many of our long term members are retiring. We are going to need other NAPUS members to step forward and take on leadership roles. We need you to recruit new members. Look at your neighboring Post Offices is there a new OIC or a PMR that you could call

and talk to? If you want information sent to them contact Judy Dishman our membership chairman. Remember the free membership if you sign up within 30 days of your appointment.

The NAPUS Leadership Conference will be conducted March 21-25, 2009 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. The first 20 who sign up will receive a minimum of \$300 up to a maximum of \$599 reimbursement. Contact our Legislative Chairman Marv Gilliland to sign up either Marv473@comcast.net or call 765-405-1448. There are still rooms available at the conference rate and can be

Page 3 reserved by calling (703) 920-3230. Make sure you identify yourself with the NAPUS 2009 Leadership Conference to receive the discount rate. You can register online (www.NAPUS.org) by hitting on the Leadership Conference icon which is located to the right of the NAPUS web page. The tentative program for the Leadership Conference is also online for your use. If you plan now you can arrange special tours of the White House or Capitol Hill. Many great museums are always available and are free. The rail system (METRO) is right outside the door of the Marriott and is simple and inexpensive way to see

Washington, DC. Plane tickets can be purchased for around \$200 if you check the different sites. Many attendees even drive, carpool and even check with others who might want to share a room. We do this quite often and even this year Dallas is staying with someone else and I am sharing a room with several of my girlfriends.

It is not too soon to start planning to attend the Indiana State Convention in Lafayette June 6th -10th. Those of you who are doing vacation planning calendars/schedules for the office don't forget to pencil in your convention leave for those days. Remember those are free vacation days and if we don't use them we lose them. USPS Headquarters recently talked to Dale Goff about Postmasters giving up their convention leave. Dale of course said, "No Way"! How does it look when we won't or don't attend our own conventions. Co-Chairmen's Shawn Grube and Darlene Sanders his are planning another great convention!

The National Convention is in Anchorage, Alaska this year September 12-17th. This would be a wonderful opportunity to visit Alaska (use your free convention leave). If you are interested in taking a cruise beforehand you can contact WeGotTrips.com (870-743-6051). I know many are going on this

cruise from many states. (WE ARE). You can find the information on the National NAPUS website or the superb Indiana NAPUS website that Marv Gilliland has worked tirelessly on... Marv posted pictures of the 2008 Christmas Party that was held in Indianapolis.

If you have never attend a State convention or National Convention you are missing out on opportunities to network, go to training and hear about changes that will affect your job and life. The State Convention will have POOMS, District Managers and even our NAPUS National President available to talk to and ask questions. The National Convention will have our top USPS Leadership such as Postmaster General Jack Potter as a speaker. We receive training from the subject matter experts at Postal Headquarters.

I want to remind everyone that sometimes the everyday workload is overwhelming. We are asked to do more and more. It is easy to want to take shortcuts rather than call on someone for help. If you have a PMR or clerk who works in your absence do not let them use your password for your email address to get messages. They need to be set up on their own Outlook email. It will take some phone calls and maybe a few days, but your job or retirement is not worth losing over letting someone use your

email. My other concern is when you borrow someone from another office to work the window; set them up with their own drawer or till. Do not let them work out of your monies or someone else's. It doesn't matter if you are a long term Postmaster or a newly appointed. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Call another Postmaster and ask them to help you. Why am I bringing these subjects up? I know it is happening and if I know others know. I want all of us to have long, happy careers with the Postal Service. We work too hard not to be able to finally retire and leave the Postal Service on our own terms.

I take this exciting opportunity as the Indiana State President to grow and learn. I hope to be as successful as the many State Presidents who have preceded me. I challenge you to make 2009 the year that you step out of your comfort zone and become an active NAPUS member. Please get involved Indiana NAPUS needs your ideas, creativity and problem solving abilities.

RETIREE NEWS

The winter meeting of the retirees will be Fri, Sat and Sun Mar 6, 7, & 8 at the Inn on the Lakes, just off highway 27 in Sebring Fla. Rooms are \$92 the cut off date is Feb 20. For reservations call 863-471-9400. Plans are for Fri night 5:00 go to the Blue Crab Restaurant, Sat night 5:00 eat at the hotel in the

Hibiscus room, Sun morning 8:30 breakfast in the hibiscus Room, then worship service led by Elisha Layman, and then the business meeting. Need to know how many to plan for, e-mail me

joezebell@msn.com or call 812-346-3638.

Mark your calendar for the fall meeting Mon, Tues and Wed Oct 5, 6, and 7 at Amish Acres in Nappanee.

Postal Bill introduced to Alleviate Burden of Future Retiree Health Benefits Payments

On January 6th, Representatives John McHugh (R-NY) and Danny Davis (D-IL) introduced Bill HR 22 in the House. This bill would permit the USPS to pay future retiree Health Insurance premiums out of the Retiree Health Benefits Trust Fund, rather than out of current operating costs. Alleviation of this prepayment of future retiree health benefits for FY 2009 would have resulted in USPS having a surplus rather than a multibillion dollar loss.

This bill is identical to a bill that was introduced in December. This bill would help the Postal Service through the current economic downturn and economic crisis.

It is important to note that

this bill would not be a bailout as we have seen for the financial and auto industries, but rather an internal change of funding by the USPS.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shirley Whittington passed away Wednesday, December 10, following a long battle with Lou Gerhig's disease. Services are as follows: All services will be at the Hope IN United Methodist Church, located one and one half (1-1/2) blocks east of SR 9 on Washington Street. Visitation will be from 3 until 8 PM Friday, Dec. 12. Funeral services will be Saturday at 10:30 AM. Please pass the word.

Shirley was Postmaster Retired from Hope IN and her husband Dick is PM Retired from Hartsville IN.

Karen Wolfe Postmaster Gas City made a donation to The Indiana NAPUS scholarship fund in memory of her Father Norman "Fergie" Ferguson.

NAPUS Postmaster Thank you for the many cards I received when my father died and the Postal Family visits at the funeral home. I really appreciate the many thoughts and prayers that helped me through this difficult time. Vickie Fessel Postmaster Palmyra IN



INDIANA NAPUS CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

FULL NAME _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ HOME PHONE NUMBER _____

HIGH SCHOOL NAME AND ADDRESS _____

NAME OF PRINCIPAL _____ DATE OF GRADUATION _____

Number of Students in your High School class _____ Your rank in High School class _____

High School Grade Point Average _____ Based on a 4.0 or 5.0 scale (Please circle) ACT Score

_____ and/or SAT Score _____

College name, city & state (if attending now) _____

Full name, work location (city, zip code) and relationship of your NAPUS member sponsor

Name and address of two or four year college or vocational college you plan to attend:

Have you applied for admission? (Requirement) _____

Has your application been approved? (Requirement) _____

Do you currently work? _____ If yes, where or for whom? _____

Average hours worked per week _____ Do you plan to work while attending college? _____

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ***MUST*** BE INCLUDED WITH THIS COMPLETED APPLICATION

1- OFFICIAL HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT AND CURRENT COLLEGE TRANSCRIPT (IF APPLICABLE).

2- COPY OF ACT AND/OR SAT SCORE.

3- TWO CHARACTER REFERENCE LETTERS WRITTEN BY A NON-RELATIVE.

4- COPY OF LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE FROM THE COLLEGE YOU PLAN TO ATTEND.

5- A TYPED SUMMARY OF YOUR HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE, AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, AWARDS AND HOBBIES.

Membership and other Participation List by name, year, and approximate time commitment for each school, community, and volunteer activities. *Example:* Yearbook Staff (10, 11, college) 25 hrs. a month for 6 months. Basketball (9, 10, 11, 12, college) 40 hrs a month for 3 months.

Leadership Positions and Offices List by name, years held, and approximate time commitment for each school, community and volunteer activity. *Example:* Student Council Representative (9, 10, 11, 12) 12 hrs. each month for 5 months. 4-H Leader (11, 12, college) 5 hrs. each month for 4 months.

Honors and/or Awards List by name and year received. *Example:* All Conference Basketball (11, college). Boys/Girls State (11), Jr. Rotarian (10).

Volunteer Work Positions List by name, year, and approximate time commitment. *Example:* Candy Striper (11, 12, college) 20 hrs. a month for 3 months. Bible School Teacher (12) 4 hours a day for one week.

Paid Work Positions List by name, year, and approximate hours worked. *Example:* Grocery Store (11, 12, college) 16 hrs. a month for 2 months. McDonald's (10, 11, 12, college) 20 hrs. a month for 4 months.

6- AN ESSAY ON YOUR CAREER GOALS AND HOW THIS SCHOLARSHIP WOULD HELP YOU ATTAIN THEM.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Applicants must be a child, stepchild, legal ward or grandchild of a member, a retired member, or an associate member of the Indiana Chapter of the National Association of Postmasters of the United States. The member, retired member, or associate member must certify the applicant's relationship. Indiana NAPUS Retired Members must be current dues paying members and must have been a continuing dues paying member until deceased. Associate Members must be a current dues paying member and must have been a continuing dues paying member of the Indiana Chapter of NAPUS for a minimum of three years.
- All information submitted becomes the property of the Scholarship Committee and will be held in strict confidence.
- Applications must be postmarked by March 15 of the year of the application.
- Applicants who are awarded scholarships will be expected to attend the Grand Banquet held at the Indiana NAPUS State Convention as a guest of the chapter to accept their scholarship.
- Send completed application and other required information to:

Indiana NAPUS Scholarship Fund
PO Box 303
Versailles IN 47042-0303

If you have questions contact Jacqueline Hill in writing at the address above or call 812-689-5953.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____



Marv Gilliland
Legislative Chair

**2009 NAPUS Leadership
(Legislative) Conference
and Legislative Rally in
Washington DC**

This year's NAPUS Leadership Conference and Legislative Rally will be from March 21-26, 2009. It will be held at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel, located at 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway in Arlington, VA. The rate for this hotel is \$192 single or double, plus tax. **This rate is available on a first come, first serve basis until February 17, 2009 or until the room block is depleted, so please call as soon as possible! Rooms are historically depleted well before the cutoff date.** The phone number for the hotel is 703-920-3230. Be sure to tell them you are with NAPUS. You will be required to give the hotel one nights deposit. This is the same hotel we have been in the past 5 years, and is located across from Washington National Airport. The Hotel offers a free shuttle service to and from Washington National. The Metro system connects directly with the Hotel complex for economical transportation to Capitol Hill and numerous other points in DC. Average fare is only about \$1.50 each way. There is a section of reasonably priced restaurants located within walking distance. CAUTION! There are several Marriott Hotels located in the Arlington VA area that have similar names. Please ensure you contact the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel listed above if you want to be at the Conference Hotel.

Their website address is
<http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/WASGW>

If you go to the Indiana NAPUS website at www.indianapostmasters.org you can find hotel and registration information and direct links on the "DC 2009" page.

This year, the registration fee for the first 20 participants will receive a minimum of \$300, up to \$599 depending upon the

number of participants. Registration by February 17th is \$130. (After Feb. 17th, registration increases to \$155.) Registration enables you to attend all functions including General Session, seminars and workshops, the Grand Banquet and dance, Legislative Coffee, and admittance to the Hospitality Room.

In order to receive reimbursement, you must attend the all scheduled activities on Monday, March 23rd through Wednesday, March 25th. If you are leaving Washington on Wednesday, please do not plan to schedule transportation before 4:00 p.m. in order to make the required Capitol Hill visits to qualify for reimbursement.

Please NOTE: Please check with Legislative Chair Marv Gilliland before submitting any registration online or by mail to make sure you are one of the first 20 registered to ensure you will be reimbursed! You can contact me at home at 765-405-1448 or 574-242-1664 after 4 p.m. You can also contact me by email at margill473@comcast.net if you prefer.

Recap of things you need to do:

- Make your hotel reservation as soon as possible to ensure you have a room at the Conference Hotel. (Make sure you contact the right one by calling 703-920-3230)
- Contact Marv prior to registering to make sure you are one of the first 20.
- To receive reimbursement, make sure you arrive in DC prior to 8 a.m. Monday, March 23rd, and don't plan to depart before 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 25th. I suggest you come in earlier and/or depart later if you wish to have time for touring the DC area.
- Contact another PM to go to DC with you!

I hope you can attend this year!



**Pam Ford
PM Rep**

Indiana NAPUS State President Kimberly Sharpe has asked me to serve as one of the Postmaster's Reps this

year. I am looking forward to attending the Legislative/Leadership Conference in March and learning how I can better serve Postmasters in this position. In the meantime I want to share a couple of brief thoughts with you.

The upcoming rural count will present challenges for both managers and carriers. Falsifying documents is one of the few things that will most certainly get you fired in the Postal Service. Be honest and accurate in your record keeping during count and at all other times. If you make a mistake or have a problem don't try to hide it, but call your POOM and/or your rural analyst to get it corrected as quickly as possible and to avoid the appearance of any impropriety. Chances are that the longer you let it go, the worse it will get. Document in your personal records what happened, who you contacted, and what you did to correct the issue. Don't make any deals with your employees. There may be certain things that come up in training that you will be allowed to use a set time that you and your carriers agree upon, but refer to the count training materials and Follow the rules! If you have questions, call a NAPUS Postmaster who has been through count before or call your rural analyst. Document any items that you and your carrier disagree on. This is a four-week count and before it's over all of us will be wearing thin!

Happy counting!! ☺

PS- You'll need a vacation by the time count ends. My suggestion- Join your NAPUS

friends in DC for the Legislative/Leadership Conference, Saturday March 21 through Wednesday, March 25. If we're lucky the cherry blossoms will be in bloom again this year. Talk to Marvin Gilliland about getting reimbursed for part of your expenses for this trip.



**Gloria Randall
Editor**

It's a New Year. We have a new NAPUS State President. We have a new US President. We have a new Senate and a new Congress. Many changes have been thrown at us in the past few months and more are on their way.

What can you do?

Mar 21 – 25 is your time to go to the Hill in Washington DC and let our NAPUS voices be heard. This is the best experience of a lifetime. This is an opportunity to tell Senators and Congressmen our view points. Don't forget to donate to PAC.

Let Kim Sharpe, our NAPUS State President know you are willing to help NAPUS in any way possible. I know she will do a great job at leading our NAPUS family and looks forward to any help she can get.

Attend your District meetings. Invite a neighboring Postmaster to attend with you. Attend an Executive Board Meeting this year and see what we discuss. Your lunch will be furnished.

Have a good year and **Let Us Do Together
What We Cannot Do Alone.**

INDIANA NAPUS ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION

JUNE 10-12, 2009

REGISTRATION FORM

UNIVERSITY INN
3001 NORTHWESTERN AVENUE
WEST LAFAYETTE, IN. 47906
PHONE 800-777-9808 or 765-463-5511

ROOM RATES EXPIRE MAY 10

\$93.00 SINGLE OR DOUBLE PLUS TAX

NAME _____
OFFICE _____ ZIP _____
NAME ON BADGE _____ GUEST _____

INFORMATION ONLY- 1ST TIMER IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FREE REGISTRATION ONLY
IF THEY HAVE SIGNED AN 1187 BETWEEN JUNE 6, 2008 AND JUNE 10, 2009

____ THIS IS MY FIRST CONVENTION
____ QUALIFIED FREE REGISTRATION

PRIOR TO DEC 31, 2008

AFTER DEC 31, 2008

POSTMASTER	\$72.50 _____	\$85.00 _____
OIC	\$72.50 _____	\$85.00 _____
Assoc. Member	\$72.50 _____	\$85.00 _____
PM Retired	\$70.00 _____	\$80.00 _____
PM Retired Guest	\$70.00 _____	\$80.00 _____

INDIVIDUAL DAILY SESSIONS WITHOUT MEALS: \$15.00

EXTRA TICKETS

RETIRES & PAST PRES. LUNCHEON	\$20.00 _____	\$25.00 _____
1 ST TIMERS BREAKFAST	\$20.00 _____	\$25.00 _____
GRAND BANQUET	\$35.00 _____	\$40.00 _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$	_____	

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb 7 - Executive Board Meeting
Feb 10 - Dist 2 Meeting
Mar 21 – 25 Legislative Conference - Washington DC
Apr 4 – Executive Board Meeting
Apr 15 – Dist 3 Meeting
June 9 – 12 State Convention - Lafayette

**All members are encouraged to attend the Executive Board Meetings
and your District Meetings.**