



VIPMOAA

NEWSLETTER



WEBSITE:
<http://www.VIPMOAA.org>

EMAIL:
peninsulamooaa@gmail.com

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PREZ SEZ

“We should not look back unless it is to derive useful lessons from past errors ... by dearly bought experience.”

George Washington



Delivery of our Chapter Newsletter, or should I say non-delivery for some of us, has reached a point where I feel a word of explanation is necessary. Up front, let me say that it is not due to any fault on the part of the Editor or the Printer. While those of you who live in the Hampton/Newport News/Lower Peninsula areas receive your newsletters in a timely manner, those of us who live in the Williamsburg/Upper Peninsula (WUP) areas recently have not been.

In September, WUP members received the newsletter for that month during the last week of that month. In October, WUP members received the October Newsletter mid-November. I got mine November 17th. The program information and reservation coupon, due November 12th, for our Annual Meeting to be held on November 17th, were in that newsletter.

So, what has been the problem? First, the printer, Cardwell, takes the newsletters to the bulk mail postal facility at Oyster Point in Newport News, where we have our money on deposit for our bulk mail account. The Oyster Point facility separates those destined for the Lower Peninsula and sends them to Norfolk where they are redistributed to all Lower Peninsula areas, and our members in these areas all seem to get them shortly thereafter. Those destined for the Upper Peninsula go to Richmond for further processing, and our WUP members may get them in a few weeks, or not. The Richmond Processing and Distribution Center in Sandston is where the problem has been. So much so that NBC News Channel 12 in Richmond conducted a four month investigation following numerous complaints registered with them by Richmond area customers griping about poor mail delivery. An extensive audit was conducted by the Office of Inspector General, United States Postal Service, which discovered problems with understaffing, poor supervision, mistakes in color coding the mail, and too much wasted time running the machinery. A new plant manager was hired in June to turn the Sandston plant around, who claims to have fixed the same problems at two other plants in the country. We can only hope. Frank Duckett, Major, USAF (Ret), President VIPMOAA, 757/253-1824; fduckett@cox.net.

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