



Lincoln Postal Customer Council NEWSLETTER

www.lincolnpcc.com

January 2016

The Lincoln Postal Customer Council, in conjunction with the U.S. Postal Service would like to invite you and members of your company to attend our upcoming event:

Postal Promotions, Changes and Price Increase Thursday, February 18th, 2016

Postmaster **Kerry Kowalski** and Senior Field Sales Representative **Christy Funcke** will present the Postal Promotions for 2016. They will discuss what each promotion is, the dates these promotions are effective, how to qualify for the promotions and explain how to register for these discounts. They will also discuss the Postal Price Increase and changes for the Postal Service's competitive products and services that go into effect on January 17, 2016. Christy and Kerry will answer any questions you have on these topics. You will also get the latest information on the exigent surcharge scheduled to be removed in 2016. Updated pages for your Postal Toolkit will be provided and Postmaster Kerry Kowalski will discuss the updates and changes that will impact customers locally.

Luncheon location: Bess D Walt Library (6701 S 14th Street, Lincoln)

Registration: 11:00 - 11:30 am ♦ Lunch: 11:30 am ♦ Program: Noon

**Program and meal catered by Subway: NO CHARGE
(For special dietary needs call Marcella Ament at 402-473-1602)**

Advanced registration is required by Monday, February 15th, 2016.

*Questions? Please call Christy Funcke at 402-473-1743 or
Marcella Ament at 402-473-1602. You may register online at www.lincolnpcc.com*



National Postal Forum March 20 - 23, 2016

Mark your calendars for the National Postal Forum to be held at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel and Convention Center in Nashville, TN
March 20-23, 2016

Postmaster's Update: 2015 in Review



In my article a year ago, I wrote about the Postal Service's new partnership with Amazon that brought package delivery 7-days per week to Lincoln. I am happy to report a year later this partnership is stronger than ever and parcel volumes continue to grow at rates never seen in the Postal Service's history.

Lincoln package volumes for the month of December 2015 were 44.8% higher than 2014. (December 2014 was 25% higher than December 2013) This is remarkable year over year growth that we anticipate will continue in 2016. Lincoln delivers 3000 to 4000 Amazon Parcels every Sunday and customers love the quick delivery they receive from the US Postal Service. This has resulted in many other parcel shippers, both large and small, to take a look at the US Postal Service as their shipper of choice. If you are not using the US Postal Service for your package shipping needs, you need to take a close look at what we have to offer.

In addition to the good news about parcel volumes, Standard Mail volumes, First Class Commercial Mail volumes and several other classes of mail are holding steady or increasing slightly. Users of the mail continue to find the read rate, response rate and value of the mail is strong and they continue to stick with a proven performer for their business. All this lead to over a \$1 Billion operational profit in FY 2015 (after subtracting the retiree health benefit pre-funding) and points to a bright future for the US Postal Service.

I am sure 2016 will bring new challenges, new opportunities and new growth that will continue to strengthen the US Postal Service and our customers.

Thank you for your continued involvement and support; we would not be the Lincoln Postal Customer Council without you.

KERRY KOWALSKI- LINCOLN POSTMASTER

LPCC Company Profile: Spreetail

December was a busy month for Spreetail (formerly known as VM Innovations) and its shipping partners, fulfilling almost 200,000 orders for customers all over the world. Spreetail is an ecommerce company founded in Lincoln, Nebraska. We ship many of our products via Priority Mail from our 3 (soon to be 4) fulfillment centers. Each year Spreetail delights millions of customers with products they need delivered to their door, but the Spreetail purpose is much bigger than just ecommerce. Spreetail's purpose is to make a dent in the universe by delighting millions of customers, creating opportunity and wealth for our team, while revolutionizing the communities we touch.



This year alone Spreetail's team of 115 have made a huge impact in their communities across the United States including: Lincoln, Las Vegas, and Harrisburg, PA. Spreetail donated over 800 backpacks and school supplies along with hats, gloves, and socks, donated \$10,000 cash to local charities, sponsored a wish through Make-A-Wish, paid for community outings for over 1200 kids, volunteered through United Way, and most recently became the largest sponsor for Lincoln's Bike Share Program.

We're proud of where we're from and believe that we have a responsibility to make it better. We recognize that we are who we are in large part because of the communities we live in. Spreetail, has plans to move to a new headquarters at Innovation Campus this spring

LPCC Member Profile: Rick Cashen Shipping and Receiving Mail Clerk, Southeast Community College

Congratulations go out to our 37 year member of the Lincoln Postal Customer Council – Rick Cashen. After working 17 years as the Shipping and Receiving Mail Clerk at Southeast Community College, Rick has retired. While at SECC he handled all of their ingoing and outgoing packages. SECC uses all of the products offered by the postal service from bulk mailings to Priority Mail Express. Rick joined the LPCC in 1978 and while his job changed a couple of times over the last 37 years, he remained an active member. Rick said the LPCC helped him keep on top of postal changes that could impact his company and felt the networking time was very valuable as well.

Rick, along with his wife, will be moving to Las Vegas. Lincoln has been a good town and remains home to his son-in-law, daughter and 2 grandkids. Rick also has 2 daughters and 3 grandkids living in California. They choose to move to Nevada because they like the weather and the lower taxes there. His hobbies are working on the family tree, shooting pool (8 Ball) and watching Husker Football and Volleyball.

We will miss Rick at our meetings and thank him for his many years of involvement with the LPCC. Best wishes Rick!

2016 Price Change Summary

Priority Mail Express

- Commercial Plus prices and Commercial Base prices will be the same
- 15.6% overall average increase
- Retail = 14.4%; Commercial Base = 17.7%; Commercial Plus = 48.2%
- Commercial Base prices will be 10% less than Retail prices
- Eliminate Priority Mail Express Flat Rate Box

First-Class Package Service

- Commercial Plus pricing eliminated (14 to 15.99 oz.)
- Commercial Base pricing now includes ounce-based pricing up to 15.99 ounces
- 12.8% overall average increase
- Eliminate ounce-based pricing below 8 oz – flat rate up to 8 oz.
- Presort options eliminated (ADC, 3D, 5D)

Priority Mail

- Retain current overall pricing structure; 9.8% average increase overall
- Retail = 8.6%; Commercial Base = 9.4%; Commercial Plus = 13.3%
- Eliminate Regional Rate Box C; eliminate Critical Mail

Parcel Select

- 3.1% overall average increase for 1 lb+ Parcel Select
- 5.1% DNDC; 4.9% DSCF; 4.5% DDU; Ground 1.9%
- ONDC and NDC Presort categories eliminated Parcel Select Nonpresort rebranded as Parcel Select Ground
- 23.5% overall average increase for Parcel Select Lightweight
- Simplify ounce-based pricing structure - flat rate up to 8 oz., 9-12 oz. and 13-16 oz
- Eliminate Machinable / Irregular distinction – one price table

Parcel Return Service

- 5.0% overall average increase – same for RDU and RSCF; RNDC pricing eliminated

Other Domestic Changes

- Standard Post renamed Retail Ground; 10% average overall price increase
- Premium Forwarding up 3.6% to \$18.65, online \$17.10
- Adult Signature up 3.6% to \$5.70; Restricted Delivery up 3.5% to \$5.95
- Package Intercept up 3.3% to \$12.55
- Competitive Post Office Box prices up 3.5% on average

International

- Commercial Plus and Commercial Base prices will be the same
- Global Express Guaranteed up 7.1%
- Priority Mail Express International up 11.6%
 - Additional country groups added for Flat Rate Envelope
 - Flat Rate Box eliminated
- Priority Mail International up 10.2%
 - Additional country groups added for Flat Rate Envelopes and Boxes
 - Eliminate PMI Regional Rate Box C
- International Priority Airmail up 4.2%; IPA M-Bags up 3.5%
- International Surface Airlift up 6.3%; ISAL M-Bags up 5.3%
- Airmail M-Bags up 9.2%
- First-Class Package International Service up 21.6%
- Intl Postal Money Orders up 5.6%; Inquiry Fee up 3.5%; Transfer Service up 3.3-3.7%

LPCC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Industry Co-Chair

Larry Van Dyke
Union Bank & Trust

Postal Co-Chair

Kerry Kowalski
Postmaster

Vice-Chair

Betty Cummings
All Needs Computer & Mailing Services

Secretary

Analys Reid
LES

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Christy Funcke
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INDUSTRY BOARD

Lynn Bergen

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Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

Tom Nottlemann

Claritus

Ken Reining

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Christal Gregerson

AdventSource

Rachel Greene

Bryan Health

Ben Yelkin

MackayMitchell Envelope Company

TAKE A TOUR



**Lincoln Downtown
Post Office Tour**

Thursday, April 7th at 3:30 pm



Lincoln Postal Customer Council

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

P.O. BOX 81283

LINCOLN, NE 68501-1283

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE
PAID
U.S.P.S.
G-10

Lincoln PCC Events

more info at

lincolnpcc.com

2/18/16
LPCC Quarterly Luncheon
Bess D Walt Library, Lincoln

4/7/16
Lincoln Post Office Tour
3:30 pm

5/12/16
LPCC Quarterly Luncheon
Union Bank & Trust, Lincoln

9/16/16
LPCC Mini Workshop
Lincoln

11/10/16
LPCC Quarterly Luncheon
Valentino's Grand Buffet,
Lincoln

Greater Omaha PCC Events

more info at

greateromahapcc.com

3/17/16
Program & Workshops
Tip Top Ballroom

5/13/16
Annual Golf Outing

6/16/16
Program & Workshops
Tip Top Ballroom

9/19 - 9/23/16
Omaha Advertising X
National PCC Day

12/8/16
Holiday Program & Workshops
Tip Top Ballroom

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE CONTACTS

Christy Funcke:.....402-473-1743
Business Solutions Specialist

Ashlee Hansen:402-930-4447
Business Service Network

Greg Grant:402-473-1799
Supervisor, Business Mail Entry

Mailpiece Design Analyst:.....1-855-593-6093
MDA@usps.gov

Duane Peterson:402-473-1697
Mailing Requirements

Dave Higley:402-930-4437
Mailing Standards Specialist

Jon Zvolanek:.....402-473-1751
Sales Executive

Thanks to those contributing to this newsletter issue:

Christy Funcke Kerry Kowalski
Christal Gregerson Arylis Reid
Alette Hain Jon Zvolanek
Mike Huddleston

Visit our website for the latest LPCC information and USPS news! www.lincolnpcc.com