



Greater New Orleans PCC (New Orleans, LA)

Date founded: 1981

Members: Approximately 200 general members with 6 sponsors

Awards: PCC Premier Certificate Gold Level Award winner since 2018

The Greater New Orleans (GNO) PCC has faced many challenges and has dealt with numerous Natural Disasters during their 35 plus years of existence. Before Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005, the PCC was very successful with about 300 customers regularly attending. Subsequently, many businesses did not return or were consolidated into other companies and the PCC had to rebuild. Since 2008, they have been steadily increasing the number of customers that are attending their meetings and events. Over the last four years, they have achieved a solid board with dedicated and engaged industry members. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they have been emailing or calling their members and assisting them with their business needs. Some challenges the PCC is facing are: some of their members are currently not mailing because their business depends on car dealerships, casinos, and other services which have temporarily closed. Some industry members have been laid off, while some are working from home, mail service providers are not receiving orders from customers, and some mailers had to shift from printing to making COVID-19 protective masks.

One of the keys to their success is their executive board meets every October to plan the next year's meetings and events. In spite of the challenges they have faced, they've managed to keep a full and consistent schedule of activities and have now integrated social activities within their educational opportunities. Some of their events they host annually are: in January, with approximately 50 members in attendance, a breakfast to review the new price changes and promotions; in June, with approximately 60 members in attendance they host a "Lunch and Learn" where they have a meteorologist from the local News Station speak to them on the importance of preparing if your mail facility is affected by bad weather and safety precautions they all need to take for the upcoming hurricane season; and this year they will also be hosting their 3rd Annual GNO-Golf Tournament on October 29th. The first two tournaments were a great success with about 35 registered. With CDC guidelines and restrictions slowly being lifted they look forward to growing the number of participants this year, and each year moving forward.

The Greater New Orleans PCC is concentrating on building a community of individuals that are dedicated to growing their businesses through the Postal Service with engaged Postal Managers. Last year, they mentored the Greater Baton Rouge PCC, and this year, they will help to revitalize the Northwest Louisiana PCC in Shreveport.

The Greater New Orleans PCC is currently led by:

- Postal Co-Chair, Matthew Connelly, Postmaster New Orleans, Louisiana District, USPS
- Industry Co-Chair, John Ortiz, Director of Operations and Sales, Smart Mailers
- Industry Vice-Chair, Steve Bloomquist, Mail Operations and Variable Data Manager, Mele Printing
- Postal Administrator, Renette Dominick, Customer Relations Coordinator, Louisiana District, USPS

Some "fun facts" about the New Orleans Area that you may not know are:

1. The first opera in the United States of America was performed there in the 1790s.
2. New Orleans is known to be the place where voodoo was introduced into the U.S. One of the most prominent figures of New Orleans was Marie Laveau, an oracle who performed numerous exorcisms and voodoo rituals and who became widely known as the Voodoo Queen back in the 1800s.
3. Known as the most haunted city in America. New Orleans is often the preferred destination for paranormal investigators as well as tourists who are passionate about ghost haunting, and it is believed to be the place with the highest spiritual activity in the U.S., especially around the French Quarter where Marie Laveau used to live.

For more information on the Greater New Orleans PCC please visit their website at: <http://www.pcc-gno.org/>

