

DOUG A. TULINO
VICE PRESIDENT, LABOR RELATIONS



May 22, 2009

POSTMASTERS

SUBJECT: Postmasters Convention Leave

This is to inform you that the Postal Service has decided to suspend postmasters' convention leave for the remainder of fiscal year (FY) 2009 and all of FY2010, effective May 31, 2009. While administrative leave will not be available for the purpose of attending the postmaster organizations' state and national conventions, annual leave will be available for these purposes consistent with our existing regulations. We recognize that some state conventions have already taken place, and that a number of postmasters have used approved convention leave to attend these events. There will be no attempt to convert the approved and used convention leave. However, any approved convention leave scheduled to be used after May 31, will need to be converted to annual leave for the purpose of attending a state or national convention.

This is not a decision that the Postal Service arrived at easily, but unfortunately, it is a necessary one. We are experiencing an economic decline that could not have been predicted at the start of this fiscal year. At this point, every cost-saving effort counts for the Postal Service. That is why, in addition to suspending convention leave, we have also:

- Reduced work hours to match declining mail volumes, resulting in a savings of 58 million hours in the first half of FY2009;
- Reduced excess capacity in mail processing and transportation;
- Realigned carrier routes;
- Halted construction of new facilities;
- Frozen the salaries of Postal Service officers and executives at 2008 levels.
- Continued organizational restructuring designed to align postal operations with the changing workload.

I know it is never easy to accept a decision that suspends a benefit. I hope, the above explanation will help you understand the reason and necessity for making this decision.

Doug A. Tulino