

# PCC Direct Connection

DEDICATED TO BUILDING POSTAL-CUSTOMER RELATIONS

SPRING 2012

## USPS® NETWORK CONSOLIDATION UPDATE

The U.S. Postal Service® says its plan to consolidate its mail processing network includes a suspension of the consolidation efforts during the election mailing season in order to avoid any adverse impact on the November election. The Postal Service® will also utilize an Election Mail Task Force to work with all 50 states to develop strategies that address the questions and concerns of state and local election boards. Together, these measures will ensure the timely delivery of election-related mail.

In December, the U.S. Postal Service formed an agreement with Congress that no consolidation or closing of any postal facility will occur prior to May 15, 2012. Therefore, most closures or consolidations would have to take place starting after May 15, 2012, and be completed by August 31, 2012. Further consolidation of facilities would then continue in early 2013. The pursuit by the Postal Service of the significant consolidation of its national network of mail processing facilities is contingent upon its adoption of a final rule changing its delivery service standards.

For primary elections after May 15, the U.S. Postal Service is instituting a state-by-state outreach program to address the questions and concerns of election boards, political candidates and mailers.

In addition, for states that are promoting vote by mail, the proposed plan to study 3,600 Post Offices™ around the U.S. for possible closure will not adversely affect the voting process as customers have many ways in which to deposit mail, including with their carrier, with a retail partner, at a collection box location, or at a neighboring office within reasonable distance to their current location. The Postal Service is exploring options to provide customers with alternate access to postal services and products where they live, work and shop.

## WOMEN IN THE POSTAL SERVICE



*A 1944 photograph of Jeanette Lee, the first female letter carrier in Chicago, IL. (Courtesy of National Postal Museum, Smithsonian Institution.)*

Approximately 139 million workers make up the civilian workforce in America, and 53 percent are women. More than 1.8 million women serve in America's armed forces and 911,285 women-owned employer firms employed 7.6 million persons, generating \$1 trillion in revenue.

In 1960 there were 104 women letter carriers. By the 1980s, that number grew to 8,000 – 4 percent of the total number of letter carriers. And, at the end of 2011, 224,525 women – 40.9 percent of the career complement – were USPS employees.

“From early Postmasters to today's managers and executives, the contributions of women to the Postal Service have been significant,” said USPS Employee Resource Management VP Deborah Giannoni-Jackson. “I see their role as leaders in the Postal Service growing more influential in the future.”

Since 1893, when a woman first appeared on a U.S. postage stamp, the Postal Service has honored women and their achievements through its stamp program. Publication 512, *Women on Stamps*, provides information on many of these female honorees and is available at [USPS.com](http://USPS.com)®.

### SAVE THESE DATES!

April 12, 2012

**Mail & The Environment and Nonprofit Standard Mail®**  
Manchester, NH Post Office

May 31, 2012

**Industry Roundtables @ Ballpark**  
Hilton Garden Inn, Manchester, NH

June 7, 2012

**Second Annual NH PCC Golf Tournament**  
Stonebridge CC, Goffstown, NH

Visit [www.nhpcc.net](http://www.nhpcc.net) for more information!

## 20<sup>TH</sup> “STAMP OUT HUNGER”

Food Drive ~ May 12, 2012



The 20th annual “Stamp Out Hunger” food drive is May 12th this year. Feeding America, USPS, the National Association of Letter Carriers, the National Association of Rural Letter Carriers, and the Campbell Soup Company are among the food drive’s sponsors.

The Postal Service is encouraging full support of this effort and urging customers to place a sturdy bag containing non-perishable foods next to their mailboxes prior to regular mail delivery on Saturday, May 12.

“Our employees and customers have contributed more than 1 billion pounds of non-perishable food since the program began 20 years ago,” said Chief Operating Officer Megan Brennan. “The food drive has become the nation’s largest one-day campaign to collect food for distribution to those in need.”

Last year letter carriers collected 70.2 million pounds of food, making the 2011 “Stamp Out Hunger” food drive the eighth consecutive drive surpassing 70 million pounds. All donations get distributed LOCALLY.

## IMPORTANT CHANGES TO NOTE

- January 22, 2012 - combine Standard Mail and Periodicals flats when bundled and placed on pallets
- May 1, 2012 – registration opens for Mobile Commerce & Personalization Promotion
- May 15, 2012 – Congressional moratorium ends regarding national network optimization
- January 5, **2013** - standards go into effect for folded self-mailers (FSM) and unenveloped mailpieces that are mailed at automation or machinable prices
- January **2013** – possible discontinuation of the POSTNET™ barcode for automation discounts

## NH PCC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Industry Co-Chair:

Barbara Baldinelli, Health Dialog

Postal Co-Chair:

Walter Rowland, USPS

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## DID YOU KNOW?

**March is  
National Women’s  
History month**

## NH Postal Customer Council Recent Events

