



AFRICAN AMERICAN POSTAL LEAGUE UNITED FOR SUCCESS



A Publication for Postal Service Employees, A-PLUS Members, Retirees, Family, Friends, and Supporters

National News Magazine

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A-PLUS Inspires Career Growth at 2025 USPS Career Conferences

Informational Booths Highlight Leadership, Mentorship, and Opportunity

The African-American Postal League United for Success (A-PLUS) proudly participated in the 2025 USPS Career Conferences held across the country, connecting with employees through informational booths and resource tables designed to inspire professional growth and leadership development.

At each event, A-PLUS representatives engaged with attendees eager to learn about mentorship opportunities, leadership training, and the organization's long-standing commitment to helping postal employees reach their fullest potential. Their presence offered a welcoming space for meaningful conversations about personal and professional advancement.



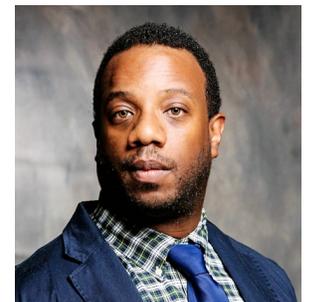
I-r, Florida Coastal Chapter was represented by Aldonia Rawls, Tiffany Harris, and Lakeisha Hankins at the USPS Career Conference in Jacksonville, FL.

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Success Stories: A-PLUS Members on the Move!

Triad Chapter Member Spotlight

Congratulations to Eddie Humphrey of the Triad Chapter on his ongoing Acting Supervisor, HRSSC (EAS-21) detail with the Organizational Management Team. Eddie, a Personnel Processing Specialist at the HRSSC, has served in Acting Supervisor details on and off since 2023, demonstrating leadership, adaptability, and a commitment to growth.



A proud participant of the 2025 A-PLUS National Convention at Maryland Live, Eddie notes that while A-PLUS did not directly assist in securing his detail, he continues to apply the leadership and professional development skills gained through A-PLUS meetings to strengthen his performance and expand his career potential.

Keep up the great work, Eddie — your dedication exemplifies the A-PLUS spirit of continuous growth and leadership in action!

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Message from the Desk of the National President

Greetings A-PLUS Members and Friends,

As we approach the close of 2025, I hope this message finds you well. First and foremost, thank you for your continued membership and support of A-PLUS. Your involvement is more than appreciated—it's essential. A-PLUS exists to empower our members to thrive professionally and personally.

The Fall season brings both beauty and a renewed focus on the work to be done. With the Postal Service entering its peak mailing period, many of our members are navigating organizational changes, increased mail volume, and heightened demands. Amid these challenges, please remember that A-PLUS is here for you—offering information, training, and a community of dedicated current and former employees who share the same goals.

A heartfelt thank you to all our Chapters who hosted information tables at USPS Career Awareness Conferences. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive! Chapters are the heartbeat of A-PLUS, and your efforts keep our organization vibrant and impactful. Please continue to engage members through meaningful training and communication. Members, please support your local chapter by attending meetings, training and other activities. We are all stronger together.

We encourage you to participate in our upcoming Regional Conferences and sessions:

- Southern Region Conference Beachfront Courtyard Marriott, Biloxi, MS October 17–19, 2025
- Virtual Regional Events (including nominations for 2026–2028 Regional Officers):
 - ◊ Eastern Region – October 25, 2025
 - ◊ Central Region – October 26, 2025
 - ◊ Northeast Region – November 2, 2025
 - ◊ Western Region – November 8, 2025

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for the 2026 A-PLUS National Convention: Embassy Suites, Dorado del Mar Beach Resort, Puerto Rico May 5–7, 2026 Rooms are now available, and registration details will be released later this fall.

Also, keep an eye out for updates on Focus40—the next phase of this initiative is launching soon to further equip our members for leadership roles within the Postal Service and A-PLUS.

As Open Season approaches (November 10–December 8, 2025), we'll be hosting information sessions with BCBS Federal Employees Program and United Healthcare on October 28 and 29. Watch your email and text messages for registration details. These sessions are a great opportunity to make informed healthcare choices for you and your family.

Thank you again for your dedication throughout the year. We're excited about what lies ahead in 2026—including the election of new A-PLUS officers for the 2026-2028 term across all levels of our organization.

Stay informed by visiting our national website: www.aplus.cc



Debra Clayton
A-PLUS National President



SCAN ME

For
Membership
Information



Bridging Generations, Building Leaders: A-PLUS Focus 40 Prepares the Future

The African American Postal League United for Success (A-PLUS) has always stood as a force for opportunity, advocacy, and progress. Today, that mission continues with Focus 40, a bold initiative designed to connect generations and equip the next wave of leaders in the U.S. Postal Service.



Brenda Blue

A-PLUS National Vice President

Building on a Strong Foundation

The first phase of Focus 40 launched with seven virtual, interactive leadership development workshops, giving members of the next generation access to tools, mentorship, and strategies critical for career growth. These sessions didn't just teach, they engaged, empowered, and set the stage for the program's next steps.

Meeting the Moment

As the Postal Service faces historic retirements, the need for prepared leaders has never been greater. Focus 40 bridges the gap between today's seasoned executives and tomorrow's aspiring leaders, ensuring African American professionals are ready to step forward with confidence, cultural awareness, and operational expertise.

More Than Development—A Legacy of Leadership

Focus 40 represents more than skill-building. It reflects a commitment to visibility, inclusion, and representation at every level of leadership. The program creates pathways where few existed before, amplifying voices and ensuring that the future of USPS leadership mirrors the richness of its workforce.

"Focus 40 is a bridge to the future as it links potential with opportunity, passion with preparation," said Brenda Blue, Chair of Focus 40. "By building this pipeline, we are not only preparing leaders for tomorrow but also strengthening the legacy of A-PLUS today."



Looking Ahead

As Focus 40 prepares for its next phase, A-PLUS calls on both senior leaders and emerging professionals to engage, mentor, and step into the future together.

As we look ahead, Focus 40 stands as both a promise and a legacy, bridging the wisdom of today's leaders with the energy of tomorrow's visionaries. Together, we will continue the A-PLUS tradition of cultivating excellence, equity, and opportunity at every level of leadership.

Brenda Blue
A-PLUS Executive Vice President
A-PLUS Chair, Focus_40



Career Conferences 2025: A Gateway to A-PLUS

Each year, the Postal Service presents a district-wide, full-service Career Conference for its employees, offering networking opportunities and interactive sessions designed to promote professional development and to help employees create a better future for themselves within the organization. It's a weekend fair where the mission is very similar to A-PLUS' – which is why A-PLUS not only supports the conferences and encourages member attendance but are active participants in as many of them as possible.

For 2025 A-PLUS supported at least 23 chapters at 18 conferences around the country by providing printed handouts, flyers and QR codes for the tables that needed them, providing universal messaging designed to engage attendees and boost recruitment. A-PLUS tables were set up at conferences where chapters were active in those respective districts, and where chapters were willing to show representation and enthusiasm for prospective members. Kudos to all who represented!



Carl Walton
National Membership
Committee Chair

Angie Hicks-Spruill, Manager, Employee Development, North Carolina, and a member of A-PLUS for 20+ years, not only coordinated her home state's conference but served as a guide for her counterparts and their events. She offered her perspective on this year's offerings:



Angie: "This year, I attended six Career Conferences in the Eastern, Southern and Central regions: Georgia, NC, SC, Michigan 1, Florida 1 and New Jersey. Although each conference offered the same benefits, they all showcased their own unique and creative flair at the conferences. A-PLUS was well represented at all the career conferences that I attended.

"One of the career conferences I attended had almost 350 attendees and A-PLUS volunteered and contributed to the success of the career conference by reviewing KSA's and giving immediate and valuable feedback for the attendees in the KSA breakout room. I sponsored at least one person at each of the conferences I attended. \$30 - \$40 is a small investment to pay for a career conference with a high energy kick-off, awesome swag bags, a variety of vendors and information booths, delicious meals, professional headshots, knowledgeable facilitators, dynamic guest speakers, unlimited development and advancement opportunities, great door prizes, and plenty of connections and networking."

Continued next page



Career Conferences 2025: A gateway to A-PLUS—cont.

Many first-time attendees stated that attending the career conference changed their perspective of the Postal Service and the endless possibilities that they never knew existed within the Postal Service. The 2025 USPS Career Conferences were very successful!”

Among the most visible participants at the conferences were the exhibitors, many of whom represented different functional areas of USPS, with hopes of enlightening attendees of the various career possibilities and encouraging new pathways to success. One such exhibitor was **Kay Hunter**, Manager, Capability and Proficiency, and a member of the Washington Metro (DC) Chapter.



Kay: “I represented Retail and Post Office Operations, under the Vice President Jennifer Vo. I attended several conferences in that capacity, including Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina and Florida 1. I found the biggest takeaway to be the spark of possibility, and seeing how attendees can maximize it by transforming conversations into meaningful opportunities for growth. Conferences open doors, and attendees get the most value by following up and building on the connections they make.”

In South Carolina, **Gaybriel Gibson**, Administrative Assistant, Charlotte P&DC and President, South Carolina Chapter, oversaw the A-PLUS table at the career conference in Clemson, SC and shared her thoughts.



Gaybriel: “I certainly enjoyed representing A-PLUS at the SC career conference. Having the opportunity to share what A-PLUS is and what A-PLUS means to me is always exciting. For me, A-PLUS represents an entity, really an extended family, that believed in me, and the A-PLUS legacy and mission pushed me to be better. Accepting the call to share A-PLUS with others meshes with my drive to develop and mentor others.

“Talking to people is easy for me, but sharing the opportunity for others to be a part of this organization pushed the conversations with the attendees to be passionate interchanges. While many of the employees who voluntarily stopped by our table, as well as those who were drawn in from overhearing Carl (Walton) or me “bragging” about A-PLUS, didn't commit to membership at the time, I know they will become a part of the A-PLUS family.

“We also had some SC chapter officers and members at the conference who helped us tag team attendees and cosign on the information we had available at our table. As members of our chapter continue to share what A-PLUS is to each of us and mentor those who are in our operational areas, our efforts will begin to manifest into increased membership as well as opening opportunities for our members to move up and grow within the USPS.”





Success Stories: A-PLUS Members on the Move!

Since its inception, A-PLUS has focused its primary energies on helping its members advance upwards in the USPS organization. It's what attracts aspiring employees to join, and it's what has kept it going for 38 years and counting. Following are examples of some members who have either gotten official promotions or detail assignments in 2025; it's not a full list of all movement, but we will report on more success stories in subsequent issues of this publication. To have us feature you and your success, please reach out to us at aplustriad@yahoo.com.

Carl Walton

President, Triad Chapter and National Membership Committee Chair

Atlanta Chapter Member Spotlight

Congratulations to Patrice Johnson of the Atlanta Chapter on her detail as Acting Plant Manager in Toledo, Ohio, which began on June 6, 2025.

Patrice currently serves as a Lead MDO at the Level 24 Duluth, GA facility, where her leadership and operational expertise have earned her recognition and new opportunities for advancement. A proud attendee of the 2025 A-PLUS National Convention at Maryland Live, Patrice shared that while A-PLUS did not directly secure this detail, the networking, resourcefulness, and relationship-building skills she gained through the organization have been instrumental to her growth.



"A-PLUS has taught me how to use my resources and network with others," Patrice said. "Those connections have helped me build allies and gain valuable recommendations along the way."

Congratulations, Patrice, on this outstanding leadership opportunity — a reflection of your dedication, professionalism, and the lasting impact of the A-PLUS experience!

Atlanta Chapter Member Spotlight



Congratulations to Brandy Jackson of the Atlanta Chapter on her promotion to Manager, Customer Relations (EAS-25) for the Georgia District, effective January 11, 2025.

Previously serving as Manager, Post Office Operations (EAS-23) in the Atlanta District, Brandy has demonstrated exceptional leadership, communication, and customer engagement skills throughout her postal career.

While no single A-PLUS member directly assisted her, Brandy credits the organization's monthly and bi-monthly meetings for helping to cultivate her leadership and managerial style over the years. "To have an organization that genuinely has everyone's best interest at heart was instrumental," she shared.

Congratulations, Brandy, on this outstanding achievement — a reflection of your dedication to growth, excellence, and the lasting influence of A-PLUS leadership development!



Success Stories: A-PLUS Members on the Move!

Charlotte Chapter Member Spotlight



Congratulations to Tara Morton of the Charlotte Chapter on her promotion to Supervisor, Customer Services (EAS-17) at the Blythewood, SC Post Office, effective September 20, 2025.

Tara previously served as a T-7 Clerk in Fayetteville, NC, where her dedication and drive for excellence prepared her for the next step in her postal career. She credits A-PLUS for helping her strengthen her KSAs by improving the STAR format of her responses, refining her application for clarity and detail, and ensuring her submission was error-free and professional.

Congratulations, Tara, on this well-earned achievement — and thank you for demonstrating how A-PLUS mentorship and preparation continue to empower postal leaders to advance with confidence!

Triad Chapter Member Spotlight



Congratulations to Marlina Ash of the Triad Chapter on her promotion to Supervisor, Processing Operations in Jacksonville, FL, effective August 27, 2025.

Marlina previously served as an Expeditor at the Fayetteville P&DC in North Carolina, where her dedication and commitment to excellence prepared her for this next step in leadership. A proud attendee of the 2025 A-PLUS National Convention at Maryland Live, Marlina credits A-PLUS mentors Carl Walton and Lou Curry for their invaluable guidance in refining her KSAs and challenging her to think differently. She also extends a

heartfelt shout-out to Rashida Robinson, whose encouragement and introduction to Carl at a 2024 Career Conference played a key role in her journey.

Marlina's story is a testament to the power of mentorship, perseverance, and the A-PLUS network in helping leaders rise and succeed. Congratulations, Marlina!



Success Stories: A-PLUS Members on the Move!

Indianapolis Chapter Member Spotlight



Congratulations to Corey Edwards of the Indianapolis Chapter on his promotion to Maintenance Manager of Operations, Tour 2 at the Indianapolis P&DC, effective April 2024.

Previously serving as a Supervisor, Maintenance Operations at the same facility, Corey's dedication, leadership, and technical expertise have positioned him for continued success. While he did not attend the 2025 A-PLUS Convention, Corey proudly participated in the 2024 A-PLUS National Convention, where he strengthened professional connections that may have played a role in his advancement — especially since the Selecting Official is also an A-PLUS member.

Congratulations, Corey, on this well-earned promotion and for exemplifying how A-PLUS relationships and professional excellence go hand in hand!

Indianapolis Chapter Member Spotlight

Congratulations to Kalima Dumas, President of the A-PLUS Indianapolis Chapter, on her promotion to Manager, Customer Service Operations for the Indiana District, MPOO W Area A, effective September 6, 2025.

Previously serving as Manager, Customer Service at the Eagle Creek Branch in Indianapolis, Kalima credits her growth and success to the leadership experience she's gained through A-PLUS. "Being a leader in A-PLUS helped me grow through mentoring and coaching my team," she shared. "By developing others, I strengthened my own leadership skills — including communication, continuous improvement, and emotional intelligence."



Kalima's promotion is a shining example of leading by example and the A-PLUS commitment to developing strong, empowered leaders within the Postal Service. Congratulations, Kalima!



Success Stories: A-PLUS Members on the Move!

Indianapolis Chapter Member Spotlight

Congratulations to Nate Banks of the Indianapolis Chapter on his detail as Acting Supervisor, Maintenance Operations at the Indianapolis P&DC, which began on August 9, 2025.

Nate currently serves as a Tractor Trailer Operator at the same facility, where he also contributes as an On-the-Job Instructor (OJI), Driver Safety Instructor (DSI), and Safety Ambassador — demonstrating his commitment to safety, mentorship, and excellence.

Nate credits A-PLUS for creating opportunities to connect and network with postal professionals across various roles, allowing him to share his career goals and build meaningful relationships that supported his advancement.

Congratulations, Nate, on this exciting leadership opportunity — a reflection of your dedication, initiative, and the power of A-PLUS networking in action!



Mississippi Chapter Member Spotlight

Congratulations to Dora (Denise) Lister of the Mississippi Chapter on her promotion to Manager, Employee Development for the Alabama-Mississippi (AL-MS) District, effective October 4, 2025.

Previously serving as Customer Relations Coordinator for the same district, Denise has built a strong reputation for excellence, collaboration, and continuous learning. She credits A-PLUS for playing a major role in her growth through coaching, networking, and professional development.

“A-PLUS helped me tremendously,” Denise shared. “Through coaching from talented postal peers and building strong professional relationships, I’ve gained insights, advice, and exposure to best practices across departments and locations. The feedback I received has been invaluable in strengthening my skills and expanding my knowledge.”

Congratulations, Denise, on this well-deserved promotion — a shining example of how A-PLUS empowers growth, connection, and leadership across the Postal Service!





Success Stories: A-PLUS Members on the Move!

Triad Chapter Member Spotlight

Congratulations to Abosedé Copeland of the Triad Chapter on her conversion to a career position as Personnel Processing Specialist at the Human Resources Shared Service Center (HRSSC), effective May 17, 2025.

Previously serving as a Personnel Processing Associate, Abosedé's hard work and commitment to professional growth have paid off with this well-deserved advancement. A proud attendee of the 2025 A-PLUS National Convention at Maryland Live, she credits A-PLUS for fostering meaningful networking opportunities and ensuring her KSAs were polished and competitive when applying for new roles.



Congratulations, Abosedé — your success reflects the A-PLUS mission of empowering excellence and supporting career advancement across the Postal Service!

Atlanta Chapter Member Spotlight



Congratulations to Belinda Keller-Sims of the Atlanta Chapter on her detail as Lead MDO, Level 24 at the Duluth, GA P&DC, which began on July 5, 2025.

Belinda currently serves as a Supervisor, Maintenance Operations at the same facility and recently completed a detail as an EEO/ADR Specialist from April to July 2025 — an experience that directly paved the way for her current leadership assignment.

She proudly credits A-PLUS for playing a major role in her success. “By staying connected with my A-PLUS network, I was able to secure a detail in EEO that positioned me for this opportunity,” Belinda shared. “The relationships, mentorship, and visibility I’ve gained through A-PLUS opened doors I wouldn’t have accessed otherwise. It’s more than a professional group — it’s a launchpad.”

Congratulations, Belinda, on this incredible achievement and for showcasing how A-PLUS connection and engagement can truly elevate a postal career!



Success Stories: A-PLUS Members on the Move!

Washington Metro Chapter Member Spotlight

Congratulations to Kelly Taylor of the Washington Metro Chapter on her promotion to Executive Administrative Assistant, HQ Supply Management (EAS-18), effective August 16, 2025.

Previously serving as Supervisor, Customer Services (EAS-17) in Columbia, MD, Kelly's professionalism and commitment to excellence have paved the way for her continued success at the headquarters level.

Kelly credits A-PLUS — and especially Kim Harris from the Washington Metro Chapter — for assisting and engaging with her throughout the process of securing her new role.

Congratulations, Kelly, on this exciting career milestone and for exemplifying the power of A-PLUS mentorship and support in advancing postal leadership!



Triad Chapter Member Spotlight

Congratulations to Clarence Davis III of the Triad Chapter on his detail as an Operations Support Specialist at the Greensboro NDC, which began on April 5, 2025.

Previously serving as a Clerk at the same facility, Clarence credits A-PLUS for providing valuable networking connections and preparation that helped him identify a clear path for advancement. He shared that an A-PLUS member from the Baltimore Chapter first told him about the opportunity — inspiring him to research the position and prepare thoroughly so he'd be ready when the time came.

Clarence's story highlights the power of A-PLUS connections, preparation, and professional readiness in turning opportunity into achievement. Congratulations, Clarence!



AFRICAN AMERICAN POSTAL LEAGUE UNITED FOR SUCCESS



Invest in Your Future: Enroll in Professional Growth and Self-Development Opportunities

The U.S. Postal Service is committed to investing in its people and helping every employee reach their full potential. Through upcoming professional growth and self-development opportunities, employees can strengthen their skills, expand their knowledge, and prepare for the next step in their postal careers.

Don't miss your chance to take part—the self-enrollment period closes October 17. Whether you're looking to enhance leadership abilities, learn new tools, or explore advancement pathways, these programs are designed to help you grow both personally and professionally.

Take charge of your development today—your future starts now!

Click here for more information [USPS is offering new leadership courses – USPS Employee News](#)



Kena Owens
Supervisor Maintenance Operations
Indianapolis, IN P&DC

In October, the Breast Cancer Research stamp takes center

The Postal Service will highlight its [Breast Cancer Research semi-postal stamp](#) in October.



Semipostal stamps are First-Class Mail stamps sold at a price above the cost of a regular stamp to raise funds for designated

causes.

The Breast Cancer Research release has raised almost \$98 million since its introduction in 1998. More than 1.1 billion Breast Cancer Research stamps have been sold.

[In October, the Breast Cancer Research stamp takes center stage – USPS Employee News](#)

SHAPING A STRONGER FUTURE

A Renewed Commitment to Service

I am deeply honored to lead USPS at a remarkable moment in time — one when the organization can look back with pride at its 250-year legacy and look forward with optimism about its future.

While transformative work is well underway, many challenges remain to build the Postal Service that will deliver for the nation for the next 250 years. With the commitment of each and every postal employee, we will meet those challenges and renew our commitment to service excellence.

My aspiration is that every employee can be proud of their work, their colleagues and the organization. I intend to be a strong advocate for you and our customers, and I am confident that together we will shape a stronger future for you and your loved ones.

Among many goals to strive for, none is more important than your safety. I want you all to return home safe every day. So please always be safe yourself and demand safety from your colleagues.

I look forward to working with all of you.

David Steiner
76th Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer
United States Postal Service

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Scan the QR code to watch a video message from the postmaster general.

AFRICAN AMERICAN POSTAL LEAGUE UNITED FOR SUCCESS



A-PLUS Inspires Career Growth at 2025 USPS Career Conferences

“A-PLUS continues to embody the Postal Service’s vision of investing in our people,” said one conference attendee. “The information and encouragement shared at their tables motivated many of us to take the next step in our postal careers.”

The A-PLUS booths featured information on membership, upcoming events, and leadership resources available to employees seeking guidance on career progression. Many participants expressed appreciation for the organization’s continued visibility and dedication to supporting a culture of excellence, inclusion, and opportunity within USPS.

“Our goal is to ensure that every employee has access to mentorship and tools for success,” said A-PLUS National President Debra Clayton. “By being present at these conferences, we’re reinforcing our commitment to helping others grow and thrive.”

The 2025 USPS Career Conferences once again demonstrated the power of connection, and A-PLUS’s participation through informational booths helped strengthen that message—showcasing how unity, knowledge, and mentorship continue to shape the future of postal leadership.



The A- PLUS Florida Coastal Chapter represented very well at the Jacksonville, FL, USPS Career Conference on August 9th.

AFRICAN AMERICAN POSTAL LEAGUE UNITED FOR SUCCESS



A-PLUS at 2025 USPS Career Conferences



It was a wonderful day in Raleigh NC Sunday, where 300+ attendees gathered at the NC Career Conference. We engaged with 100+ at our A-PLUS table, including some new members, and was graced by the presence of 5 chapter presidents, 2 board members and numerous members throughout. — Carl Walton



A-PLUS helped kick off the Career Conference in Leesburg, VA where Angelo and Camille Wider and I represented and recruited for 4 different chapters - even signed up 4 new members! Onward and upward A-PLUS! — Carl Walton.



A-PLUS Washington DC Metro at the Maryland Career Conference at the Bolger Center in Potomac, MD.

A-PLUS Northeast Region at the New York District Career Conference.

AFRICAN AMERICAN POSTAL LEAGUE UNITED FOR SUCCESS



A-PLUS at 2025 USPS Career Conferences



Kentuckiana A-PLUS Chapter representing at the USPS Career Conference in Lexington, KY



Detroit Chapter A-PLUS representing at the USPS Career Conference in Detroit, MI

AFRICAN AMERICAN POSTAL LEAGUE UNITED FOR SUCCESS



Greg Gray Delivers Inspiring Presentation at USPS Leadership Meeting

A-PLUS Sponsor and Leadership Expert Continues to Empower Postal Leaders

Greg Gray of Gray Matter Training Group, a long-time supporter and sponsor of A-PLUS, delivered an energetic and thought-provoking presentation during the Eastern Region, Central, Lakeshores, and Westshores Mail Processing Divisions End-of-Year Leadership Meeting held at the Westin O'Hare in Rosemont, Illinois.



Gray's presentation, titled *"Why People Aren't Doing What You Want Them to Do — And What You Can Do About It,"* captivated the audience with his signature interactive style. Known for his dynamic approach at A-PLUS conventions and conferences, Gray once again engaged postal leaders in meaningful discussion, reflection, and practical learning.

Attendees participated in hands-on exercises using a workbook Gray distributed during the session. The booklet included a section prompting participants to list reasons why individuals may not perform as expected—encouraging leaders to explore the root causes behind noncompliance, miscommunication, and motivation gaps.

Through these reflective prompts, Gray helped participants identify where breakdowns in understanding or execution might occur and provided strategies to strengthen communication and accountability across teams.

In addition to exploring these leadership principles, Gray introduced his practical "20-Foot Rule"—a technique to improve engagement and presence in the workplace—and discussed the value of crafting a clear and concise elevator speech to communicate goals and expectations effectively.



Greg Gray's session was met with enthusiastic participation, laughter, and genuine appreciation from USPS leaders who left feeling inspired and equipped with actionable insights.

A-PLUS extends sincere thanks to Greg Gray for his continued commitment to leadership excellence, mentorship, and professional growth within the Postal Service. His ability to empower and connect with audiences—whether at USPS events, A-PLUS conventions, or other leadership forums—continues to enrich postal professionals nationwide.

On behalf of USPS, Greg Gray received an appreciation gift from KeWanda Sydney, Administrative Assistant, Executive Plant Manager Office, Oak Creek, WI, P&DC.

Thank you, Mr. Greg Gray, for always delivering excellence and inspiring leaders to "get there—and stay there."

AFRICAN AMERICAN POSTAL LEAGUE UNITED FOR SUCCESS



A-PLUS National: Successful School Supply Drive with FedChoice Charitable Foundation

On October 9, 2025, A-PLUS proudly partnered with our National Sponsor, FedChoice Charitable Foundation, to host a school supply drive aimed at supporting students in need. This initiative brought together our dedicated members and the community to gather essential supplies for students, ensuring they have the tools necessary for a successful academic year.

Thanks to the generosity of our members and A-PLUS National Sponsor PostalBluebookHelp, we collected a wide array of supplies, including backpacks, notebooks, pencils, hygiene products and more. The overwhelming response demonstrated the commitment of A-PLUS members to making a positive impact in our communities.

The event was not only an opportunity to collect supplies but also to raise awareness about the importance of education and the challenges many students face. Together with FedChoice Charitable Foundation, we are proud to contribute to a brighter future for our youth.

We want to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who participated and donated. Your support truly makes a difference. We look forward to continuing our mission to uplift and empower students across the nation.

Stay tuned for more initiatives as we strive to create positive change in our communities!



AFRICAN AMERICAN POSTAL LEAGUE UNITED FOR SUCCESS



Health Benefits Info Sessions – Oct 28 & 29!

Open Season for the 2026 Postal Service Health Benefits Program is just around the corner—running from **November 10 to December 8, 2025**.

To help you make the best decision for yourself and your family, we're hosting **eight Health Benefits Information Sessions** featuring **BlueCross BlueShield (BCBS)** and **UnitedHealthcare (UHC)**.

Session Dates: October 28 & 29 **Times:** 12 PM and 7 PM ET (each day)

Who's Invited: You, your coworkers, and your family

These sessions are designed to give you clarity, answer your questions, and help you explore your coverage options.

Register today using the link or QR code below. Our Communications Team will also send group text reminders to keep you in the loop.

Register now at QR Code below or; <https://form.jotform.com/252606370664155>

Choose Wisely, Live Well: Your Health Plan, Your Future

USPS Employee Assistance Program: Supporting Employees Every Step of the Way

The U.S. Postal Service recognizes that its employees are its greatest strength. Understanding that life's challenges can affect both personal and professional well-being, USPS continues to promote the **Employee Assistance Program (EAP)** as a valuable resource for all employees and their families.



The EAP offers **free, confidential counseling and support services** to help with a variety of concerns, including stress management, financial or family issues, and work-life balance. In addition to counseling, the program provides **coaching for professional development, wellness tools, and online resources** that encourage growth, resilience, and self-improvement.

USPS leaders emphasize that the EAP is not only a resource in times of crisis but also a valuable tool for building long-term personal and professional strength. Employees are encouraged to use the program to enhance communication skills, manage stress, and pursue continuous growth.

All services are confidential and available at no cost. For more information or to connect with a counselor, employees can visit www.EAP4YOU.com or call **1-800-EAP-4YOU (1-800-327-4968)**.

The EAP is here to support every employee—every day.

EDUCATING YOU
is Our **PRIORITY**
"CHOOSE WISELY, LIVE WELL: YOUR HEALTH PLAN, YOUR FUTURE!"

Information Sessions
Featuring
National Sponsors

BlueCrossBlueShield
and
UnitedHealthCare

OCTOBER 28TH AND OCTOBER 29TH

REGISTER NOW



A-PLUS Announces National Election Slate for 2026–2028 Executive Board Term

National Nominating Committee Final Report

The African-American Postal League United for Success (A-PLUS) proudly announces the official slate of candidates for the upcoming **2026–2028 National Executive Board term**, as presented by the National Nominating Committee in its final report.

The election represents an important milestone in the organization’s continued mission to promote leadership, professional growth, and representation within the U.S. Postal Service. Each candidate brings a wealth of experience, dedication, and passion for advancing the A-PLUS vision of empowering employees and cultivating excellence across all levels of the organization.

Slate of Candidates

President

- Debra Clayton

Executive Vice President

- Brenda Blue

Corresponding/Recording Secretary

- Patricia King
- Pamela Brooks

Treasurer

- Ricardo Jackson

Parliamentarian

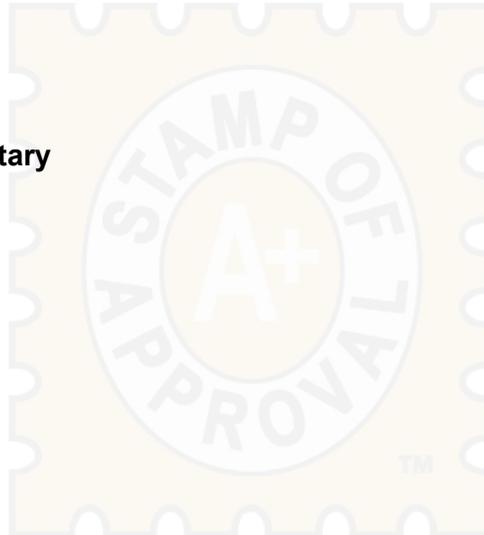
- Lou Curry
- Henry Gibson

Sergeant at Arms

- Gloria Davis
- Melissa Glover

Vice President, Retirees

- Camille Wider



The A-PLUS National Nominating Committee extends sincere appreciation to all members who participated in the nomination process and to each candidate for their commitment to serve.

“A-PLUS remains strong because of the dedicated leaders who step forward to give their time, talent, and vision to support our mission,” the Committee shared. “We look forward to another successful election and continued progress for the organization.”

Members are encouraged to stay tuned for additional election details, including voting procedures and official ballot distribution. The installation of officers for the 2026–2028 term will take place at the upcoming A-PLUS National Convention.

A-PLUS salutes all candidates for their willingness to serve and continue the organization’s proud tradition of leadership, mentorship, and excellence.



2026 A-PLUS National Convention

Embassy Suites, Dorado del Mar Beach Resort – Puerto Rico

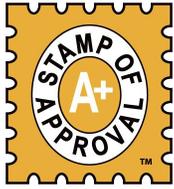
May 5–7, 2026

The African American Postal League United for Success (A-PLUS) proudly announces the **2026 National Convention**, to be held at the beautiful Embassy Suites Dorado del Mar Beach Resort in Puerto Rico. Mark your calendars for **May 5–7, 2026** and prepare for a historic experience filled with professional development, networking, and cultural celebration.

This year's convention carries special significance—**NatCon2026 marks the very first time A-PLUS hosts its National Convention outside the continental United States, yet still within our great nation.** That means everyone who attends will be a *first timer*, sharing in this groundbreaking milestone together.

From inspiring keynote speakers and leadership workshops to dynamic networking opportunities and the breathtaking Caribbean setting, this convention promises to be unlike any other.

Everyone is invited! Book your stay, secure your spot, and be part of history as we celebrate leadership, legacy, and the future of A-PLUS at NatCon2026 in Puerto Rico.



WHAT IS A-PLUS?

A-PLUS, a non-profit postal association was organized in 1987 for the purpose of mentoring and developing African-American and other postal managers towards a successful career path. Although it was understood that African-Americans in the Postal Service were receiving training and some upwardly mobile opportunities through Affirmative Action and other programs, it was clearly obvious that many African-American managers lacked some of the primary tools necessary for immediate consideration and placement in mid-level, upper and executive management.

A-PLUS was established on the premise that while a significant number of African-Americans in the Postal Service have the required education, experience, skills, and the desire to pursue advanced management, there continues to be other considerations and needs for minorities. These special needs -- mentoring with confidence, personal development, networking, self-help education, for example - are major focal points for A-PLUS.

Only a small number of African-American managers spearheaded A-PLUS thirteen years ago. Today, the membership stands at over 1,000 and is growing. There are currently 40 active chapters throughout the United States and an intense campaign is underway to create more wide-spread involvement and recognition.

The A-PLUS membership consists of associate members, mid, upper, and executive managers who contribute their personal time and resources to help those in search of career advancement.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of A-PLUS is to promote the goals of the United States Postal Service, unify, and mentor African-American EAS/PCES employees and to monitor the statistical progress of minorities in hiring, promotions, separations, details and assignments, while forming beneficial alliances with organizations such as the NAACP, LUNA, NETWORK, corporate sponsors, and other supporters.

AFRICAN AMERICAN POSTAL LEAGUE UNITED FOR SUCCESS



Thank You to Our Valued Sponsors

A-PLUS extends heartfelt gratitude to all our 2025 sponsors for their generous support and partnership. Your commitment makes it possible for us to continue empowering postal employees through leadership development, mentorship, and career advancement opportunities.

Because of your support, A-PLUS can expand its reach, strengthen our programs, and inspire the next generation of leaders across the United States Postal Service. Together, we are cultivating excellence, fostering inclusion, and building a stronger future—one leader at a time.

