

MARCH, 2018 ISSUE

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PCC NEWSLETTER

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CIVICS LESSON VOTING BY MAIL INCREASES TURNOUT, RESEARCH SHOWS

Monty Trabue, a mail handler at the Louisville, KY, Processing and Distribution Center, checks a tub for Election Mail in 2016



Allowing people to vote by mail boosts turnout, especially during lower-profile elections, the authors of a new study say. The research is based on data from a 2014 midterm election in Colorado, one of three states that conduct all voting by mail. According to the study, allowing people in Colorado to vote at home increased overall turnout by 3.3 percent that year — and by even more among young and low-propensity voters.

“Anyone who cares about improving turnout should make vote at home a top priority,” Gilad Edelman and Paul Glastris, two journalists who commissioned the study, wrote in a recent Washington Post opinion piece. In addition to convenience, voting by mail is also secure, Edelman and Glastris write. “Because it relies on old-fashioned pen and paper, it can’t be hacked. While ballots are counted by machine, those machines don’t need to be connected to the internet, and a paper trail is there for a recount,” they write. Like Colorado, Oregon and Washington also conduct all voting by mail.

The Postal Service works with election officials across the nation — including secretaries of state, state election directors and county leaders, as well as national organizations — to prepare for elections. USPS also educates employees on procedures to accept, process and deliver Election Mail and Political Mail.



Sacramento District Manager Jeffrey C. Lelevich meeting with election officials, Focus Group Feb 8, 2018

Michelle Johnson

Michelle Johnson
 Postmaster, Sacramento (A)





Industry Co-Chair Corner

John Millet

In nature the solitude to the winter always gives way to the hustle and bustle of spring. This holds true for the PCC also. We have a great series of events planned over the next few months. The pinnacle of which is the National Postal Forum in San Antonio in May, but we have several local events that will interest businesses large and small.

At our regularly scheduled meeting on March 8th, we will have Randy Holt, Business Mailer Support Analyst, Mail Entry & Payment Technology, speaking on the **New Enterprise Payment System**. The Enterprise Payment System (EPS) allows customers to pay for Postal products and services through a single account, called the Enterprise Payment Account (EPA). EPS supports commercial, domestic and international products and services which includes First-Class Mail®, USPS Marketing Mail™, Periodicals, Electronic PO Boxes Online (EPOBOL) and Address Quality Products. This will change how you do business with the USPS.

Now for the USPS Big Show. Do not miss this opportunity! The National Postal Forum is in San Antonio, TX May 6-9 and is a great opportunity to network with mailers from across country. The Forum is the mailing industry's premier educational venue, trade show and networking event for industry professionals. It provides business mailers with ongoing training and education, and helps them keep pace with the mailing industry's rapid progress. The Forum is a combination educational conference/trade show offering a wide range of opportunities for attendees. Professional Certificates can be earned and are awarded to attendees who complete the required sessions and register online at when they return home.

You can take the discount available to PCC members: \$100 for Full registration and \$200.00 for First Time Attendees.

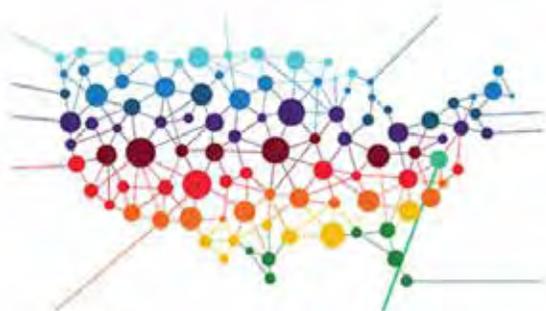
For more information visit: www.npf.org.

Next up on your 2018 PCC Calendar:

- **March 8th, 8am:**
New Enterprise Payment System
Speaker: Randy Holt
Business Mailer Support Analyst, Mail Entry & Payment Technology
Royal Oaks Post Office | 2000 Royal Oaks Dr.
- **May 6th - 9th, 8am: National Postal Forum**
San Antonio Texas

Remember to visit the website for current information at SacPCC.com. Sacramento PCC meetings are held at the Royal Oaks Post Office on the second Thursday of each month, unless there is a scheduled event at another location. Check the website!

The PCC executive board holds a meeting on the last Thursday of each month, via conference call. Reach out, and we can send out the call in number.



The NPF Mission

To assist the United States Postal Service in building relationships with mailers and educating them in the most effective and efficient use of the products and services offered by the United States Postal Service.

2018 CHANGES TO POSTAGE PAYMENT

An Industry Perspective (Article “2018 Changes to Postage Payment” by Bob Schimek, Senior Director of Postal Affairs, Quadient® and Industry Vice Chair, Mailers Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) 2018).

With 2018 already here, it is important to spend some time planning and preparing for changes that will impact your business in the new year. One of these changes will be the Postal Service’s rollout of the Enterprise Payment System (EPS). As with many of the new Postal Service systems, there will be several new acronyms that the mailing industry will need to become familiar with as EPS is formally rolled out. EPS will require every business mailer to have an Enterprise Payment Account (EPA). If your business has PO Boxes, you may have already had some exposure to the first phase of EPS which included ePOBOL - Electronic PO Boxes Online. ePOBOL allows mailers to renew, open, and close their PO Boxes online. ePOBOL is currently available for use. The Postal Service is encouraging all eligible business mailers with PO Boxes to begin using it.

Enterprise Payment System is available for some Address Quality Products, including ACS, AEC and AEC II.

The bigger EPS change for business mailers deployed February 1, 2018. The Postal Service has completed pilot testing with some mailers expanded payment capabilities for eligible domestic, commercial, and international mail products and services. These include postage statement processing for all bulk mailings currently being submitted to PostalOne! using Mail.dat, Mail.xml, or the Postage Statement Wizard and BMEU (Bulk Mail Entry Unit) hard copy postage statements.

There are several steps involved to enroll in EPS which include receiving an invitation code to access the EPS service in the Business Customer Gateway (BCG) and creating and configuring your EPA. Mailers are encouraged to begin considering who in your company will be taking the lead in the setup process. There are many details that will likely require collaboration and testing with the financial side of your business to ensure user roles have been appropriately assigned and bank account information has been updated to reflect the changes.

Each mailer or mail service provider may choose to have one or more EPAs. Each permit will be linked to a single EPA; all postal transactions for that permit will be posted to that EPA. This will greatly simplify the postage payment process for mailers. EPA will allow mailers the ability to setup a Trust Account or an Automated Clearing House (ACH) Debit. The Trust Account allows mailers to direct deposit funds into their Postal Service account for mailing transactions. ACH Debit allows the Postal Service to withdraw payment transactions directly from mailer bank accounts. Mailers who choose to use ACH Debit as a payment method will complete a micro-debit verification process to verify the ACH account is linked correctly to their EPA before it may be used to pay for mailings. Mailers may need to work with their accounting department and their financial institution to confirm their account will accept transactions from the Postal Service.

Once EPS has been fully tested, the Postal Service will require all mailers to migrate to EPS and the Centralized Account Processing System (CAPS) will be officially discontinued. The timeframe and length of the transition window has not yet been announced. However, you can expect the official start of the transition to be announced sometime in 2018, and the transition window could be fairly short. The migration from CAPS to EPS does not have to be done all at once. The transition can be done a single permit or CAPS account at a time. Mailers with multiple CAPS accounts and/or permits, will be able to mix the use of both CAPS and EPS for postal transactions as they transition, but eventually all permits will be connected to an EPA. Once mailers have their new EPA number, they can begin using it to pay for commercial mailings. If you are submitting electronic documentation and including the account number this must be updated with your new 10 digit EPA number. If you wish to enroll in Enterprise Payment please contact your local BME or BMS Analyst.

There are a number of benefits that come with the migration to EPS. These include a single, streamlined way to pay for mailings as well as other USPS products and services. Additionally, EPS offers enhanced reporting, which will be expanded to include report subscriptions in the near future. To maximize your benefits, it is highly encouraged to begin planning the changes to your business now. For additional information on the details involved in the migration, use the Postal Service PostalPro site to access the Payment Modernization Overview document and Migration Fact Sheet.

SEAMLESS ACCEPTANCE

Providing mailers a streamlined mail acceptance process that offers transparency and trend-based reporting over a calendar month so mailers can improve their mail preparation efficiency.

Seamless Acceptance allows the USPS and mailers to answer 3 key questions by comparing information submitted in the electronic postage statement to mailpiece characteristic data obtained during mail processing.

- 1. Have all pieces been paid for?**
- 2. Have all of the pieces been paid for correctly?**
- 3. Is the mailing prepared correctly?**

Participation Criteria

To participate in Seamless Acceptance all pieces must be uniquely barcoded, included in electronic documentation (eDoc) and mailers must meet the following requirements:

- Meet all the content and price eligibility standards for the price claimed.
- Prepare 90% Full-Service eligible volume
- Participate in the Seamless Parallel Program
- Participate in eInduction for DMU-verified origin entry or destination entry-drop shipments

Prior to participating in Seamless Acceptance mailers must participate in an intermediate step, Seamless Parallel, to test out their mail preparation standards. While in Seamless Parallel, eDoc validations will be performed for informational purposes only.

Seamless Parallel

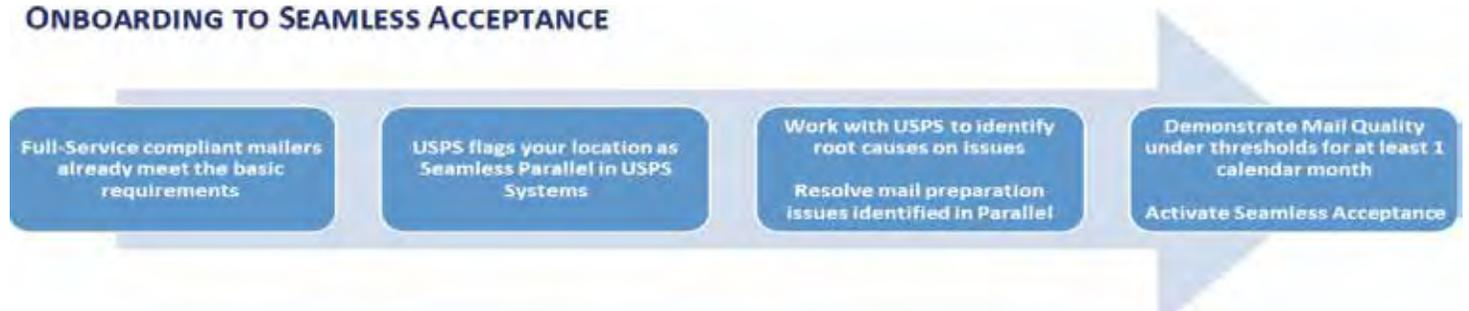
During Seamless Parallel, there will be no changes to current acceptance and verification processes — mailings will continue to be accepted without interruption— while Seamless monitoring and reporting features are activated so that mail quality is available for review. This allows mailers to evaluate and improve their mail quality, business processes, and software in order to prepare mail that meet Seamless Acceptance quality standards.

Mailers are transitioned from Seamless Parallel to Seamless Acceptance if they are able to maintain mail quality measurements below the threshold for error percentages for one calendar month.

Benefits of Seamless Acceptance

- Verifications are performed electronically, reducing complexity
- Auto-finalization puts control of postage payment into your hands
- Longer mail production cycle
- Control over mail release timing without USPS intervention
- Allows for improved feedback and identification of trends
- Standardized acceptance and verification process
- Trend-based verifications measuring quality across a calendar month

ONBOARDING TO SEAMLESS ACCEPTANCE



For more information on transitioning to Seamless Acceptance please email:

SacramentoPremierBMEU@usps.gov

More information is also available at:

postalpro.usps.com/mailing/seamless-acceptance



membership list

2017-2018

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- Discount Mail Inc
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- Micronite Inc.
- Response Envelope Company

Sacramento Postal Customer Council
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 West Sacramento, CA 95798-0093

First-Class Mail
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 USPS
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Do you have a suggestion for a meeting topic, a tour or a good speaker for a meeting? If so, please share your suggestion with any board member, or email webmaster@sacpcc.com.

Exec. Board Meetings are held the last Thursday of every month.

National Postal Forum
 San Antonio, Texas
www.NPF.org

5.6-9

March 8, 8am: New Enterprise Payment System
 Presented by: Randy Holt, USPS Headquarters
 Business Mailer Support Analyst, Mail Entry & Payment Technology
 Register Now at SacPCC.com
 Royal Oaks Post Office | 2000 Royal Oaks Dr. | Sacramento, CA 95813-9998

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Upcoming Events 2018

