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NATIONAL PCC DAY

On, Wednesday, September 10, the Postal Customer Councils of Central Massachusetts, Providence, Southeastern Massachusetts and Greater Boston hosted "National PCC Day" at the beautiful Conference Center in Waltham Woods.

Co-emceed by Mike Powers, Greater Boston's District Manager and Karen McCormick, of the Field Companies, this extraordinary event featured speakers James P. Cochrane, Chief Information Officer of the USPS and Leo Raymond, Vice President of the Association of Marketing Service Providers.

The PCC event also offered 3 diverse educational breakout sessions. Pat Ring, Director of Mail Services for Boston University and Jerry Kelley, Supervisor of Business Mail Entry (USPS), presented: "Keeping up with Postal Changes." Bernadette Lundbohm, Postal Inspector, presented: "Security and Fraud Prevention; All Included in the Price of a Stamp." Scott Gilman, Senior Sales Executive (A) presented: "Augmented Reality/QR Codes."

The Event received high praise from the 160+ attendees...with some stating that this had been "the best PCC Day they had been to in years."



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- Membership Levels (check one):
- General (No fee, individual member)
 - Premiere (\$40, individual member)
 - Corporate (\$150 unlimited members)
 - Corporate Sponsorship (\$250 unlimited members)

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Deb Visco Honored as PCC Member of the Year

During the PCC Day event on Wednesday September 10th, the Greater Boston PCC recognized Debra L. Visco as our PCC Member of the Year. Deb is the Manager of Distribution Operations for The NEJM Group, Massachusetts Medical Society. Deb has served on the Greater Boston PCC Executive Board since 1999, and has held the position of Treasurer since 2000. She has been instrumental in the growth and success of the Greater Boston PCC and has done outstanding work on increasing membership, updating our website (including the recent migration to a new host), maintaining an archive of the history of our PCC, including the keeping of the past history, preserving samples, names, dates and context for our activities, and most recently has played a large role in the organization of the National PCC Day Event. Deb has also worked diligently promoting education throughout the PCC and the Industry. Deb is recognized for her tireless commitment to excellence and for all of the hard work she has done supporting the PCC. Congratulations Deb! (Pictured left to right, Mike Powers, District Manager, - Greater Boston, Deb Visco, NEJM Group—PCC Member of the Year, Karen McCormick, The Field Companies)



USPS BOARD OF GOVERNORS CREATES TEMPORARY EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

As a result of the Senate's failure to approve the President's nominees to the USPS Board of Governors, effective December 8, 2014, the Board no longer had six (6) members to form a quorum.

Anticipating Congress's failure to act, the Board adopted a resolution regarding the exercise of power, absent a quorum, on November 14, 2014. However, the resolution was not published in the Federal Register until December 16, 2014. The resolution defines the exercise of those powers reserved to the Board upon the loss of a quorum of the Board. During the time when there is not a quorum, those powers needed to provide the continuity of operations would be delegated to a Temporary Emergency Committee made up of the remaining members of the board. The Governors also issued a resolution regarding the exercise of powers vested solely in the Governors, as distinguished from the Board of Governors. The resolution clarifies that the inability of the BOG to constitute a quorum does not inhibit the remaining Governors authority to exercise those powers vested solely in them, with the concurrence of an absolute majority of the remaining board members.

The Governors issued the resolutions after reviewing the plain language of the statute. They determined that with one express exception (removal of the IG), there is no requirement that a specific number of Governors be in office in order to exercise those powers vested solely in them.

Rather, the statute general specifies that there must be the concurrence of an absolute majority of the Governors then "in office" or "holding office" in order for the Governors to exercise those powers.

Northeast Area Industry Focus Meeting

On Wednesday October 15th the Northeast Area Industry Focus Group meeting was held at the Providence Processing and Distribution Center in Providence Rhode Island. The focus group meeting is held quarterly and is held at various locations in the Northeast Area. The purpose of the meeting is for Postal Service Representatives and Postal Customers to meet and share information about Postal Operations, upcoming changes, industry initiatives and other items of concern to the mailing industry. Betsy Shortell, Mark Fallon, and Pat Ring from the Greater Boston PCC Executive Board were in attendance. Also attending were Greater Boston District Manager Mike Powers, Marketing Manager Nick Francescucci and BSN Representative John Donovan.

The meeting was emceed by Marc Riley of the Postal Service, Kim Walz of the Cathedral Corporation, and Cindi Muldoon of DST. Speakers included Rick Uluski, Northeast Area Vice President of Operations, Dave Williams, Vice President of Network Operations for the USPS, Lisa Bowes, Manager Account Services and Postal Affairs, and Pete Pagano, Classification Specialist for the USPS Pricing and Classification Service Center (PCSC).

The next NEA Industry Focus Group meeting will be in the spring of 2015 with the date and location still to be determined.

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Amazon Remains A Mail Volume Friend To The USPS

Recent changes to package mail costs for Priority, Priority Express and other package service categories has hit the competition head-on at United Parcel Service and FedEx.

The lower postal prices are coming around the same time that the other two parcel giants are getting ready to raise their prices. FedEx and UPS are arguing that the Postal Service has a monopoly on letter delivery and that gives it an unfair advantage.

However, the issue here is parcel pricing and not letter delivery. If anything, letter size mail is continuing to be the biggest volume and revenue decline at the Postal Service.

The Postal Regulatory Commission agreed with and gave their blessing to the lower rates at USPS and now Amazon has demonstrated that it is willing to deepen its relationship with the Postal Service.

Amazon likes the fact that the Postal Service is delivering 40 percent of the world's mail and to every one of more than 160 million addresses six-days a week and is now delivering Amazon packages on Sunday from the Amazon Everything Store. Now Amazon is testing selected grocery deliveries in several cities.

FedEx and UPS argue that their revenue will be siphoned away by the better package rates offered by the Postal Service because the Postal Service has their monopoly that requires delivery to every address six days a week and also has a degree of mail pickup as other mail is delivered.

While that may exist within the monopoly it is also mandated as part of the universal service requirement for the Postal Service required by legislative mandates for many years.

Additionally, neither competitor mentions that they also have delivery contracts with the Postal Service for moving airmail where private airlines have neither the schedules nor the capacity. It may also be indicative of Amazon's reaction to poor delivery of packages last holiday season after the volume was misjudged by both couriers.

After all that is what competition is all about in the real world. It may be time for other package providers to make wise economic decisions as well.

This article is reprinted with permission from Edward Mayhew, publisher of "The Railway Post Office", the monthly Newsletter of Eddie Mayhew's Classification Station. Eddie was a member of the USPS Rates and Classification Service Center prior to his retirement and was, unequivocally, THE expert on Periodicals, Publications, and Second Class Mail. Ed can be reached at edwardmayhew@gmail.com or you can check his website at EMCLASS.COM.

Upcoming PCC Events—Join Us!

- January — Mailer's Scorecard—Are You Ready?
 - 1/27/2015 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Northwest Processing Center—Waltham
- February - Identity Theft Session and Passport Processing.
 - 2/12/2015 Northwest Processing Center—Waltham.
- March—Shred Day—Cambridge Post Office
 - 3/7/2015 10:00 a.m.
- April - EMCM/MDP Certification. Time & Location TBA

For more information visit
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