



Minneapolis



TWIN CITIES  
POSTAL CUSTOMER COUNCIL

Fall 2020 Newsletter



St. Paul



## A MESSAGE FROM BILL LEVOIR

Industry Co-Chair

### Upcoming Events:

USPS Business Customer Gateway  
Updates Webinar

Thursday, November 5, 2020

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

National Postal Forum

Nashville, TN - Gaylord Opryland

Sun, May 2, 2021 - Wed, May 5, 2021

As you are all aware, this is an election year. We've been bombarded by ads, phone calls, emails, texts and lawn signs to vote for your preferred candidate. What you may not know is that behind the scenes, your very own Twin Cities Postal Customer Council quietly carried on its own vote. This is an election year for the 3 industry officers and we're happy to not only announce the winners, but to say that the results have been certified!! I will once again be the Industry Co-Chair for another 2 years. Along with my re-election, two others have agreed to carry on as Industry Vice-Chair (Cathy Hufford), and Treasurer (Jackie Daugherty).

While the 3 officers of the Board have to be elected, we still have a fabulous backup crew which carries on the duties and helps us tremendously in our efforts to keep you engaged, educated and maybe a little entertained throughout the year. I can't say enough good things about all of the dedicated people I've been fortunate to work with on the PCC Board. That includes industry and USPS® personnel.

As I mentioned, this is a political year. One of the biggest issues (besides COVID, of course!) is the USPS and how it has performed throughout the pandemic. Accusations have been flying from both sides regarding the new PMG, and the service standards that have suffered. What many people (politicians especially) have lost sight of, is that there are some very good people behind the abbreviation who have worked incredibly hard to keep the mail moving. Through all the political backlash, weather issues, COVID impact and social unrest, they have kept at their work, and delivered advertising, statements, checks, medicines and so much more.

I recently lost my wallet while visiting some friends. I'm not sure if it fell from my pocket or out of my car as I was unloading some things, but it was gone! I realized it when I got home later that night. If you've ever been in that situation, you know how sick you feel. I immediately checked my credit cards and locked them. Fortunately, none had been used. I was hoping someone would call the next day saying they found it. And someone did call. It was a USPS employee who picked up mail from the blue collection boxes. Fortunately, my business card was inside and had my cell number on it. He said he would leave it at the nearest post office. I went to retrieve my wallet and when I got it, the cash inside was gone (I had just put \$40.00 inside so I had some cash on hand), but all of the credit cards were still there! At least the person who found it knew to drop it in the USPS box. The clerk told me that they had 6 or 7 wallets on hand and would keep trying to contact the owners or find a way to deliver them.

These are the little things that people overlook or aren't even aware of! We have a tremendous asset in the USPS. There are certainly things that could be improved, but I'm certain any industry or company could find things to improve. If we continue to work together, I'm confident that the work will come in, and hopefully grow. And we'll find newer and better ways of doing things if we stop complaining and work to find solutions.



## Reminder - U.S. Postal Service Implements Temporary Price Increase. Increase for Commercial Parcels; Retail Customers Unaffected

The United States Postal Service implemented a temporary price change from Oct. 18, 2020 until Dec. 26, 2020.

The temporary price adjustments are in response to increased demand for online shopping package volume due to the coronavirus pandemic and expected holiday ecommerce. As a result of these changing market conditions, the Postal Service is implementing a time-limited price increase on all commercial domestic competitive package volume from Oct. 18, 2020 until Dec. 27, 2020. Retail prices and international products will be unaffected.

Prices will be increasing on the following commercial domestic competitive parcels: Priority Mail Express®, Priority Mail®, First-Class Package Service®, Parcel Select®, and Parcel Return Service®.

This time-limited adjustment will increase prices for our commercial customers in line with the broader package delivery market, without impacting customers at the retail level.

No structural changes are planned as part of this limited time pricing initiative, allowing customers the greatest ease in implementing the new prices with minimal complexity.

The Governors believe these temporary rates will keep the Postal Service competitive while providing the agency with much needed revenue.

The price changes include:

<b>Product</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Planned Increase</b>
Parcel Select Destination Delivery Unit (DDU)	Starts at \$3.19	24 cents
Parcel Return Service	Starts at \$3.05	24 cents
Parcel Select Lightweight	Starts at \$1.81	24 cents
FCPS Commercial	Starts at \$2.74	25 cents
Priority Mail Commercial	Starts at \$7.02	40 cents
Parcel Select Ground	Starts at \$6.92	40 cents
Parcel Select DSCF	Starts at \$4.37	40 cents
Parcel Select DNDC	Starts at \$5.98	40 cents
Priority Mail Express Commercial	Starts at \$22.75	\$1.50

Some rate cells in Parcel Select Ground will be charged less than \$0.40 so as not to exceed USPS Retail Ground retail prices:

- 19 lbs., zones 8/9 – the increase will be zero instead of \$0.40
- 20 lbs., zones 8/9 – the increase will be \$0.06 instead of \$0.40
- Oversized – the increase will be zero instead of \$0.40

Link to the price change: <https://pe.usps.com/resources/PriceChange/October%202020%20-%20Notice123.pdf>

The Postal Service has some of the lowest mail postage rates in the industrialized world and also continues to offer a great value in shipping.

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.



## **USPS Business Customer Gateway Updates Webinar**

**Thursday, November 5, 2020**

**2:00 pm 3:00 pm**

On November 8, 2020 the Business Customer Gateway (BCG) is getting a new look along with several enhancements to improve your experience. The homepage will provide a snapshot view of the customer's Enterprise Payment System balances, the mailer scorecard, and the most recent PostalOne! mailings. In addition, Business Service Administrators (BSAs) and BSA delegates will be able to revoke and archive users who have changed roles or have left the company.

While these changes aim to provide a snapshot view of some of the most critical features, the BCG will remain your portal to USPS® business services. A guide to the new site is located at <https://postalpro.usps.com/bcg/redesign>.

### **Information below to attend.**

**Meeting URL:** <https://usps.zoomgov.com/j/1612652885?pwd=SVNldWQ4VHZoOC80cjBhZlc5c0NrZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 161 265 2885

**Password:** 795012

**Telephone:** US: +1 503 336 1236 or +1 952-229-5070 or +1 650-581-7094

**Phone one-tap:** US: +15033361236,,1612652885# or +1952-229-5070,,1612652885#



**National Postal Forum (NPF) 2021**  
**Sun, May 2, 2021 - Wed, May 5, 2021**

**Save the Date**

The National Postal Forum is the premier mailing and shipping conference that works directly with the United States Postal Service (USPS®) to provide the most comprehensive educational and networking platform available. Offering 100+ educational workshops, USPS Officer-led sessions and the largest industry trade show, the NPF offers the ideal opportunity for industry professionals to learn, collaborate and grow their business.

Nashville, TN – Gaylord Opryland, resuming our hosting of the largest, most anticipated event in the industry! Mark your calendar and stay tuned to [NPF.org](http://NPF.org) for more info, soon to come.

For more information please visit their site at [www.npf.org](http://www.npf.org)



## 2021 Proposed Rate Increases

It is that time of year again that we all start to wonder when (not if) The United States Postal Service (USPS®) will have an increase on some or all services. The answer is a resounding yes! The USPS recently filed with the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) of price changes to take effect Jan. 24, 2021.

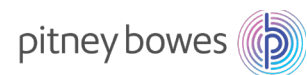
The simplest way to describe this is to say that First-Class Mail® will rise approximately 1.8 percent. While other categories may see closer to 1.5 percent. The cost of a First-Class™ stamp would remain at \$.55, and metered mail would see an increase as well as an additional ounce. There are other proposed increases.

Here's a link to the 2021 Price Change Filing Webinar Recording - October 13, 2020, <https://postalpro.usps.com/node/8791> The link to the pricing information <https://pe.usps.com/resources/PriceChange/January%202021%20-%20Notice123.pdf>. The case is not yet finalized, so these are proposed rate increases.

The Twin Cities Postal Customer Council believes the more we know about any USPS changes and our industry changes, it will help everyone prepare and make adjustments well in advance of any issues arising with equipment adjustments, client preparedness, employee preparedness, etc. The more we know, the better we can help our clients and place of business.

Please feel free to reach out to someone on our Board of Directors if you have any questions or if we may be of help in some way. We appreciate our members and want to help! Happy mailing!

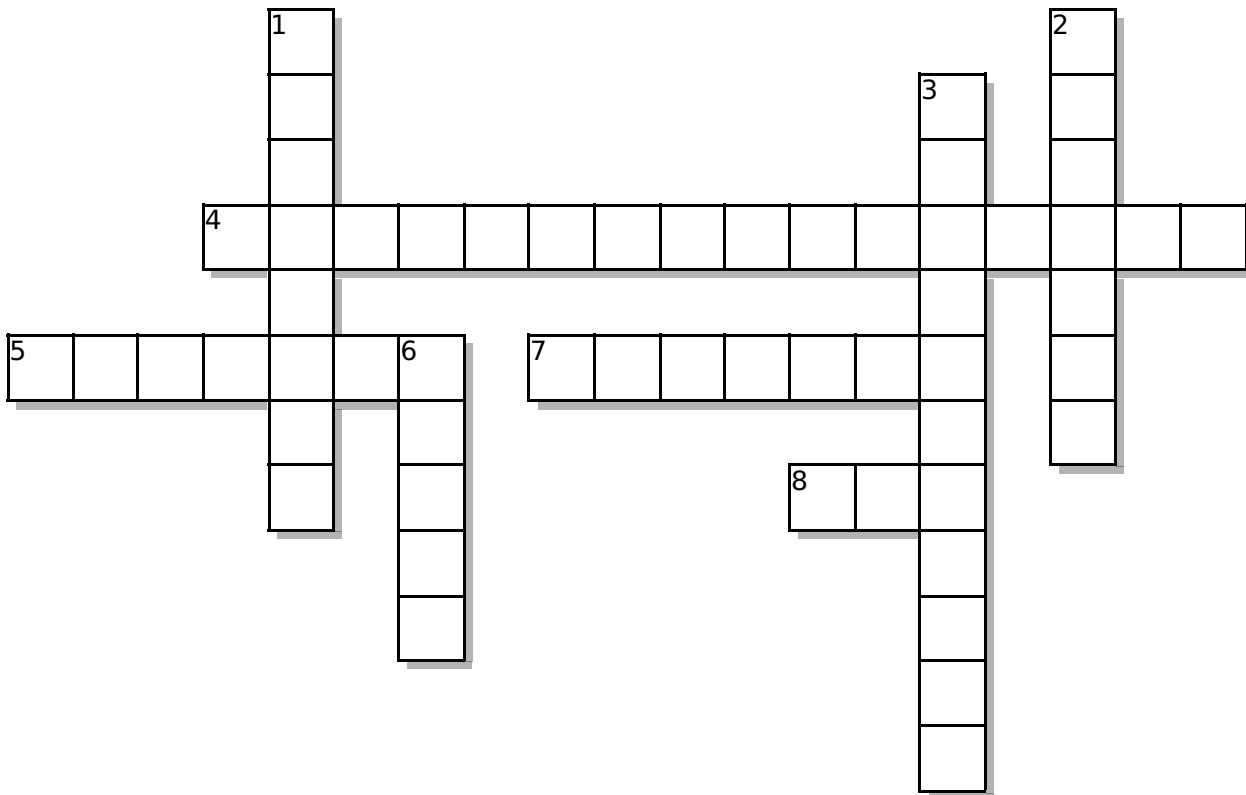
## Corporate Sponsorships



If you are interested in becoming a corporate sponsor, please contact Pam Corbeille Lepel at [pcorbeille-lepel@lortondata.com](mailto:pcorbeille-lepel@lortondata.com) or (651) 203-8205.



# Fun with the USPS



## ACROSS

- 4 Who was the first Post Master general
- 5 When mail is designated for discounted postage rates it is called
- 7 What monetary markings are on all mail
- 8 5 - 11 digit code at the end of all addresses

## DOWN

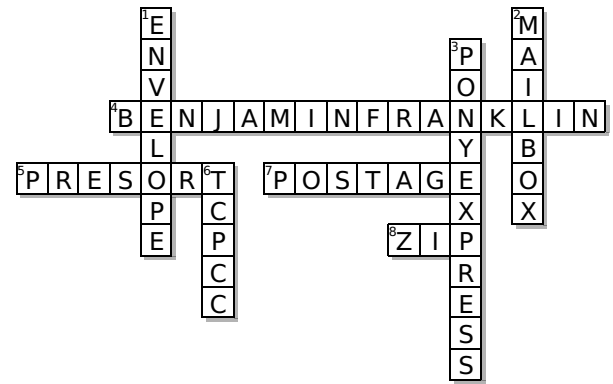
- 1 what do you put a letter in to be mailed
- 2 where residential mail is delivered
- 3 How was mail delivered on April 3 1860
- 6 initials of the organization who puts out this newsletter



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## Fun with the USPS



### USPS® Coronavirus Updates for Business Customers

FAQs specific to the Coronavirus situation and Postal Service™ continuity can be found here.

<https://faq.usps.com/s/article/USPS-Coronavirus-Updates-for-Business-Customers>

The Postal Service is closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation and continues to follow strategies and measures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and public health departments.

## Industry

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