

Congratulations to the Greater Portland PCC for being chosen as the
July *PCC Insider* “Spotlight”



GREATER PORTLAND PCC (PORTLAND, OR)

Date founded: In the 1980s

Members: Several hundred members and organizations

Awards:

- 2021 Education Excellence – Silver Award
- 2021 PCC Industry Member of the Year – Bronze Award – Wes Friesen
- 2020 Communications Program Excellence – Bronze Award
- 2016 Education Excellence – Gold Award
- 2016 Communications Program Excellence – Silver Award
- 2014 National PCC of the Year
- 2009 National PCC of the Year
- 2008 Premier Certificate Silver Award
- 2009 – 2021 Premier Certificate Gold Award
- 2013 – 2021 Premier Certificate Platinum Award

The mission of the Greater Portland PCC (GPPCC) “is to create a network between business mailers, the U.S. Postal Service and vendors to enhance and improve mail operations in the Portland Metropolitan Area.” The PCC’s tagline is “Strengthening our Mailing Community through Education, Networking, and Industry Enrichment!”

GPPCC has faced the same challenges as all PCCs thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, from the beginning their Executive Board decided to continue holding in-person meetings and add a Zoom link as an option so that all their members could safely attend. They were blessed to be able to hold their meetings at the Portland Postal Processing & Distribution Center, a cutting-edge facility located close to the Portland airport and major freeways. Adhering to all CDC, State and Local guidelines for social distancing, the GPPCC happy reports to date they have reported zero COVID cases, as a result of their in-person meetings over the past two years.

In 2021, the PCC continued its long history of hosting insightful and engaging educational events with a total of 23 engaging events. Although a few were Zoom only webinars, the vast majority were in-person with a Zoom option. In addition, they held monthly board and membership meetings (which had postal and industry educational components), and networking-oriented events which also included “Lunch & Learns”.

The highlight of 2021, was their in-person Annual Mailers and Shippers Conference which was held in October. Due to local CDC guidelines at the time, they had to restrict attendance to 60 guests including Keynote Speakers: Mark Fallon, CEO and President, The Berkshire Company, Wes Friesen, President, Solomon Training & Development and Bill Schwartz, USPS, OR-MT-ID District Manager. Thanks to their dedicated members they were able to successfully pull off a rare, mid pandemic, in-person conference featuring exhibitors, food (breakfast, lunch and snacks), door prizes and multiple education sessions.

Since its existence, the GPPCC has also been a strong leader in communications. Periodically mailing out letters and postcards keeping their general membership, sponsors and potential new members

apprised of upcoming events and changes within the industry. Their Industry Co-Chair, Wes Friesen also sends out informative emails twice per month which include meeting agendas, updates and other materials.

The Greater Portland PCC is proud of its rich tradition of having strong support from local USPS leadership and staff, as well as strong support from their Industry partners who also provide leadership and financial support. Unfortunately, the pandemic has hit the Portland Industry segment hard, with that in mind, one of the GPPCC goals for 2022 is to focus on rebuilding Industry involvement. Another goal they are pursuing in 2022, is revamping their PCC website to include innovative technology.

Kicking off 2022, the GPPCC sponsored an event that included a NBA Portland Trail Blazers game. As COVID restrictions subside, the GPPCC looks forward to hosting a wide variety of in-person educational events with various engaging networking components in 2022.

The Greater Portland PCC is currently lead by:

- Postal Co-Chair, Scott Manier, Postmaster Portland, Oregon Post Office, OR-MT-ID District
- Industry Co-Chair, Wes Friesen, President – Solomon Training & Development
- Industry Vice-Chair, Scott Brenton, Pacific Office Automation
- Co-Postal Administrator, Kirsten Sherrell, Manager of Customer Relations, District
- Co-Postal Administrator and Lynn Yut, Customer Relations Coordinator
- Secretary, Tommy Werbin USPS; Business Lead Development Specialist
- Treasurer, Melanie Harrington, Pacific Power
- Communications Chair Sarah Shipman, Pitney Bowes
- Membership Chair, Marilyn Webber, NW Natural
- Education Chair, Ellen Koch, Vice President Moonlight BPO
- District Manager, Bill Schwartz, OR-MT-ID District, USPS

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

1. With more than 350 plus miles of bike lanes, Portland is considered the most bike-friendly city in America
2. In 1971, Guinness World Records confirmed Mill Ends Park measuring two square feet is the smallest park in the world.
3. There’s a volcano located within Portland’s city limits. Southeast Portland’s Mount Tabor is one of the city’s most well-loved parks. The volcano itself is extinct, but much of the hill is made up of ancient volcanic lava.
4. The Portland Rose Garden located within Washington Park is the largest and oldest rose garden in America. The rose garden was created in 1915 by Jesse Currey, an Oregon Journal editor and rose hobbyist, in an effort to preserve roses susceptible to eradication during World War I.
5. Sitting pretty at nearly 35 feet tall, the Portlandia Statue is the second largest copper statue in America – second only to the Statue of Liberty located in New York City. The City of Portland commissioned a sculptor named Raymond Kaskey to create a sculpture after a figure on the Portland seal. He modeled the statue’s face after his wife. Kaskey completed sections of the statue near Washington, D.C. and began shipping it to Portland piece by piece via boat. It was installed on the Portland Building in 1985. The sculptor guards all rights to the statue and doesn’t allow photos of it for commercial purposes.

For more information on the Greater Portland PCC please visit their website at: <https://www.gppcc.com/>

