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**USPS Unveils Special Olympic Stamp**

The United States Postal Service (USPS), in celebration of the 2015 Special Olympics World Games, the flagship event of the Special Olympics movement, unveiled a national commemorative stamp on Thursday, July 30, 7:30 pm, at The Company Theatre, in Norwell, MA.

Mike Powers, USPS Greater Boston District Manager, was on hand to unveil the new stamp, and mark the occasion with The Company Theatre's Artistic Directors and many Special Olympic athletes who have benefited from the theatre's charitable generosity.

The Company Theatre was chosen as the unveiling site for their ongoing support, most recently by producing a benefit concert that raised more than \$6,000 for The All Town Tigers, a South Shore Chapter of Special Olympics. The presentation of the stamp was met with cheers by the 350+ in attendance and was immediately followed by a performance of the musical "1776."

Doug Jabara, who portrays Ben Franklin in the production of 1776, made an appearance (as Franklin) during the unveiling to which District Manager Powers quipped, "It's my old boss!" Ben Franklin was the first ever Postmaster of the United States. It was a fantastic evening for The Company Theatre, the Special Olympics and USPS.

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## Michael Rakes is the New Plant Manager in Boston

Rick Uluski, USPS Northeast Area Vice President has announced the selection of Michael W. Rakes as the new Senior Plant Manager for the Greater Boston District. Mike prides himself on being one of the more customer-centric Plant Managers in the Nation.

Mike takes on this new leadership role as he transitions from the Providence P&DC, where he served as the Plant Manager. During his time in Providence, Mike and his team transformed the mail processing operations and environment to become the first P&DC in the Northeast Area to be certified in Lean Mail Processing. As Providence improved their performance in safety, service and budget, Mike was detailed to the Albany District as the District Manager with favorable results.

Mike has also held the positions of Manager, Processing and Distribution Center for the Brockton MA P&DC, Manager, Post Office Operations for the (former) Southeast New England District. He is also the former Postmaster of the Dedham (MA) and Hanover (MA) Post Offices. Mike served as a Supervisor of Customer Service in various offices. He began his career as a letter carrier in Braintree, MA.

Earlier this year, Mike completed his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration through the University of Phoenix, majoring in Business Management. He is a graduate of the Postal Service's Management, Executive Leadership and Associate Supervisor Programs. He is also Green Belt certified in the Lean Six Sigma process.

Mike resides in Holbrook, MA with his wife and two sons. He enjoys coaching both of his son's teams in Hockey.



## National Postal Forum

The Greater Boston Postal Customer Council was well-represented at the 2015 National Postal Forum, May 17 – 20, in Anaheim, CA. Approximately 30 Greater Boston PCC members went to the NPF to attend classes, visit exhibitors and meet with USPS Executives. The highlight of the conference was the keynote by Postmaster General (PMG) Megan Brennan on Monday morning. In her speech, PMG Brennan noted 3 key USPS innovations:

- Bridge the physical and digital world through the mail piece.
- Greater transparency through the Intelligent Mail Barcode (IMb) and Intelligent Mail Parcel Barcode (IMpb).
- Hyper-personalized mail via harnessing the power of big data, visibility and analytics.

In addition to attending, 5 members of the Greater Boston PCC Executive Board were presenters. Congratulations goes out to Board members Mark Fallon, Pat Ring, Jim Burns, Betsy Shortell and Steve Smith. The instructors were happy with the turnout, with class sizes ranging from 115 students to over 200 students at some sessions! Even for classes that started at 8:00am.

It's not too early to start planning for next year's National Postal Forum, March 20 – 23, 2016 in Nashville, TN. We hope to see you there!

## Upcoming PCC Events—Join Us!

- Shred Day - Cambridge Post Office, 795 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139. October 17, 2015, 10:00 a.m. —2:00 p.m.
- Postal Museum Update Webinar - October 20, 2015. Karen McCormick will update us on the project she is heading about the History of Direct Mail

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