



January/February 2012

POSTAL CONNECTION

Your Direct Link...To Mailing Success

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NIPCC

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USPS GREAT LAKE AREA FOCUS GROUP WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2012 CAROL STREAM, IL

The next Great Lakes Area Periodicals, Standard Mail & Package Services Focus Group Meeting will be Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at the Carol Stream Processing & Distribution Center.

This **FREE** event provides an excellent opportunity to hear about the latest topics straight from the Postal Service and get face time with Postal Management on-site. Industry has the opportunity to ask questions, as well as offer home-grown solutions. These lively discussions may provide the answer to your problem or nagging questions!

The tentative agenda is as follows:

- 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. Registration/Coffee/Networking
- 8:30 - 8:35 a.m. Introductions
- 8:35 - 9:15 a.m. MTAC Update
- 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Network Optimization
- 10:15 - 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. Service Performance Measurement
 - ♦ Service Standards
 - ♦ USPS Track & Confirm
- 11:15 - 11:45 a.m. Area Service Performance Update
- 11:45 - 12:30 a.m. Box Lunch
- 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. e-Induction Update
- 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Business Mail Acceptance Update
 - ♦ Streamline Acceptance
 - ♦ Enterprise Payments Systems
- 2:00 - 2:30 p.m. ABRM Tool Demonstration (Reply Mail)
- 2:30 - 3:00 p.m. Closing Remarks/Survey/Adjourn

Location: Carol Stream P&DC, 500 W. Fullerton Ave, Carol Stream IL.

Enter on the west side of the building, park in the large employee parking lot accessible from Fullerton Ave.

To register, email your name, company, phone & email address to:
focusgroupregistration@usps.gov

Note from the NIPCC Leadership...

Dear Northern Illinois PCC Member:

Happy New Year!

Your award winning NIPCC is committed to educating its members about mail and postal services to help small, medium and large businesses from every industry to improve their bottom line. Our PCC in 2011 offered several distinctive educational programs with certificate sessions, workshops and tours all featuring excellent speakers about current industry issues.



Greg Johnson
Senior Plant Manager
Carol Stream

The Northern IL PCC once again was recognized nationally, for the third consecutive year, as a top-notch organization, earning USPS Headquarters Premier Gold Level Award and Great Lakes Area PCC Leadership Award, Gold Education Excellence. We are very proud!

The Schedule of events for this year is being finalized and again will offer various opportunities for education and networking. Please feel free to contact the PCC with your ideas and suggestions. Visit our website at www.ni-pcc.org.

It's membership renewal time! Visit our website for membership information at www.ni-pcc.org. Your financial support will allow us to maintain our high level of program excellence while continuing to provide meaningful educational events and networking opportunities. Postal Customer Councils are self-supporting and do not receive funds from the Postal Service.

The Northern IL PCC serves the mailing industry in the entire north suburban area and would like everyone to be a part of this mailing industry association. Please feel free to contact Jim Zimay, Membership at jzimay@tension.com or by phone at 847-202-8131 with any questions regarding your membership.

We look forward to seeing you at our next event.

Sincerely,

Greg Johnson, Postal Co-Chair & Diane Winter, Industry Co-Chair



Diane Winter
Director
Innovative Direct

USPS PLAN TO ELIMINATE OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

The USPS launched a plan to eliminate overnight delivery service. The potential annual savings for this plan is about \$2.1 billion. Included in this plan are a realignment of processing facilities and the closing of facilities no longer required as a result of the revised network.

First-Class Mail and Periodicals will lose overnight delivery, and much of the mail that currently gets delivered in two days, will take three days for delivery. The USPS is changing the framework for two-day delivery from within 12 hours driving distance to within 4 hours. Changes in Standard Mail are also possible, depending on which postal facilities are closed due to the plan.

In response to industry feedback when the plan was first announced in September, the USPS has proposed optional intra-Sectional Center Facility overnight delivery for First-Class Mail and Periodicals.

While some mailers will be negatively impacted by the changes, the industry recognizes the changes are needed to keep the USPS viable. With declining First-Class Mail, the USPS can no longer afford to have a network designed around overnight First-Class Mail delivery.

Things You Should Know...

NATIONAL POSTAL FORUM 2012 - APRIL

The Forum is the premier educational event and tradeshow available to mail professionals today. Attend the National Postal Forum to get a complete education in the "*Business of Mail.*" If your business or profession has anything to do with using mail, or any of the products and services available through the United States Postal Service... then this is the place you need to be!



The 2012 NPF will be held at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center in Orlando, FL, April 1-4. Register at: <http://npf.org>

IN-HOME DATE STAGING ELIMINATED AT USPS FACILITIES

A mass mailing from Susan LaChance, Vice President for Consumer and Industry Affairs, announced that the USPS will no longer stage and deliver mail using in-home date windows. Mail will be processed based on mail entry location, critical entry time, mail type and applicable service standard.

In the past, the USPS had to hold mail to ensure in-home delivery within a specific date range which caused conflict between in-home dates and service standards. Under the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, the USPS is required to report on the basis of service standards and holding the mail was impacting the reports.

To target in-home windows, mailers can drop mail at a particular type of facility so that a specific in-home date can be expected. In addition, Mail Alerts are still accepted by the Business Service Network or through ADVANCE Notification and Tracking System for publication in the Postal Bulletin.

POSTAL FACILITY CONSOLIDATIONS POSTPONED

Last month, Postmaster General Pat Donahoe announced the USPS will hold off on new closings of any retail or processing facilities until May 15. The delay was per the request by Congress for a moratorium on closings so they can address USPS's long-term financial problems.

The USPS will continue to move forward reviewing plans to close post offices and realign the processing network. In addition, the USPS will continue to review their plan for eliminating overnight First-Class Mail delivery. While the reviews are underway, physical closings are on hold.

In addition to concerns from Congress, the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) issued an advisory decision last month stating their concerns about the USPS proposed plan to review 3,600 postal facilities for closure based on low revenue and nearby postal alternatives. The PRC is questioning whether some of the nearby postal alternatives are good enough to service customers, as well as the total potential savings.

The USPS has a goal to cut costs \$20 billion by 2015. In order to do this, the USPS needs the freedom to close processing plants and retail offices as necessary. The consolidation process goes hand-in-hand with the USPS plan to revise service standards for First-Class Mail delivery.

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www.ni-pcc.org



FIRST-CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
U.S.P.S.
PERMIT NO. G-10

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MAILERS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MATC Meeting Schedule 2012
♦ February 15 - 16, 2012
♦ May 16 - 17, 2012
♦ August 15 - 16, 2012
♦ November 28 - 29, 2012
ribbs.usps.gov

Event	Date
USPS Great Lakes Area Focus Group, Carol Stream	February 22
Tour of Carol Stream & Networking Event	March 22
Mailpiece Design Professions Certification Educational Seminar, Palatine IL	April 25 & 26
Breakfast Meeting - State of the Industry, Westin Hotel, Itasca IL	May
Golf Outing, Hoffman Estates IL	June 14
Annual Meeting and Networking Luncheon, Palatine IL	August
National PCC Day, Addison IL	September 19