



Red River Valley PCC (Fargo, North Dakota)

Date founded: In the late 1970's

Members: Approximately 100 general members

Awards:

- PCC Premier Gold Level Certificate Award winner since 2015
- PCC Premier Platinum Award winner since 2019

The Red River Valley Postal Customer Council (RRVPCC) was formerly known as the Fargo Area Postal Customer Council changing its name to RRVPCC in the Fall of 1998.

The RRVPCC has always been a close-knit group. This held true throughout the COVID 19 pandemic, as they continued to stay in touch with their members by sending emails containing educational information and inviting them to stay engaged through monthly Zoom meetings. During the virtual events, each member was given the opportunity to ask questions, share common interests and concerns, and engage in ways to enhance and grow the PCC. Industry members often shared what challenges their businesses were enduring, or struggles they were facing both professionally and personally.

Now that Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines have slowly been lifted, the RRVPCC recently hosted their first ever hybrid Watch Party, in conjunction with an in-person networking social hour event. The networking event was such a success, they are now planning to host future networking events two or three times per year to help increase membership and keep current members actively engaged. (Due to the recent CDC guidelines that have been released, the PCC is mindful that their in-person events could be modified.)

In the future, the RRVPCC will continue hosting executive board and general membership meetings monthly via Zoom, and eagerly look forward to collaborating with the Twin Cities PCC hosting an in-person National PCC Day event on September 22, 2021. In addition, they are planning an educational training event and social hour in October and will be wrapping up the year with their annual December Luncheon and "Business After Hours" event with the Fargo Chamber. These highly anticipated events allow all members an opportunity to relax, celebrate the year's successes, interact, and begin strategizing for the upcoming new year.

Executive Board members can make all the difference in a successful PCC. One of the keys to RRVPCC success is the close relationship and connection they have with their Executive Board. Together they diligently work on keeping the lines of communication open with each other, especially with the Fargo Postmaster Greg Johnson. Many RRVPCC members would agree that one of the best things about the PCC is they can quickly get a response or resolution to mailing questions and concerns because of their connection and relationship with Mr. Johnson.

In light of all the challenges they faced over the past year, the Red River Valley PCC continues to strive on building a community of individuals who are dedicated to growing their businesses through a partnership with the Postal Service, while supporting and promoting the PCC mission.

The Red River Valley PCC is currently led by:

- Postal Co-Chair, Greg Johnson, Fargo North Dakota Postmaster
- Industry Co-Chair, Darin Lee, Supervisor, Campus Postal Service University of North Dakota
- Industry Vice-Chair, Steve Jacobson, Dakota Business Solutions
- Postal Administrator, Sheila Cogdill, USPS Secretary
- Tony Williams, USPS, MN-ND District Manager

Some “fun facts” about the Fargo Area that you may not know are:

- 1) The Red River is a tributary of the Mississippi River and has a length of about 1,360 miles long. It creates the border between North Dakota and Minnesota. This river has a high salt content. It was named “Red River” because of the color of its watershed. Captain Henry Miller was the first to drive a steamboat along the river in 1815.
- 2) Fargo is the largest city in North Dakota and the home of Football Championship Subdivision national powerhouse North Dakota State University (NDSU). Over the years, the Bison have won 16 national championships, and 36 conference championships. They won five consecutive NCAA Division 1 National Championships between 2011 and 2015, and three more consecutively between 2017 and 2019. NDSU has had much success raising NFL quarterbacks, 3 of which were drafted (NFL) since 2016. They include Carson Wentz (*Indianapolis Colts*); Easton Stick (*Los Angeles Chargers*); and Trey Lance (*San Francisco 49ers*).
- 3) Fargo isn’t cold all the time – there is no disputing that the winters in Fargo get cold, with averages down as low as minus-3 degrees that feel even colder with the wind. The city averages about 52 inches of snow every winter, but the cold and snowy winters are just a piece of the puzzle. Fargo also has mild summer weather. The warm season goes from May to September, with an average high of 70 degrees. The average high temperature in July warms up to 83 degrees.
- 4) It used to be underwater – Less than 10 thousand years ago, Fargo and Moorhead were 200 feet under the surface of Lake Agassiz. This was a huge inland sea formed at the end of the last ice age. The waters receded over thousands of years, leaving behind rich black soil. This soil makes the Red River Valley one of the most fertile farming areas in the world.
- 5) World Record Pancakes – Fargo has the distinction of setting the world record for the largest pancake feed. During the Kiwanis Club’s Pancake Carnival fundraiser in 2008, members cooked 34,818 pancakes at the Fargo Civic Center. They cooked and served the pancakes all day, surpassing the previous record set by the Lubbock, Texas, Lions Club.

For more information on the Red River Valley PCC, please visit their website at:

<https://rrvpcc.com/>

