



# Kansas Branch National League of Postmasters History

In 2003, The Kansas Branch of the National League of Postmasters will hold their 74th Annual Convention. This indicates that the Kansas Branch was chartered in the mid 1920s (allowing for a break in conventions during World War II). We have very few records prior to 1967 for our branch.

However, Aquina Thimmesch, retired postmaster from Garden Plain, KS shared with us some of her experiences at the state and national level. Aquina attended her first national convention in 1939; then attended all but two conventions from 1946 to 1973. The last national convention she attended was in 1980 in Kansas City. Aquina served as national treasurer in 1958 and 1959. She also served as national secretary/treasurer 1960 thru 1963.

Another national officer from Kansas was J. Wesley Melson of Bentley, KS. Wes served as a national vice-president from 1966 to 1969.

Larry Schweers served as National President of the retirees during 2002 and 2003. Prior to becoming president, Larry was a national vice-president of the retirees..

The Kansas Branch is proud to acknowledge the contribution of Myron Van Gundy of Reading, KS who was instrumental in helping start the Adverse Action program to assist our League postmasters who find themselves in career trouble.

Jeanene French served four years, from 1983 thru 1986, as national editor of the Auxiliary newsletter.

The Kansas Branch Retirees continue to provide active support to our postmasters. Since their organization, Gerald "Jerry" Stucky, Larry Schweers, and Barbara German have served as presidents. Some of the other faithful officers of the retirees have been Bonnie Fox, Don French, Bonnie Gerlach, Mildred "Millie" Hoskinson, Betty Mayhew, Louise Miles, and Ila Ventsam.

The Auxiliary to the Kansas Branch was chartered in 1972 with 15 members. The auxiliary has continued, since that date, to be an active participant in conventions, providing support to our postmasters.

In 1983, the Kansas Branch started a tradition of an Annual Christmas Party. Santa "Jerry Stucky" Claus was always on hand to offer witty commentary while "gifting" everyone in attendance. This "party" was also a recognition of our members who had retired during the previous year. In later years, the Christmas Party was moved to a later date and became a Valentine Party.

In recognition of our faithful Kansas League members who have donated their time and energy to supporting our branch, we are providing a partial list of those who have served as branch officers and appointees since the 1950s:

Presidents: Eileen Arnhold, Monte Barnickle, Ellsworth Bryan, Randy Caprez, Larry Ernest, Don French, Janet Harness, John Hein, Marvin Jardon, Gayle Loret, J. Wesley, Melson, Elaine Montgomery, Martha Schuler, Yvonne Shelman, Gerald “Jerry” Stucky, Charles Taylor, and Myron Van Gundy.

Vice-Presidents: Eileen Arnhold, Louise Atwell, Monte Barnickle, Janice Barrett, June Boyd, Gerald Brandenburg, Jerry “Bob” Brown, Ellsworth Bryan, Randy Caprez, Peggy Cash, Kathy Coy, Terry Crabbs, Dan Denning, Percy Douglas, Larry Ernest, Norma Jean Fox, Bonnie Fox, Don French, Barbara Gagnebin, Bonnie Gerlach, Barbara German, Bernadine Guge, Janet Harness, Elaine Harrell, Patty Helsel, Virgil Hitz, Marvin Jardon, Terry Jones, Audrey Kats, Lori Kelsey, Carroll Kerley, Gayle Loret, Joe Martinez, Charles Meadows, June Medina, Jeff Metzler, Louise Miles, Marietta Mirt, Elaine Montgomery, Don Peterson, Carl Rebman, Connie Rice, Dolores Servaes, Yvonne Shelman, Judy Smith, Mildred Stewart, Gerald “Jerry” Stucky, Evie Tan-Todd, Glenn Tarrant, Hallie Taylor, Verbie Thiessen, Myron Van Gundy, Herman “Spike” Williams, and Betty Yates

Secretary-Treasurer: Tamara (Adams) Prochazka, Percy Douglas, Bonnie Gerlach, Janet Harness, Mildred “Millie” Hoskinson, Marjorie Niedens, Gerald “Jerry” Stucky, and Aquina Thimmesch.

Editor: Randy Caprez, Janet Harness, John Hein, and J. Wesley Melson.

Chaplin: Barbara German, Charles Meadows, and Ernest Scott.

Legislative: Monte Barnickle, Beverly Holder, Mildred “Millie” Hoskinson, Marvin Jardon, and Elaine Montgomery.

Membership: Eileen Arnhold, Jerry “Bob” Brown, Don French, Bonnie Gerlach, Yvonne Shelman, Judy Smith, and Gerald “Jerry” Stucky.

We offer our apologies to those that we may have missed.

Now in honor of the National League of Postmasters’ 100th Anniversary, the Kansas Branch offers their thanks and gratitude to the League for their encouragement and support of our Branch.

Don French, Historian