



# HOTLINE

December 2013

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 3

Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

## Do you know what postal changes are coming in 2014?

**Rates will be increasing for both domestic and international mail.**

**Make sure that you're not blindsided by these and other changes.**

Please join us for **this informative meeting!**

Further details below:

The United States Postal Service has announced its price changes. Join us at this meeting to learn more about all of the changes from First-Class Mail to Priority to Standard Mail. The changes, which will go into effect in January 2014, are intended to generate \$2 billion in incremental annual revenue for the Postal Service. The new prices comply with the PAEA rules, which require the new prices to not increase more than the Consumer Price Index cap thereby ensuring stable rates for customers. Come and find out what all of these changes are and how they could affect your mailing operation. For a rundown of all of the new rates and requirements, sign up to attend this informative meeting. - Lori Luginbill of the USPS will be presenting.

Join the Wichita PCC and your fellow business and mail professionals to learn more about these topics and enjoy networking opportunities. - Don't get left behind. **Space is limited! Sign up now!**

<b>Schedule:</b>	10:00	Registration
	10:30	Program
	12:00	Lunch
	1:00	Close

**Location:** Wichita General Mail Facility, 7117 W. Harry St., Wichita, KS (west parking lot entrance)

**Cost:** \$20.00, including lunch

**For Reservations,** call or email Tim Norman, [timothy.j.norman@usps.gov](mailto:timothy.j.norman@usps.gov), 946-4528, or Kelli Cunningham, [kelli.j.cunningham@usps.gov](mailto:kelli.j.cunningham@usps.gov), 946-4699.

Or reserve online at [www.pccwichita.com](http://www.pccwichita.com) and pay with PayPal!

**\*\*\*NEWS UPDATES\*\*\***

The Wichita Postal Customer Council newsletter, PCC Hotline, is published by the Wichita Postal Customer Council for all members of the Council and other business mailers in the Wichita area.

**Evelyn Tan-Todd**  
Postal Co-Chair

**Currently Open**  
Industry Co-Chair

All members are invited to submit news for the PCC Hotline. Items should be sent to:

**Jeremy Biltz**  
jbiltz@sedgwick.gov

[www.pccwichita.com](http://www.pccwichita.com)

**USPS Defers Implementation of Full-Service Intelligent Mail Requirement for Automation Prices**

The U.S. Postal Service is disappointed with the portion of last week's ruling from the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) which held that the implementation of Full-Service Intelligent Mail barcode (IMb) constitutes a rate increase. This ill-conceived decision will impair complete adoption of Full-Service IMb and hinder the Postal Service's ability to promote a technology that enhances the value of mail, which is critical to the development of next-generation digital products and services. The PRC's overly expansive view of the price cap demonstrates why comprehensive postal reform legislation should include additional pricing authority for the Postal Service Board of Governors.

Due to the PRC ruling, the Postal Service is delaying the Jan. 26, 2014 implementation of the Full-Service Intelligent Mail requirement for automation price discounts. Mailers who are not currently enrolled in full-service effective Jan. 26, 2014 will still be able to claim automation prices. To achieve the best pricing, however, mailers must continue meeting full-service requirements.

Despite this delay, the Postal Service remains strongly committed to full-service adoption for all mailers. The value of full-service is well known and helps the mailing community to get the best value-added experience for its mail. The Postal Service will continue moving aggressively to achieve 100 percent visibility in the mail through full-service.

The Postal Service encourages mailers to contact their Mail Service providers and Software vendors to help transition to full-service to get the full-service discount prices and access the benefits listed below.

The Postal Service has developed an online Intelligent Mail Small Business tool that enables even the smallest mailers to take the first steps into full-service. The tool remains in place and local bulk mail entry units will continue assisting very small customers and provide them information on how they can use the small business tool to prepare mailings to receive automation and full-service discount prices.

Full-Service provides customers with:

- An additional per piece discount on every Full-Service mailpiece.
- Address correction information at no additional cost for Full-Service mailpieces, providing Change of Address (or COA) information and Nixie (or undeliverable-as-addressed) information.
- The ability to track service performance through reports and scan information.
- Container, Tray and Mailpiece visibility.
- Annual permit fees will be waived when 90 percent or more of cumulative annual mailings consist of Full-Service mail.
- The opportunity to use the same permit at any location via our Mail Anywhere program.

## **Post Offices Open Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve**

### **Most Will Close Early, Collection Box Mail May Be Collected Earlier**

Post Offices nationwide will be open Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24, and New Year's Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 31. Most Post Offices will shorten retail lobby hours and close at noon on these dates. Regular mail delivery will be unaffected by the change.

Revised hours will be posted at each Post Office and commercial customers are asked to check with their business mail entry units for specific information regarding holiday hours of operation.

Blue collection boxes having final collection times before 12 p.m. will not be affected by these changes. However, collection boxes with final collection times scheduled after that may be collected early. Therefore, mail should be deposited into these mailboxes by 12 p.m. for early pickup Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. Customers requiring postal services later on those days are encouraged to contact their local Post Office. Customers also may call 1.800.ASK.USPS for additional information.

Post Offices will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Only Priority Mail Express will be delivered on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. All Post Offices will be open and regular mail delivery will resume Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

For the most up-to-date holiday information, go to: [usps.com/holidaynews](http://usps.com/holidaynews). There you'll find holiday mailing and shipping deadlines, packing tips and information about Letters to Santa. Information is also included about all of the Postal Service's holiday forever stamps, including Christmas: Holy Family Stamp, Christmas: Virgin and Child by Jan Gossaert, Eid Stamp, Gingerbread Houses, Global Evergreen Wreath International Stamp, Hanukkah Stamp, Kwanzaa Stamp and Poinsettia Stamps.

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### **Despite Revenue Growth and Record Productivity, Postal Service Loses \$5 Billion in 2013 Fiscal Year**

The U.S. Postal Service ended the 2013 fiscal year (Oct. 1, 2012 – Sept. 30, 2013) with a net loss of \$5 billion. This marks the 7th consecutive year in which the Postal Service incurred a net loss, highlighting the need to continue to capitalize on growth opportunities, reduce costs, and enact comprehensive legislation to provide a long-term solution to the agency's financial challenges.

Even though the Postal Service has implemented a number of strategies that resulted in \$15 billion in annual expense reductions since the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act was passed in 2006, the combination of onerous mandates in existing law and continued First-Class Mail volume declines threatens the Postal Service's financial viability.

“We've achieved some excellent results for the year in terms of innovations, revenue gains and cost reductions, but without major legislative changes we cannot overcome the limitations of our inflexible business model,” said Patrick Donahoe, Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer. “Congress is moving forward with legislation that has the potential to give us greater flexibility and put us back on a firm financial footing, and we strongly encourage that they continue moving forward.”



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POSTAGE & FEES  
PAID  
USPS  
PERMIT NO. G-10

PO Box 9111

Wichita KS 67277-0111

### National Postal Forum

Did you miss the 2013 National Postal Forum in Orlando last April? Well don't worry, the next one is right around the corner. The 2014 National Postal Forum will be held in Washington, DC from March 16-19. The National Postal Forum is the premier educational event/experience and tradeshow available to mail professionals today. If your business or profession has anything to do with using mail, or any of the products and services available through the United States Postal Service... then this is the place you need to be as an exhibitor or attendee! For more information, visit [www.npf.org](http://www.npf.org).

Please make your reservations online at [www.pccwichita.com](http://www.pccwichita.com) with PayPal  
or send to:

*WPCC, PO Box 9111, Wichita KS 67277-0111*

**PCC General Meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
At Wichita General Mail Facility, 7117 W. Harry St., Wichita, KS

Names \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_