



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

National News Magazine – SPECIAL EDITION

“Welcoming Our New Leadership”

A-PLUS welcomes the 2026 – 2028 National Executive Board Officers and thanks the 2024 – 2026 Executive Board Officers for a job well done!

2026 – 2028 NATIONAL OFFICERS



Debra Clayton President	Alan C Lewis Chairman of the Board and Eastern Region Director	Brenda Blue Executive VP	Iris Bonhart Administrative VP	Patricia King Corresponding Secretary	Ricardo Jackson Treasurer	Lou Curry Parliamentarian	Melissa Glover Sergeant-At-Arms	Camille Wider Vice President of Retirees
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Wayne Vaughan Central Region President	Henry Gibson Eastern Region President	Tabitha Gales Northeast Region President	Betty Collins Southern Region President	Regina Beckham Western Region President	Mattie McGee Smith Central Region Director	Lyvette Washington Northeast Region Director	Awanda Hampton-Gaines Western Region Director	Fredrick Jonhson Southern Region Director
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2024 – 2026 NATIONAL OFFICERS



Debra Clayton President	Alan C Lewis Chairman of the Board and Eastern Region Director	Brenda Blue Executive VP	Iris Bonhart Administrative VP	Desai Abdul- Razzaaq Corresponding Secretary	Ricardo Jackson Treasurer	Lou Curry Parliamentarian	Gloria Davis Sergeant-At-Arms	Brenda Dupree Vice President of Retirees
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Gladys Jolla Central Region President	Cynthia Coles Eastern Region President	Lyvette Washington Northeast Region President	Josephine Wooley Southern Region President	Awanda Hampton-Gaines Western Region President	Wayne Vaughan Central Region Director	Prescott Butler Northeast Region Director	Pamela Brooks Western Region Director	Tina Foster Southern Region Director
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Greetings A-PLUS Members,

It is my honor to present this special edition of the A-PLUS Magazine, introducing the 2026–2028 A-PLUS Executive Officers, who will lead our organization with vision, integrity, and a commitment to excellence.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the 2024–2026 Executive Officers for their outstanding leadership and dedication to advancing the mission of A-PLUS. Their service has strengthened our organization and positioned us for continued success.

This edition also celebrates the historic 39th Annual A-PLUS National Convention in Dorado, Puerto Rico—the first National Convention held outside the continental United States. The event united members from across the nation for a memorable week of professional development, networking, fellowship, and cultural celebration.

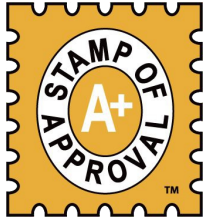
For nearly four decades, A-PLUS has remained committed to promoting the goals of the United States Postal Service while mentoring, developing, and advocating for African American EAS and PCES employees. Through strong partnerships and dedicated leadership, we continue to create opportunities for growth and advancement.

Our 2026–2028 Executive Officers are committed to building on this legacy by strengthening member engagement, fostering leadership, promoting diversity and inclusion, and preparing the next generation of leaders.

Thank you for your continued support of A-PLUS. Together, we will build on our proud history and embrace an exciting future.

Desai Abdul-Razzaq
Special Edition Editor
Past A-PLUS Corresponding Secretary 2024-2026

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DEBRA CLAYTON

President

2026 - 2028



Greeting A-PLUS!

I am Debra Clayton and it is an honor to begin my second term as your A-PLUS National President! I am excited to work alongside our newly elected National Executive Board as we continue advancing the mission of A-PLUS throughout the 2026–2028 term. I remain humbled and deeply grateful for the trust you have placed in me to lead this extraordinary organization.

Since joining A-PLUS in 1990, I have been privileged to serve in a variety of leadership roles—Chapter Secretary, Chapter President, Eastern Region Parliamentarian, Vice President, Director, and Chairman of the Board—before being elected as National President. As a proud member of the Triangle Chapter in Raleigh, NC, I am committed to upholding and strengthening the legacy of excellence that defines A-PLUS.

As your National President, my goals for this term are to:

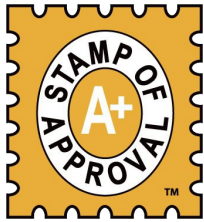
- **Support the Aims & Objectives** of A-PLUS
- **Expand resources for Chapters** that serve our members year-round
- **Enhance our digital presence** and communication channels
- **Revitalize and charter new Chapters** as we recruit, reclaim, and retain members through increased engagement
- **Increase training opportunities** across all levels of the organization
- **Develop emerging leaders** for the Postal Service and A-PLUS through initiatives such as FOCUS40
- **Honor our legacy** while embracing and empowering the next generation of leaders
- **Strengthen partnerships** with Affinity Groups, Management Associations, and our valued Sponsors

A brief look at my background: I began my USPS career in 1984 as a Mail Handler and retired after nearly 37 years of dedicated service. My work spanned multiple areas of the organization, primarily Marketing and Information Technology. As a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), I concluded my career as Senior Budget Systems Analyst for the Chief Information Officer (CIO). These experiences have shaped my commitment to protecting, strengthening, and elevating the A-PLUS brand.

Working closely with the National Executive Board, I look forward to developing strategies that advance our mission and ensure the continued success of our organization.

Beyond A-PLUS, I am an active member of Davie Street Presbyterian Church, the Joseph B. Winters Jr. NAPS Branch 177, UPMA, the Raleigh Chapter of The MOLES, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

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ALAN C. LEWIS **Chairman of the Board** **Eastern Region Director** **2026 - 2028**



Dear A-PLUS Members,

As I begin my second term as Chairman of the A-PLUS National Executive Board, I want to take a moment to sincerely thank each of you for your continued dedication, hard work, and unwavering support of A-PLUS. It is truly an honor to serve this organization alongside such committed and passionate members.

The success and strength of A-PLUS are a direct reflection of the time, energy, and heart that each of you brings to our mission every day. Your commitment does not go unnoticed, and I am deeply grateful for all that you do to help our organization grow and thrive.

I would also like to express my heartfelt appreciation for the incredible experience we recently shared at our convention in Puerto Rico and a special thank you to the Northeast Region for hosting. The event was not only a tremendous success, but also a meaningful opportunity for us to come together, strengthen relationships, exchange ideas, and celebrate the spirit of A-PLUS. Your participation, enthusiasm, and professionalism made the convention both memorable and impactful.

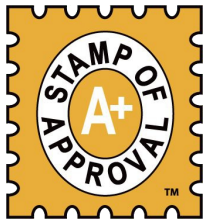
Congratulations to all our newly elected National, Regional and Chapter Officers for the 2026-2028 term! As we move forward into our new tenure, I am excited about the opportunities ahead and confident in what we can accomplish together. With your continued support and dedication, I know we will continue building on our success and advancing the mission of A-PLUS under the leadership of our second term President Debra Clayton.

Thank you again for your trust, commitment, and contributions to this organization. I look forward to serving alongside all of you in the years ahead.

Be blessed,

Alan C. Lewis
A-PLUS Chairman of the Board
A-PLUS Eastern Region Director
aplusalanlewis@gmail.com

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BRENDA BLUE

**Vice President
2026 - 2028**



GREETINGS, A-PLUS FAMILY!

It is both an honor and a privilege to begin my second term as your A-PLUS National Executive Vice President while continuing to serve as Focus40 Chair. I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside our National President, Executive Board, regional and chapter leaders, and the dedicated members who strengthen the legacy of A-PLUS every day.

"Leadership is not defined by the title we hold, but by the lives we encourage, the doors we open, and the legacy we leave for others."

My journey through A-PLUS—from Milwaukee Chapter President to Central Region President and now National Executive Vice President—has reinforced that effective leadership is built on service, collaboration, mentorship, and helping others succeed.

As we move forward, my focus remains on supporting the National President's vision, strengthening collaboration across our organization, developing future leaders through Focus40, and honoring the trailblazers who paved the way while preparing the next generation to lead with confidence and purpose.

Earning my Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership from Wilmington University reaffirmed my belief that learning never ends. Every opportunity to grow prepares us to serve others more effectively.

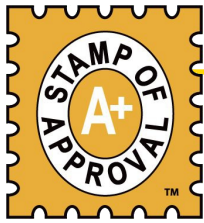
With more than 38 years of Postal Service leadership experience in finance, operations, compliance, statistical programs, and training, I remain passionate about developing people, building strong organizations, and creating opportunities for others to excel.

I look forward to working together as we continue strengthening A-PLUS through leadership, service, and a shared commitment to excellence. Thank you for your continued trust and support. I am honored to serve.

With humility and appreciation,

Dr. Brenda Blue
A-PLUS National Executive Vice President
Focus40 Chair

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IRIS BONHART

**Administrative Vice President
2026 - 2028**



Service Before Self

Having several family members in the United States Air Force, I was surrounded by military culture, and I adopted one of the most impactful USAF: Service before Self. I will continue to SERVE the membership as your elected National Administrative Vice President (AVP), and the best way I can introduce myself to you through the acronym S-E-R-V-E.

S is for SUPPORT. As AVP, my duties have a wide range regarding the National Executive Board, and I primarily work at the national level in facilitating communication, coordinating the organization's administrative processes, and maintaining perpetual documents related to the organization's operation and archives.

E is about ENGAGEMENT! Celebrating 39 years, Engagement is key to help move both the United States Postal Service and A-PLUS into the next 39 years. My objective as your AVP is to diligently work with the National Executive Board in the engagement of postal leadership at all levels regarding accessibility to the A-PLUS membership.

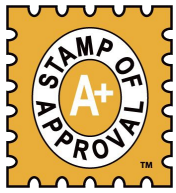
R represents Retain/Recruit/Reclaim. As a National Board Member, I represent the A-PLUS Brand and spread the word and work of A-PLUS. A Son of A-PLUS, USPS Vice President, Processing Operations, Eastern Region, Todd Hawkins said, "Each A-PLUS member is an Ambassador for the A-PLUS Organization." We all are A-PLUS Brand Ambassadors, and I urge you to invite potential members to a meeting or sponsor them for an event. Whatever your involvement, allow me to thank you in advance.

V stands for VIVIFY. Vivify means to bring life; to enliven. I don't wish for A-PLUS to rest on its laurels. In my capacity as AVP, I'll work diligently to examine ways to modernize procedures. Using my experiences in hospitality, information technology, human capital, critical thinking, and project management, I'll work to give a new energy to existing A-PLUS activities and adapt new processes because I desire to help the organization achieve growth, and trend sustainability for the future.

E is for Empower. I am energized by the Legacy and celebrate the Founders whose vision saw past the obstacles, whose passion surpassed the negativity, and whose leadership ability remained steadfast.

We All stand on the Shoulders of their Legacy! The reason I joined A-PLUS while working in Corporate America is because I was impressed with A-PLUS' member interaction and genuine care regarding a person's professional growth. Compared to the cost (which has not changed since I joined), the BENEFIT to membership is PRICELE\$S!

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PATRICIA KING

**Corresponding Secretary
2026–2028**



Greetings, A-PLUS Family!

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as your Corresponding Secretary and a member of the A-PLUS National Executive Board for the 2026–2028 term. I am grateful for your trust and committed to serving our organization with integrity, professionalism, and excellence.

My journey with the United States Postal Service began in 1997 as a Part-Time Flexible Clerk in Louisville, Kentucky. Today, I serve as a Disability Compliance Specialist at Postal Service Headquarters. Throughout my career, I have been blessed to serve in leadership roles in labor relations, operations, workforce planning, learning and development, customer service, and as a Postmaster. I remain committed to lifelong learning and professional growth through leadership development and Lean Six Sigma training.

My A-PLUS journey began through the mentorship of the late Wilburn Malone, whose vision of preparing the next generation of leaders continues to inspire me every day. His encouragement taught me the importance of servant leadership and giving back to an organization that has given so much to me.

I have been honored to serve as Eastern Region Secretary, Kentuckiana Chapter President, and in several leadership roles within NETWORK, Toastmasters, and community organizations. These experiences have strengthened my passion for leadership development, mentorship, and service.

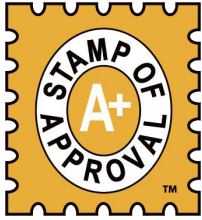
As your Corresponding Secretary, I pledge to communicate with accuracy, transparency, and professionalism while supporting the vision of our National President and Executive Board. Together, we will continue strengthening A-PLUS, preserving our legacy, and preparing future leaders to serve with excellence.

Thank you for your confidence and support. I look forward to serving each of you with dedication, humility, and purpose.

In Service,

Patricia King
Corresponding Secretary
A-PLUS National Executive Board

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RICARDO JACKSON

**Treasurer
2026 - 2028**



Greetings A-PLUS,

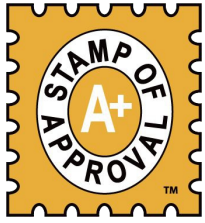
My name is Ricardo Jackson and I have been the A-PLUS National Treasurer for eight years. During that time, I have managed the financial business of the organization, while serving under 3 different National Presidents. As a non-profit organization, it is imperative that we ensure that every penny counts toward our bottom-line. As part of my responsibility, I input data into the workbook that houses information relative to dues payments, financial reviews, and the overall balancing of the check book.

As the Treasurer, my duties are very similar to what most of our members do with regards to keeping track of their income and expenses. Although the function of the position has changed some over the years, the basic financial concepts are still used today to keep us on track and out of the IRS dog house. Each of our 5 Regions have their own Treasurer, as well as each chapter. The formula for success requires the help of the National Board, Regional Officers, and the membership at large. If everyone does their part, the job becomes much easier for everyone involved.

I look forward to working with all our members and providing the appropriate information and training that will continue the success of A-PLUS at every level. Thank You!

Richard Jackson
A-PLUS National Treasurer

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LOU CURRY

**Parliamentarian
2026 - 2028**



As I begin my second term as your A-PLUS National Parliamentarian, I remain filled with gratitude, purpose, and a commitment to A-PLUS and its members.

Every dues-paying member of A-PLUS holds a powerful truth: your voice matters. You have the right to expect accountability, transparency, and excellence from every officer who represents you. My role is to protect those rights, strengthen our processes, and ensure that our democracy within A-PLUS is vibrant, accessible, and worthy of respect.

My journey as Parliamentarian has been shaped by a simple belief: Knowledge is power — and when we share knowledge, we share power. **INCLUSION!**

This belief guided me when I took on the challenge of rebuilding the Northeast Region after its decade of inactivity. A-PLUS was out of compliance, and members in that Region had lost their representation. Through strategy, collaboration, and unwavering determination — even in the midst of a global pandemic — the Region secured the successful reactivation effective Jan. 2022. No funding. No shortcuts. Just commitment, community, and movement with integrity and purpose.

My Vision for 2024–2028: Empowerment Through Knowledge

1. **A Strong, United Parliamentary Team:** I will continue building a network of Regional and Chapter Parliamentarians, and future Parliamentarians, who are confident, informed, and united. Parliamentary education sessions — open to all members — will help us grow together in understanding and functioning within the guidelines of Robert's Rules of Order and our A-PLUS Bylaws.
2. **A Living, Evolving Constitution & Bylaws** Our governing documents should reflect who we are today and who we aspire to be tomorrow. With the members of the National Constitution Committee, a Standing Committee, we will continue to lead and encourage a comprehensive review of the A-PLUS Constitution and Bylaws, inviting every member to contribute ideas, insights, and recommendations. Together, we will shape a Parliamentary/Governance foundation embracing our A-PLUS NatCon2026 theme: **IMPACT—Igniting Minds. Propelling Advancement. Challenging Tomorrow.**

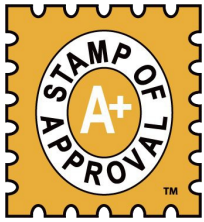
Looking Toward the Future

A-PLUS stands at a moment of tremendous possibility; our potential for growth and **IMPACT** is vast. The work we do today, strengthening our processes, educating and including our members, and developing leaders, will determine the A-PLUS we are handing off to the next generation.

I am committed to building a culture where knowledge is shared, voices are heard, and leadership is nurtured and inclusive. And above all; serving you with integrity and transparency.

Together, we nurture and enable **IMPACT!**

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MELISSA GLOVER

**Sergeant at Arms
2026 - 2028**



Good day to all A-PLUS Members,

It is with deep gratitude and great enthusiasm that I introduce myself as the A-PLUS National Sergeant at Arms for the 2026–2028 term. I am honored by the trust placed in me and fully committed to serving our organization with integrity, consistency, and purpose.

A-PLUS has a powerful legacy of leadership, advocacy, and excellence. As Sergeant at Arms, I will work diligently to uphold the standards that define us — ensuring order, professionalism, and respect in every space where we gather. My focus is to support our National Leadership team, safeguard the integrity of our processes, and help create an environment where every member feels valued, welcomed, and empowered to contribute.

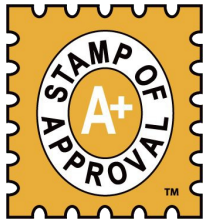
In this role, I will ensure that our meetings and events run smoothly, respectfully, and in alignment with our values. But beyond logistics, I am committed to fostering a welcoming, inclusive, and engaging environment where every member feels seen, heard, and appreciated.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve during this important chapter in our organization's journey. I look forward to working alongside each of you as we continue to elevate A-PLUS and expand the reach of our mission.

In service and appreciation,

Melissa Glover
National Sergeant at Arms

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CAMILLE WIDER

**Vice President of Retirees
2026 - 2028**



Dear A-PLUS Family,

I am honored and excited to reach out to you as your Vice President of Retirees. Thank you for your continued trust and support. It is a privilege to serve our community of retirees, and I look forward to once again working alongside each of you to enhance our collective experience.

As retirees, each of you play an integral role in our organization. Your wealth of knowledge, experience, and unique perspectives enrich our community and guide our initiatives. It is through your voices that we can advocate effectively for the issues that matter most to our members. Your contributions are invaluable, and together, we can create a supportive environment that fosters connection, learning, and fulfillment.

Your life experiences provide insights that can help shape our programs and activities. Your stories inspire new generations of members and remind us of the importance of our mission. Our Founders and Retirees have always been at the forefront of advocating for positive change within our organization. Your engagement in discussions and initiatives ensures that our collective needs are met. The bonds we form as retirees strengthen our organization. Sharing your time and expertise fosters a sense of belonging and camaraderie that is essential for a thriving organization.

In the coming months, I am eager to explore new opportunities for engagement and collaboration. Together, we will be organizing events and initiatives that not only address retirees' interests but also celebrate the diverse contributions of our retiree community. Your feedback and suggestions are crucial, so please feel free to reach out to me directly with your ideas.

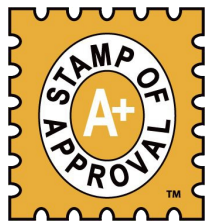
Thank you once again for your support and trust. Together, let's continue to make A-PLUS a welcoming and empowering space for all members. I look forward to connecting with each of you as we embark on this exciting journey together.

Warm regards,

Camille B. Wider

Vice President of Retirees, A-PLUS

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WAYNE VAUGHAN

**Central Region President
2026 - 2028**



Good day to all A-PLUS Members,

I am honored to serve as your Central Region President. While I feel a deep sense of responsibility stepping into this role following the late Ms. Gladys Jolla, I am inspired by her incredible legacy and am fully committed to building upon it for our members.

A proud A-PLUS member for 12 years, I have served in numerous leadership roles, from local Chapter President to Central Region Director. My focus has always been championing our mission: mentoring potential, developing talent through hands-on workshops, and fostering community impact. These priorities led the Indianapolis chapter to record-breaking growth and recognition as the "Largest Mid-Sized Chapter."

I bring that same drive to this office. Together, we will tackle our challenges head-on—revitalizing chapters, serving our communities, and placing qualified members in key roles. Let's get to work!

Wayne Vaughan

A-PLUS Central Region President

2026 USPS Career Conferences

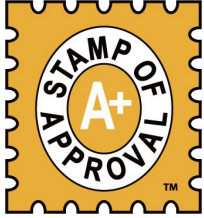


We look forward to seeing you at our Career Conferences!

These events are for USPS employees across the country to explore career opportunities and advancement, learn about potential career paths, and network with leaders across the organization preparing themselves for future roles.

USPS Career Conferences are for USPS employees only. Registration is required for attendance. Seats are limited. Attendance is voluntary and off-the-clock. Conference fees are non-refundable.

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HENRY GIBSON

**Eastern Region President
2026 - 2028**



Greetings, A-PLUS Family!

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as your Eastern Region President and a member of the A-PLUS National Executive Board for the 2026–2028 term. I am sincerely grateful for your trust and confidence, and I look forward to working alongside our chapter leaders, Executive Board, and members as we continue building on the strong foundation of A-PLUS.

Throughout my A-PLUS journey, I have witnessed firsthand the power of mentorship, professional development, and collaboration. These principles will continue to guide my leadership as we strengthen our chapters, expand membership, develop future leaders, and uphold the Aims and Objectives of A-PLUS.

Our 38th Annual Eastern Region Conference theme, "RISE in the Carolinas: Reclaim, Inspire, Strengthen and Elevate!", reflects the direction I envision for our region. Together, we will reclaim opportunities, inspire one another through service and leadership, strengthen our organization through active participation, and elevate the next generation of A-PLUS leaders.

As your Eastern Region President, I pledge to lead with transparency, respect, and accountability while supporting our National President and National Executive Board. I encourage every member to become actively involved by attending meetings, serving on committees, mentoring others, and inviting new members to experience the value of A-PLUS.

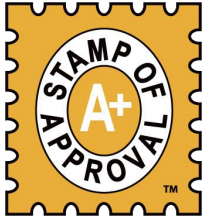
I also extend my sincere appreciation to our sponsors, partners, Postal leadership, and volunteers whose continued support makes our scholarships, community outreach, leadership development, and conferences possible.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to A-PLUS. I look forward to serving each of you as we continue to grow, lead, and RISE together.

In Service,

Henry Gibson
Eastern Region President
A-PLUS National Executive Board

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TABITHA GALES

**Northeast Region President
2026 - 2028**



Greetings to all!

The Northeast Region proudly hosted the 39th National A-PLUS Convention from May 5-7, 2026, at the Embassy Suites in Dorado, Puerto Rico. The convention was truly remarkable, offering an unforgettable experience for everyone involved, and I thank everyone who attended this marvelous event. At the heart of A-PLUS lies a clear mission: to mentor, coach, and empower future leaders within the United States Postal Service.

I am dedicated to leading our members with unwavering integrity, open communication, and a forward-thinking approach. A-PLUS is committed to ensuring that every resource is used wisely, every decision aligns with our mission, and our collective efforts drive meaningful and lasting improvements both in our communities and in individual careers.

I encourage all members to make the most of our recently introduced Leadership Development Program, Focus 40. This initiative is designed to help you prepare for the next stage of your professional journey. Our organization is fueled by enthusiasm, collaborative spirit, and a unified goal of shaping a promising future. By embracing teamwork and fostering continuous growth, we consistently support one another in reaching new heights of success within the United States Postal Service.

"IMPACT"

Igniting Minds

Propelling Advancement

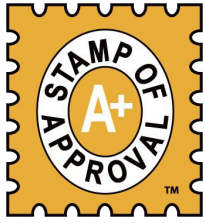
Challenging Tomorrow

With appreciation and dedication,

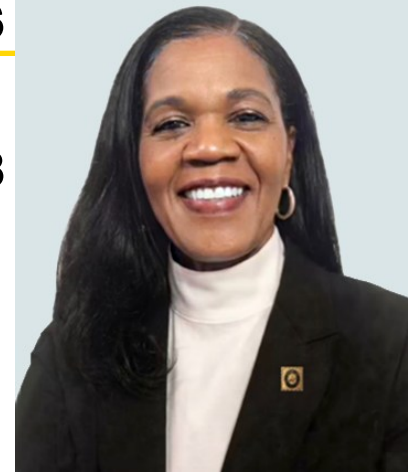
Tabitha Gales

A-PLUS Northeast Region President

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BETTY COLLINS **Southern Region President** **2026 - 2028**



Greetings, A-PLUS Family!

It is both a tremendous honor and a heartfelt privilege to serve as your newly elected Southern Region President and as a member of the A-PLUS National Executive Board for the 2026–2028 term. I am sincerely grateful for your trust and the opportunity to serve alongside an outstanding team of leaders dedicated to advancing the mission and legacy of A-PLUS.

The Southern Region has always been defined by its passion, resilience, and commitment to service. As we begin this new chapter, my vision is to strengthen our foundation by expanding membership, developing future leaders, and creating meaningful opportunities for every member to engage and grow.

Our success depends on each of us. I encourage every member to get involved by serving on a committee, attending meetings and training, mentoring others, and sharing your talents. Every contribution helps strengthen our organization and prepares the next generation of leaders.

Membership growth will remain one of my highest priorities. I challenge each of you to become an ambassador for your chapter by inviting coworkers, friends, retirees, and future leaders to experience the fellowship, professional development, and purpose that make A-PLUS special. Together, we can welcome new members while reconnecting with those who have been away.

Our theme for the 37th Annual Southern Region Conference, "Reaching Back to Move Forward," reflects both our history and our future. Join us in Nashville, Tennessee, October 9–10, 2026, as we honor our founders, celebrate our accomplishments, and prepare tomorrow's leaders. I encourage everyone to make plans now to attend.

As we prepare for our Half-Price Membership Drive, I challenge every member to recruit or reconnect at least one member. Small efforts by each of us will create a lasting impact and ensure A-PLUS continues to grow and thrive.

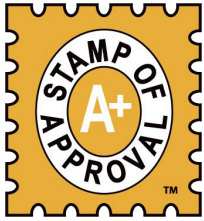
Thank you for your continued dedication and support. I look forward to working alongside each of you as we strengthen our Southern Region, grow our membership, and continue building on the proud legacy of A-PLUS.

With gratitude and in service,

Betty Collins
Southern Region President
A-PLUS National Executive Board



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REGINA BECKHAM

Western Region President

2026 - 2028



For those who don't know me, I am originally from Arizona, where I began my postal career as an LSM Clerk in 1984. I was promoted to an EAS Supervisor position at the Phoenix GMF, where I supervised mail processing on the LSM, automation, and manual operations. I was promoted to a Labor Relations Specialist and held this position in both the Oklahoma and Arizona Districts. Additionally, I have had several detail opportunities as a Manager of Labor Relations in the Seattle, Arizona, and Central Pennsylvania Districts. In 2016, I became the Labor Relations Manager of the Capitol District in Washington, D.C.

After working 39 years in the Postal Service, including over 25 years in Labor Relations/ Human Resources departments, I retired in 2022 in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia (DMV) area.

I have been an active member of A-PLUS for over 20 years. I have held several positions in the Arizona Chapter such as president, treasurer, parliamentarian, and secretary. I love travel and, now that I am retired, I am officially a "snowbird" who migrates between the East and West Coast to escape the Phoenix heat. My retirement has given me more time to focus on working with A-PLUS for its continued success.

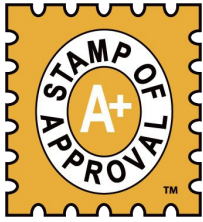
As we make changes in the Western Region, together we will continue to shine as we grow our membership. Our goals and vision for the Western Region are the same as A-PLUS National—to make an IMPACT in the success of the Postal Service and A-PLUS. With your help, we can develop a new generation of leaders who will meet the various challenges of a changing Postal Service and organization. By recognizing the relevant needs of our members as they progress through their careers, A-PLUS is a valuable resource for our members' growth, development, and success. Whether it is providing training and mentorship through career conferences, workshops, and Zoom meetings, we will be there for our members.

Thank you, A-PLUS National and the Western Region, for your support and the opportunity to serve as Western Region President. No matter how large or small, the Western Region will continue to show up and get the job done. I am committed. "Let's get 'er done!"

Respectfully,

Regina Beckham, President
A-PLUS Western Region

AFRICAN AMERICAN POSTAL LEAGUE UNITED FOR SUCCESS



MATTIE MCGEE SMITH **Central Region Director** **2026 - 2028**



Hello A-PLUS family and friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for entrusting me to be Central Region Director, I look forward to working with other Region Directors and learning what it means to be a part of an great organization as I will take this opportunity to make A-PLUS proud.

I have been with the Postal Service for 21 years now and joined A-PLUS 8 years ago and I enjoy everything it stands for and the beliefs A-PLUS has in its members. It has also been a pleasure serving as Vice President for the Indianapolis Chapter for 2023-2025 term and now being entrusted as Central Region Director.

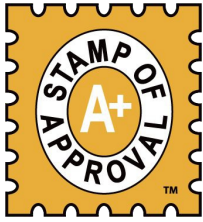
A-PLUS means to me a clear vision of success and unfiltered opportunity, knowledge, mentorship and leadership. This organization delivers assistance to all its members no matter what their status in the organization, it gives hope for your future and that's why I believe in this organization and all that it stands for.

As the Central Region Director I will take my position proudly and serve the A-PLUS community with all I have as well as reach one teaches one, about what A-PLUS stands for.

Thank You

Mattie McGee-Smith
Indianapolis Chapter
Central Region Director

AFRICAN AMERICAN POSTAL LEAGUE UNITED FOR SUCCESS



LYVETTE WASHINGTON

Northeast Region Director

2026 - 2028



Greetings A-PLUS Family,

I have been a dedicated member of the African American Postal League United for Success (A-PLUS) with a distinguished career spanning three decades. I began my postal journey as a Part-Time Flexible (PTF) letter carrier, and I rose through the ranks to retire as a Postmaster.

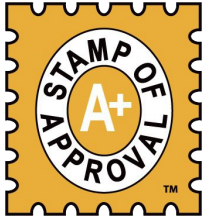
Much of my success is due to the guidance and training I received through A-PLUS. The organization's commitment to nurturing talent and providing professional development opportunities has been instrumental in shaping my career. Throughout my tenure, it has always been my aim to contribute to the APLUS mission of fostering professional development and equity among postal workers, giving back what was freely given to me.

My leadership positions within A-PLUS includes serving as Local Chapter President, Northeast Region Vice President, Northeast Region President, and currently in my second term as Northeast Region Director. In each of these roles, I have demonstrated a profound dedication to ensuring that A-PLUS remains a viable cornerstone of support and empowerment.

As the newly re-elected Northeast Director of A-PLUS, my goal is to continue to increase membership and champion initiatives that promote diversity, inclusion, and professional development by ensuring that A-PLUS's legacy of success endures for many future generations to come.

Lyvette Washington

Northeast Region Director



AWANDA HAMPTON-GAINES

Western Region Director

2026 - 2028



Greetings A-PLUS!

I, Awanda Hampton Gaines, am a dedicated leader, retiree, and lifelong advocate for postal and retiree organizations. I have been a proud member of A-PLUS for 39 years and currently serves as the Western Region Director, where I actively support and promote the organization's mission, goals, and commitment to its members.

I retired from the United States Postal Service after a distinguished career, serving as an Operations Support Specialist, Level 18. Having been retired for 21 years, I continues to apply my leadership, experience, and passion for service in support of the retiree community.

Family is at the heart of my life. I cherish family Sunday dinners and value the time I spend talking with my grandchildren. As a devoted widow, I was blessed to be married to the love of my life for 47 years.

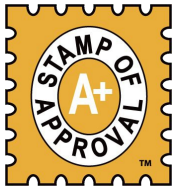
I'm the proud grandmother of 14 grandchildren, 11 granddaughters and 3 grandsons. I am the great-grandmother of 36 great-grandchildren; 22 great-granddaughters and 14 great-grandsons.

In my leisure time, you will find me reading due to my lifelong love for books.

My commitment to family, service, and lifelong learning reflect the values that have guided me throughout my life and career. I live in Goodyear Arizona and I'm presently taking care of my 95 year old Mother.

Awanda Hampton-Gaines
Western Region Director

AFRICAN AMERICAN POSTAL LEAGUE UNITED FOR SUCCESS



FREDRICK JOHNSON

Southern Region Director

2026 - 2028



Hello A-PLUS,

It is a privilege to serve you once again. First, I would like to thank you for your support as I step back into the role of Southern Region Director. I look forward to representing the members of the Southern Region on both the A-PLUS National Executive Board and the Southern Region Board. Thank you for the trust and confidence you have placed in me.

Previously, I served as President of the Montgomery Chapter, completed two terms as Southern Region Sergeant at Arms, and previously served as Southern Region Director. In addition to supporting A-PLUS events across multiple chapters and regions, I have been actively involved at our National Conventions and Regional Conferences, where you can often find me serving in the hospitality suites and assisting during general sessions, business meetings, luncheons, and banquets.

I began my postal career as a Rural Carrier in Montgomery, Alabama. I later transitioned into management as a Supervisor of Customer Services (EAS-17) before being promoted to Manager of Customer Services (EAS-21) in Kenner, Louisiana. I am also a proud military veteran with 16 years of service. In 2015, I retired from the United States Postal Service after completing a combined total of 31 years of federal service.

I have been a proud member of A-PLUS for nearly 20 years, and I am honored to once again serve as your Southern Region Director. I am committed to helping our region continue to grow and thrive while upholding the mission and values of A-PLUS. I pledge to support the professional and personal growth of our members and will work diligently on your behalf as a member of both the Regional and National Executive Boards.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I look forward to working with each of you as we continue moving the Southern Region forward together.

Frederick Johnson

A-PLUS Southern Region Director

AFRICAN AMERICAN POSTAL LEAGUE UNITED FOR SUCCESS



How to Dress for a Job Interview

When [preparing for an interview](#), think of selecting your interview attire as the icing on the cake — that final detail that pulls all your efforts together.

When considering how to dress for an interview, use your best judgment and don't overthink it. You should choose clothes that make you feel comfortable and confident — nothing that you'd have to tug or pull at or something that would wrinkle easily on your commute to the interview.

- Avoid revealing clothing and anything that doesn't fit properly.
- Check for stains, snags, pet hair and holes. Make sure it's cleaned and ready a few days before your interview.

The night before the interview, lay out or hang up your outfit. It should be out of reach of children, house-mates or pets.

How to match your outfit to the workplace

Because you've already [researched the company](#), you should have a sense of the workplace and what level of formality is appropriate. Look at photos on their social media sites to get a sense of what people wear at the office.

For more casual workplaces, professional-looking casual job interview attire is appropriate. For women, this could mean:

- Dark jeans, a blouse and cardigan
- A knee-length skirt and button down shirt or blouse
- Both options can be worn with flats or heels, avoid open-toe shoes

For men, this could mean:

- Dark jeans or slacks and button down shirt or polo
- This can be worn with any closed-toe shoes that are neat and clean.

For a business casual environment, you'll need to dress up a bit more. For women, this could mean,

- Black or navy dress pants or pencil skirt
- Button down shirt and cardigan or jacket
- Flats or heels are appropriate

For men, this could mean,

- Black or navy dress slacks with a belt, button down shirt and tie
- A blazer is optional
- Oxfords or loafers

THE INTERVIEW DRESS CODE

DO'S

HAIR

- Neatly brushed or combed
- Pulled away from face

TOP

- Neutral colored Blazer
- Neutral colored button-up, blouse or good quality knit sweater.

BOTTOM

- Match blazer
- Skirts no shorter than 2 inches above knee

SHOES

- Closed toe
- Dress shoes, slip ons or heels
- Flat or low height heel

ACCESSORIES

- No more than 3 jewelry pieces.
- Match belt with shoes
- Ties be a toned down color or pattern



DON'TS

HAIR

- Dirty or Messy
- Covering face

TOP

- Low cut tops
- T shirts or tank tops
- Hoodies
- Flashy shirts

BOTTOM

- Shorts
- Mini Skirts
- Jeans
- Sweats

SHOES

- Sneakers
- Open toed
- Stiletto or Platform heels

ACCESSORIES

- Lots of flashy jewelry
- Obnoxious ties
- Flashy belts



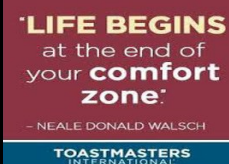
<https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/interviewing/how-to-dress-for-a-job-interview>

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Benefits of Public Speaking

- Enhances personal development
- Influences your world
- Advances your career



Public speaking: (sometimes termed oratory or oration) is the process or act of performing a presentation (a speech) focused around an individual's direct speech to a live audience in a structured, deliberate manner in order to inform, influence, or entertain them.



Benefits of being a Toastmaster

- Unlimited Personal Growth
- Clear Communication
- Increased Self-Confidence
- Improved Leadership Skills
- Career Advancement
- Find a club near you!

<https://www.toastmasters.org/find-a-club>

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

www.toastmasters.org

Fear of public speaking?

Interested in building leadership skills?

Toastmasters can help!

Join Today!

Develop better speaking and presenting skills

Build strong leadership and mentoring skills

Learn to think quickly and clearly

Open doors in your personal and professional life



The United States Postal Service (USPS) is the second largest employer in the United States, delivering more than 200 billion pieces of mail per year — connecting virtually every U.S. home and business. As a global leader in mail delivery and successful corporate business practices, we seek the best leadership available to continue our excellence in operational performance.

USPS offers corporate careers in accounting, business, finance, logistics, marketing, sales, and human resources. Management, supervisory, and administrative skills from the private sector correspond with many USPS corporate jobs. Our corporate and administrative careers provide outstanding opportunities for career advancement and growth.

AFRICAN AMERICAN POSTAL LEAGUE UNITED FOR SUCCESS



African American Postal League
United for Success

LEADERSHIP • SERVICE • LEGACY



A-PLUS SOUTHERN REGION

37th Annual Conference

📍 NASHVILLE, TN | 📅 OCTOBER 9 - 11, 2026

Betty Collins, President

THEME: REACHING BACK TO MOVE FORWARD

HOST HOTEL

Cambria Hotel NASHVILLE AIRPORT

📍 44 Rachel Drive, Nashville, TN 37214
615-931-2615

SCAN TO
RESERVE
YOUR ROOM!



SCAN ME

REGISTER
HERE!



📶
FREE
INTERNET ACCESS

🍴
RESTAURANT
ON-SITE

🏋️
FITNESS
CENTER

🕒
DIGITAL
CHECK-IN

💼
BUSINESS
SERVICES

👑
CONCIERGE

Room rates are \$134.00 per night plus applicable taxes.

**Please make your reservations as soon as possible
and by September 18, 2026 to get the group rate.**

When making reservations by phone at 615-931-2615,
refer to **GROUP CODE: BPRAKQ** for A-PLUS.
48-HOUR Cancellation Policy prior to day of arrival.



TRANSPORTATION:

Complimentary Hotel Shuttle from Nashville International Airport (BNA)
to the Cambria Hotel is approximately a 5-minute ride;
the shuttle runs from 5:00am to 11:00pm.



AFRICAN AMERICAN POSTAL LEAGUE UNITED FOR SUCCESS



A-PLUS 2026 EASTERN REGION CONFERENCE

**GREAT
WOLF LODGE,
CONCORD, NC**

SEPTEMBER 24th - 27th 2026
(Actual conference days 25th - 26th)

Room reservations can be made by calling: (866) 751-9653 or online
at www.greatwolf.com/ Referencing Block Code: 2609ACON.
Reservations must be made prior to: Monday, August 24, 2026.

July 4 - July 31st



SPECIAL OFFERS & PAYMENT

Early Bird Special: \$220 !!

\$235 Non-Members

\$200 Retirees

\$179 per night

Several ways to pay: Zelle, Cashapp & Credit Card



HIGHLIGHTS

- Meet & Greet
- Banquet
- Informative Workshops
- Access to water park

For Additional Information

Chair Carl Walton: Email Carlwa@gmail.com, contact number: 336-334-2309
Co Chair Bieisha Smith: Email 813saunders@gmail.com, contact number 704-605-1395

AFRICAN AMERICAN POSTAL LEAGUE UNITED FOR SUCCESS



SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 18 2026

A-PLUS

JOIN

US!

NORTHEAST REGION CONFERENCE

TAKING THE
CHALLENGE

A DAY OF IMPACT!

PALISADES CENTER
1000 PALISADES CENTER DR
WEST NYACK, NY 10994



TABITHA GALES,
NORTHEAST REGION PRESIDENT

we can
YES
do it

Great things are
done by a series of
small things
brought together.

Vincent van Gogh.

PURPOSE

The purpose of A-PLUS shall be:

- A. Promote the goals of the United States Postal Service in the economical and efficient delivery of products and services in a safe manner.
- B. Mentor and train African-Americans and others.
- C. Support and assist in developmental opportunities for career and personal advancement.
- D. Develop the knowledge, skills and abilities of the United States Postal Service's African-Americans and others.
- E. Unify African-Americans and others into a cohesive and responsible voice of consciousness in the United States Postal Service.
- F. Serve as a networking vehicle for African-Americans and others in the United States Postal Service.
- G. Foster communications among the members of the organization and the United States Postal Service.
- H. Foster partnerships within the African-American and other communities.
- I. Monitor the statistical progress of African-Americans and others in hiring, training, promotions, separations and detail assignments.

AFRICAN AMERICAN POSTAL LEAGUE UNITED FOR SUCCESS



A-PLUS WASHINGTON METRO "DC" CHAPTER MLK Banquet and Angelo Wider Scholarship Awards

Saturday, August 1, 2026

American Legion

Post 275

8201 MLK HWY

Glenarden, MD 20706

2pm to 6pm

tickets: \$55.00 each

table of 8 - \$400



Congratulations
to this year's
MLK recipient
KIMBERLY HARRIS



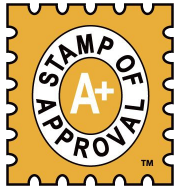
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Pay Your 2026 Membership Dues

Thank you for your continued support.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!





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.

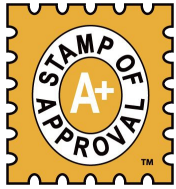
Only a small number of African-American managers spearheaded A-PLUS thirteen years ago. Today, the membership stands at over 1,000 and is growing. There are currently 40 active chapters throughout the United States and an intense campaign is underway to create more wide-spread involvement and recognition.

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



THINGS EVERY A-PLUS MEMBER SHOULD KNOW

Below is a list of some things that as a member of A-PLUS, you should know. The things listed are in no order. Please keep a copy of this with you when you are attending meetings etc.

1. CHAPTER MONTHLY MEETINGS

A-PLUS chapters should have a meeting at least once every month. There should be a specific date, time and place for these meetings. When changes occurs such as the dates, times and the place, you must notify all members of the change in a timely manner. (preferably in writing). An email or minutes in the mail from the last meeting could be the method to use.

2. GUEST SPEAKER/SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT

During at least eight (8) of the monthly meetings, you should have some type of training or a guest speaker come in (preferably an expert in the topic or training to be discussed), from the plant, District or Area office or outside of the Postal Service.

3. MEETING MINUTES

Prior to the monthly meeting you should receive a copy of the prior monthly meeting minutes from the local secretary; if you do not receive the minutes in the mail or by email prior to the meeting then there should be typed copies available for all members at the meeting.

4. MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT

At each monthly meeting all member should receive a typed copy of the treasurer's report. That report should, at the least, contain a beginning and ending balance for the prior month. It should include a breakdown of all money taken in and all moneys spent out during the prior month. Also, an original copy of the latest bank statement should be available for members to review. (This must be complied with. The bank statement should be no more than a month old and presented each month to the membership to review if they chose to do so).

5. MEMBERSHIP

Starting July 1, of each year and continuing for the remainder of the year, new members (meaning a person that has never been a member of A-PLUS) can join A-PLUS for half price. That means that an EAS member can join for \$50 and pay the one-time initiation fee of \$25 and a craft employee or non-postal persons can join A-PLUS for \$25 and the one-time initiation fee of \$25.

Do not deny new members the right to join the organization for half price. You would be doing them and the organization an injustice to take the full price money when you know that they should be paying half price. In fact, after the National in April or May if you have new members then ready to join you can hold their dues until July 1, and they can join for half price. You are reminded, do not take their full price dues money and then wait until July 1 and send in the half price money and your chapter keep the other half. Do not do that, if you have taken the full dues and have not turned the dues money in to the national yet then you can refund the new member half of their dues and they can join for half price.

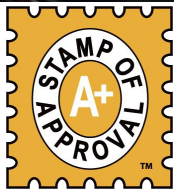
6. ELECTED OFFICER'S POSITION

You cannot hold two elected officer's positions at the same time. If you are elected to a position at the national level, you cannot at the same time hold an elected office at the region or a local chapter. And you cannot hold two elected positions at the national, regional or local level of the organization.

7. ANNUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCES

Each region should have a one or two-day conference each year. A-PLUS's Constitution and Bylaws states that annually each region should hold a conference with the exception of the region that hosts the National convention. I would suggest that each Region, meet every year, even the year they host the National Convention and meet for one day. It is urgent that you meet as a Region to discuss Regional business. Especially, things such as membership, training, networking and the kinds of things that allow Regions to grown. There is no time at the national convention to discuss or acted upon regional specific items.

AFRICAN AMERICAN POSTAL LEAGUE UNITED FOR SUCCESS



THINGS EVERY A-PLUS MEMBER SHOULD KNOW (cont.)

8. PLANNING ON ATTENDING A REGIONAL/NATIONAL CONFERENCE

It is critical that you start as soon as you can prepare for the Convention/Conference. Always try to get the Early Bird Conference rate. Reserve your room at the hotel as soon as you can start booking rooms (you can always cancel a room). Usually you have from 24 to 48 hours prior to check in time to cancel without a penalty. Start checking for cheap flights (if you are flying) at the least two or three months out. Your chapter can have fund raisers during the year to help pay members registration or other parts of the trip. Usually if a chapter is able they help send their President to the Convention/Conference.

9. APPROVED LEAVE

Next, you want to put in for annual leave for the days needed to attend the National Convention/Regional Conference. Do not leave for the convention/conference without approved annual leave for the workdays you will be away. When you leave your official work location, without prior approved annual leave, you put your job in jeopardy and the job of any high-ranking official from your facility that attends the Convention/Conference and see you there. You must adhere to the rules regarding your employment and A-PLUS does not support any action contrary to the Postal Service leave policy. We want you at the convention, but we want you there legally.

10. PERSONAL E-MAIL

A-PLUS conduct most of its communication by way of email. It is essential that you check your email at least every other day, especially if you hold an office and it does not take long to check it. When you wait weeks and some months then yes you may have more emails than you care to read. Most of what I send out is important information that you need to know. If you do not have an email address you can get one free from A-PLUS if you are a paid member. If you want to inquire about A-PLUS email, you can contact Mr. Darryl Joseph, Web Manager, at dj@aplus.cc.

11. A-PLUS WEBSITE

A-PLUS has a web site and it will be updated at the least every quarter. You should visit it regularly for new updated messages. You can log on to our web site at www.aplus.cc. If you are an officer, you should check your email messages at the least every other day. Members should do the same because every time the President or Vice-President get information they should pass that information on to their chapter members.

12. STARTING A NEW CHAPTER – WHAT TO DO?

What do I need to do to start a chapter? I'm glad you asked. If you are interested in starting a chapter, find out which Region you belong to and contact the Regional President or any Regional officer. You will be required to have a minimum of 7 paid members, at least 2 of which must be EAS employees. The interested group will be required to work with the Regional President and other officers who will provide further details and host informational meetings about A-PLUS. You will be required to select a proposed name for your chapter, elect interim officers and submit a written request to the Regional President to start a chapter. If approved by the Region, the Regional President will submit a request to the National Board of Directors for approval to charter a new chapter.

Once approved, a Regional officer will meet with your new chapter for an A-PLUS orientation. They will provide copies of the Regional and National Constitution and Bylaws, discuss meeting, training and reporting responsibilities, the history of A-PLUS and explain what A-PLUS is and is not to ensure compliance with the organization.

13. WHO CAN JOIN A-PLUS

Anyone regardless of race, sex, color or any other prohibiting factor can be a member of A-PLUS if they abide by the principles outlined in our Constitution and Bylaws. Members can range from EAS or craft employees or they can be non-postal such as a spouse or friend. Prospective new members and friends are always welcome to A-PLUS meetings and training sessions. Bring a friend to your next A-PLUS meeting.

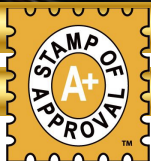


Education is the key to any organization. Be an informed member!

AFRICAN AMERICAN POSTAL LEAGUE UNITED FOR SUCCESS



2026 A-PLUS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



This form must be filled out every year. Failure to do so will impact your A-PLUS mailings.

ACTIVE MEMBER: An active member is a career or retired PCES or EAS Postal Service Employee, who meets all financial requirements for the current year, the fee is \$100.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: An associate member is a member who is a non-PCES/EAS employee and/or non-postal individual who is interested in supporting the goals of this Organization, the fee is \$50.

INITIATION FEE: A one-time initiation fee is assessed to each new member, both active and associate, and must be paid prior to becoming a member in good standing with the Organization, the fee is \$25.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

NAME (Last, First, and Middle Initial) _____

Do you want to receive the "Between the Lines" National magazine via U.S. Mail or electronically? Mail _____ Electronically _____

Home Address _____

City and State, Zip plus 4 _____

Title (Indicate if Retired) _____

Postal Facility Address _____

City and State, Zip plus 4 _____

Home phone or cell: _____ Office Phone: _____

Personal Email Address: _____ **Please Do not use the Postal Service e-mail system!**

Chapter Affiliation: _____ or I want to be a member-at-large in the _____ Region.

A-PLUS may provide our sponsors my mailing. (Check one) Yes ___ No ___ Failure to check is an automatic yes!

Are you a new member? Yes ___ No ___ Are you a Retired Postal Employee? Yes ___ No ___

FOR NEW MEMBERS ONLY: Recommended by: _____ Chapter: _____
(APPLIES ONLY IF NEVER BEEN A MEMBER OF A-PLUS)

TYPE OF MEMBER: Indicate amount paid and check all that applies in the block below:

TYPE OF MEMBER:

Active \$100 _

Associate \$ 50 _

Initiation Fee \$ 25 _

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Check applicable block(s)

Make check payable to A-PLUS and give both the check and completed application to your local Chapter Treasurer. They will verify contact information as accurate. You may also pay dues by credit or debit card online at aplus.cc.

Chapter Treasurers, please send the original application form and check to the National Treasurer at PO Box 13211, Wilmington, DE 19850. Send a copy to your Regional Treasurer. **Please do not alter this application.**