

# AFRICAN AMERICAN POSTAL LEAGUE UNITED FOR SUCCESS

A Publication for Postal Service Employees, A-PLUS Members, Retirees, Family, Friends, and Supporters

**National News Magazine – SPECIAL EDITION**

**Celebrating Excellence at the 37th Annual National Convention:  
"The A-PLUS Experience, The Power of Performance"**



The 37th Annual National Convention of A-PLUS, held in vibrant Las Vegas, Nevada, on April 23-25, 2024, was a resounding success. Under the theme "The A-PLUS Experience, The Power of Performance," members and guests from across the nation came together for three days of dynamic learning, professional growth, and unparalleled networking opportunities. Hosted by the A-PLUS Western Region, the convention embodied the spirit of excellence and collaboration that defines our organization.

Attendees engaged in a series of workshops, panel discussions, and keynote presentations, all designed to inspire innovation, celebrate accomplishments, and empower members to excel in their professional and personal pursuits. From the electrifying opening ceremony to the engaging breakout sessions, the event highlighted the extraordinary talent and dedication within our community. As we continue to build on the power of performance, the 2024 National Convention reaffirmed our shared commitment to growth, service, and success.



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**A-PLUS 2024 National Convention: A Resounding Success in Las Vegas, NV**

**Post A-PLUS 2024 National Convention Message from the National President**

**PMG Louis DeJoy Addresses A-PLUS 2024 National Convention**

**2022-2024 Regional Presidents Awards**

**2024 Dr. LeGree A. Daniels National Heritage Awardee**

**A New Era of Leadership: Celebrating Record First-Time Attendees at the A-PLUS 2024 National Convention!**

**A-PLUS Members Shine in the "Spotlight on You" Session**

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## **A-PLUS 2024 National Convention: A Resounding Success in Las Vegas**

The 37th Annual A-PLUS National Convention in Las Vegas was an inspirational and well-attended event, marking another milestone in leadership and professional development. With record participation and dynamic speakers, the convention reinforced the A-PLUS mission to empower, elevate, and equip USPS professionals.

### **A Gathering of Leaders**

This year saw an unprecedented number of first-time attendees, reflecting A-PLUS's growing influence. Members, postal executives, and guests engaged in discussions fostering leadership and growth within USPS.

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy delivered a compelling address on the Postal Service and the 10-year Delivering for America plan, highlighting operational improvements and workforce investments.

### **Recognizing Excellence**

A highlight of the event was honoring Dane A. Coleman as the 2024 LeGree Daniels Heritage Award Recipient for his dedication to A-PLUS through mentorship and training.

Past National President Henry Gibson led the swearing-in of the 2024-2026 A-PLUS National Officers, ushering in a new era of leadership and growth.

### **Impactful Sessions**

The convention featured career development workshops and the "Spotlight on You" session, where members showcased their skills and gained valuable insights.

### **A Bright Future for A-PLUS**

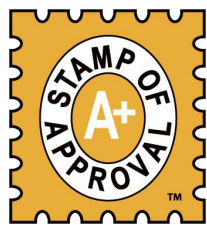
Attendees left motivated and empowered, ready to advance their careers. The convention reinforced A-PLUS's role in developing future USPS leaders. Here's to another year of success and progress!

Desai Abdul-Razzaaq

National Correspondence Secretary



# AFRICAN AMERICAN POSTAL LEAGUE UNITED FOR SUCCESS



**DEBRA CLAYTON**

**President**

**2024 - 2026**



## **Hello A-PLUS!**

On April 25, 2024, I, along with members of the A-PLUS National Executive Board, Regional and Chapter officers, was sworn in at our National Convention in Las Vegas, NV. And what a convention it was! Held at the Las Vegas Flamingo Hotel and Resort, the event was nothing short of amazing. The Western Region was our host, and we greatly appreciate all the hard work they put into planning and executing this wonderful gathering.

There were so many highlights! In addition to being welcomed by the immediate past A-PLUS National President, Wanda LaBarre, and committee chairpersons, Awanda Hampton-Gaines and Pamela Brooks, we were greeted by local Postal Executives and Managers, as well as the colorful and entertaining Mayor of Las Vegas, Carolyn Goodman!

With training, mentoring, and networking as the core focus of our annual meeting, attendees enjoyed four fun-filled and informative days of activities. The Postmaster General, Louis DeJoy, provided an update on the Postal Service's 10-year plan and briefed the group on the status of ongoing plant consolidations. We also had an officer's panel featuring Jenny Utterback, along with other distinguished leaders, facilitated by newly elected EVP, Brenda Blue. The Executive Roundtable showcased managers from Operations, Marketing, IT, and Human Resources. Interest was very high for our signature "Spotlight on You," so two sessions ran concurrently to accommodate all the members who presented their elevator speeches to a panel of executives.

For the first time, A-PLUS introduced a networking session entitled "The Power of Performance," providing attendees with additional opportunities to connect with Postal Managers. This powerful session received rave reviews, and we will surely include it in future conventions.

A huge thank you to all A-PLUS National sponsors and vendors! Sponsor engagement is extremely important to the success of this convention. Sessions were facilitated by BCBS FEP, as well as our new sponsors, United Healthcare and Postal Bluebook Help. Additionally, Postal Bluebook Help hosted a reception for our members prior to the A-PLUS Parade of Chapters.

Thank you to Greg Gray for his session, "It's the Process – It's Not Personal," and for serving as our Master of Ceremonies at the A-PLUS Annual Awards Banquet. Congratulations to Mr. Dane Coleman on being selected as the 2024 LeGree S. Daniels Heritage Award recipient, the highest honor bestowed by A-PLUS.

Mr. Coleman's dedication and commitment to A-PLUS, the Postal Service, and the community at large made him a most deserving honoree.

Finally, on behalf of the 2024-2026 National Executive Board, thank you to all our members, facilitators, and guests for attending the convention. A special thank you to all the outgoing officers at every level of A-PLUS for your hard work and service to our beloved organization. And to our newly elected and re-elected officers, thank you for your willingness to serve and make a difference in the future of A-PLUS and for our members.

Please support and attend your local Chapter meetings and Regional Conferences. Stay engaged all year long to get the most from A-PLUS! See you at the 2026 National Convention at Maryland Live Hotel and Casino in Anne Arundel, MD!

# AFRICAN AMERICAN POSTAL LEAGUE UNITED FOR SUCCESS



## PMG Louis DeJoy Addresses A-PLUS 2024 National Convention

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's presence at the A-PLUS 2024 National Convention was met with great enthusiasm as he delivered a powerful and insightful address on the status of the Postal Service and the progress of the 10-year Delivering for America plan.



Attendees greatly appreciated PMG DeJoy's candid discussion on the Postal Service's transformation, highlighting key operational

improvements, financial stability efforts, and future innovations. His commitment to strengthening the USPS workforce and ensuring long-term sustainability resonated deeply with the A-PLUS community.

His participation reaffirmed the importance of leadership, vision, and strategic planning in shaping the future of the Postal Service. We thank PMG DeJoy for his time, leadership, and dedication to USPS employees and stakeholders nationwide.



**PMG Louis DeJoy and the 2022-2024 A-PLUS National Executive Board**



## 2024 Dr. LeGree A. Daniels National Heritage Awardee



### **Dane A. Coleman**

**Vice President, Processing and Maintenance Operations  
United States Postal Service**

We were thrilled to announce that Dane A. Coleman was selected by the A-PLUS National Board as the **2024 LeGree Daniels Heritage Award Recipient**—the highest honor bestowed by A-PLUS. This prestigious award was presented at the **National Convention Banquet on Thursday, April 25, 2024**.

Dane had been a steadfast advocate for A-PLUS, sharing his expertise and strategic insights to advance marketing, recruitment, and training initiatives. His unwavering commitment to professional development was evident in his facilitation of workshops, career sessions, and mentorship efforts. Through his leadership, Dane not only achieved personal and professional success but also empowered countless others, offering invaluable guidance to those striving for excellence within the USPS.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dane A. Coleman for his remarkable contributions and well-deserved recognition!



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## 2024 A-PLUS National Convention Awards



### National President's Appreciation Award to the A-PLUS National Executive Board



**Sandra Ferguson**  
Chicago Chapter  
Central Region



**Ashley Pass**  
Los Angeles Chapter  
Western Region



**Alan Lewis**  
Regional Director Eastern Region  
Accepted on his behalf by Carl Walton



**Chellene Rose**  
Connecticut Chapter  
Northeastern Region



**James Jones**  
Houston Chapter President  
Southern Region



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## 2024 A-PLUS National Convention Awards National President's Award      National President's Award      Appreciation Award



L-r, Josephine Wooley 2022-2024 Southern Region President, Carl Walton 2022-2024 Eastern Region President, Halbert Clark 2022-2024 Northeastern President and Ricardo Jackson National Treasurer



L-r, Pamela Brooks 2024 A-PLUS National Convention Co-Chairperson, Kacky Robinson Convention Treasurer/ Souvenir Book Chair and Awanda Hampton-Gaines National Convention Co-Chairperson

## Jesse Hatten and Wallace Beckett Honored with 2024 A-PLUS National Community Service Award

Jesse Hatten, President of the Wilmington, Delaware A-PLUS Chapter, and Wallace Beckett, President of the Philadelphia South Jersey A-PLUS Chapter, were recognized as the 2024 A-PLUS National Community Service Awardees. Their unwavering dedication to service, leadership, and community engagement has made a profound impact in their respective regions. Through their commitment to mentorship, advocacy, and outreach, Jesse and Wallace exemplify the core values of A-PLUS, inspiring others to uplift and empower their communities. This prestigious award is a testament to their passion and tireless efforts in making a difference.



Jesse Hatten left holding Award Plaque, Wallace Beckett right holding Award Plaque, and both Philadelphia South Jersey and Wilmington, Delaware Chapters members in support



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## Janette Powell Shines at A-PLUS Convention, Wins Best Elevator Pitch Trophy

Janette Powell, a first-time attendee from the A-PLUS Detroit Chapter, made a lasting impression at the A-PLUS Convention by winning the Best Elevator Pitch trophy. Her compelling and confident delivery captivated the audience, showcasing her ability to articulate ideas with clarity and impact. Janette's achievement highlights her dedication to leadership and professional excellence, making her a standout among her peers. Her success at the convention serves as an inspiration for future attendees, proving that preparation and passion can turn a first-time experience into an award-winning moment.



## SPONSOR APCU CASH RAFFLE WINNERS



**Paris Ross**



**Denise Cameron**



**Halbert Clark**

Pay Your **2025** Membership Dues

Thank you for your continued support.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!





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## A New Era of Leadership: Celebrating Record First-Time Attendees at the A-PLUS 2024 National



The A-PLUS 2024 National Convention marked a historic milestone with a **record number of first-time attendees**, a testament to the growing influence and impact of our organization. This remarkable turnout reflects a new wave of dedicated professionals eager to learn, grow, and lead within the USPS and beyond.

Each new attendee brought fresh perspectives, ambition, and a shared commitment to excellence. Their presence reinforced the power of mentorship, networking, and professional development—core values that define A-PLUS. As we continue to inspire and elevate future leaders, this unprecedented participation signals a bright and thriving future for our organization.

To all first-time attendees—welcome to the A-PLUS family! Your journey is just beginning, and we can't wait to see the incredible contributions you will make. Here's to a future built on connection, growth, and success!





# AFRICAN AMERICAN POSTAL LEAGUE UNITED FOR SUCCESS



## New A-PLUS National Officers Sworn In by Past President Henry Gibson



At the A-PLUS 2024 National Convention, a significant moment unfolded as Past National President Henry Gibson led the swearing-in ceremony for the newly elected National Officers for the 2024-2026 term. This event symbolized the organization's commitment to leadership continuity and its dedication to fostering excellence within the United States Postal Service.

The ceremony underscored A-PLUS's mission to mentor and develop African American and other postal managers, ensuring a legacy of strong leadership within the USPS. The organization looks forward to the innovative contributions these officers will bring to advance its goals in the coming years.



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## A-PLUS Members Shine in the "Spotlight on You" Session



The "Spotlight on You" session at the A-PLUS 2024 National Convention was a powerful platform for members to showcase their talents, share their professional journeys, and gain valuable insights from industry leaders. This engaging session highlighted the diverse expertise, dedication, and leadership potential within the A-PLUS community.

Members took center stage to discuss career growth, leadership strategies, and personal achievements, reinforcing the core mission of A-PLUS—empowering individuals through mentorship, networking, and professional development. Their participation not only inspired others but also strengthened the collective drive to excel within the USPS and beyond.

A heartfelt thank you to all who stepped into the spotlight—your voices, experiences, and aspirations continue to shape the future of A-PLUS!





## Thank You to the 2024 A-PLUS National Convention Sponsors

On behalf of the entire A-PLUS family, we extend our deepest gratitude to the sponsors of the 2024 A-PLUS National Convention. Your generous support and commitment made this event a resounding success, empowering us to continue fostering leadership, growth, and excellence within our communities.

Your contributions have helped create meaningful opportunities for networking, professional development, and the advancement of our shared mission. We appreciate your partnership and look forward to working together in the future to inspire positive change.

Thank you for your invaluable support!



**United Healthcare**



**PostalBluebookHelp.com**



**Greg Gray**



**Fed Choice**



**GEHA**



**Blue Cross Blue Shield**



**D. Smith Financial, Corp**



**Atlanta Postal Credit Union**



**Federal Benefits Information Center**



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## Save the Date



2025

## 38th A-PLUS National Convention

Maryland Live Hotel  
Hanover, Maryland

**March 31, 2025 - April 4, 2025**

*Room Rate \$169.00 plus tax*

*To reserve a room...*

**<https://book.passkey.com/e/50799675>**



For additional information contact co-chairs

Kimberly Harris (301) 233-6729

Tikia Felder (443) 804-8617





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## 2024 National Convention Opening Session





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## 2024 National Convention Luncheon





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## National Convention Parade of Chapters





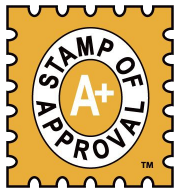
# AFRICAN AMERICAN POSTAL LEAGUE UNITED FOR SUCCESS



## 2024 National Convention Banquet







## WHAT IS A-PLUS?

A-PLUS, a non-profit postal association was organized in 1987 for the purpose of mentoring and developing African-American and other postal managers towards a successful career path. Although it was understood that African-Americans in the Postal Service were receiving training and some upwardly mobile opportunities through Affirmative Action and other programs, it was clearly obvious that many African-American managers lacked some of the primary tools necessary for immediate consideration and placement in mid-level, upper and executive management.

A-PLUS was established on the premise that while a significant number of African-Americans in the Postal Service have the required education, experience, skills, and the desire to pursue advanced management, there continues to be other considerations and needs for minorities. These special needs -- mentoring with confidence, personal development, networking, self-help education, for example - are major focal points for A-PLUS.

Only a small number of African-American managers spearheaded A-PLUS thirteen years ago. Today, the membership stands at over 1,000 and is growing. There are currently 40 active chapters throughout the United States and an intense campaign is underway to create more wide-spread involvement and recognition.

The A-PLUS membership consists of associate members, mid, upper, and executive managers who contribute their personal time and resources to help those in search of career advancement.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of A-PLUS is to promote the goals of the United States Postal Service, unify, and mentor African-American EAS/PCES employees and to monitor the statistical progress of minorities in hiring, promotions, separations, details and assignments, while forming beneficial alliances with organizations such as the NAACP, LUNA, NETWORK, corporate sponsors, and other supporters.



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## 2025 A-PLUS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

This form must be filled out annually. Failure to do so will impact your A-PLUS mailings.

**ACTIVE MEMBER:** An active member is a career or retired PCES or EAS Postal Service Employee, who meets all financial requirements for the current year, the fee is \$100.

**ASSOCIATE MEMBER:** An associate member is a member who is a non-PCES/EAS employee and/or non-postal individual who is interested in supporting the goals of this Organization, the fee is \$50

**INITIATION FEE:** A one-time initiation fee is assessed to each new member, both active and associate, and must be paid prior to becoming a member in good standing with the Organization, the fee is \$25.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

NAME (Last, First, and Middle Initial)

Do you want to receive the "Between the Lines" National magazine via U.S. Mail or electronically? Mail  Electronically

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City and State, Zip Plus 4

TITLE (Indicate if Retired)

Postal Facility Address

City and State, Zip Plus 4

( )  
Home phone or cell

( )  
Office Phone

Personal Email Address - Do not use the Postal Service e-mail system!

Chapter Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_ I want to be a member-at-large in the \_\_\_\_\_ Region.

Provide our Sponsors my mailing? (Check one) Yes  No  Failure to check is an automatic yes!

Are you a new member? Yes  No

Are you a Retired Postal Employee? Yes  No

FOR NEW MEMBERS ONLY: Recommended by: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

(APPLIES ONLY IF NEVER BEEN A MEMBER OF A-PLUS)

**TYPE OF MEMBER:**

Active.....\$100 \_\_\_\_\_  
Associate.....\$ 50 \_\_\_\_\_  
Initiation Fee.....\$ 25 \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF MEMBER: Indicate amount paid and check all that applies in the block below:  
Make checks payable to A-PLUS

A-PLUS National Treasurer

PO Box 13211

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