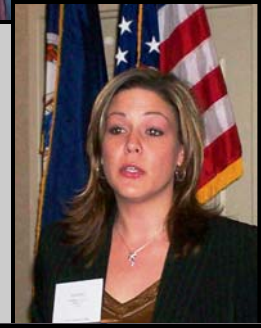


Virginia Chapter of NAPUS

Executive Conference 2008



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changes to our website?

New look

More Information!

Check it out at

WWW.VANAPUS.ORG

DATES TO REMEMBER

<p>2008</p> <p>Nat'l Conv.</p> <p>St Louis MO</p> <p>August 23-29</p>

2008 VA State Convention
Charlottesville, VA
July 12-16

2008 Mid Atlantic
Conference
July 18-20

The opinions expressed in this publication are the
opinions of the writers and do not necessarily
express the views of NAPUS or the USPS.

Retiree's President

Chuck Allen



Well, another Virginia State Training Conference in Roanoke Va. is behind us and if you missed it, shame on you. It was another good Conference as usual. The number in attendance was not as high as hoped to be, but everyone there enjoyed the fellowship and training. We had an excellent meeting of the retiree's on Friday and accomplished a lot. As your president and requirements of our constitution, I appointed two Directors-at-Large who will serve on our Executive Committee for the next two years 2008-2009. The two appointed were Judy Cleaton, retired postmaster of Bracey VA, and Jeanne Drumond, retired Postmaster, Iron Gate Va. I also appointed a nominating committee, which consists of Barbara Swann and Shirley Snow, to present a slate for the position of Secretary/Treasurer at our State Convention in Charlottesville, July 13-16 2008. At this time we have one person that is running, which is Judy Carroll, retiree from Ebony Va. Anyone else wishing to be a candidate please contact Barbara or Shirley to have your name placed in nomination. According to our Constitution, you must be present at our State Convention in order for your name to be placed in nomination. The telephone number to contact Barbara is 804-580-7710 and Shirley's number is 804-725-3550, Barbara is retired from Heathsville, and Shirley is retired from Moon Va. They both have an e-mail address but prefer telephone calls. I mentioned the good training at the Roanoke conference, I sat in on a retirement class and it was excellent, even though I have been retired 3 years, I still got a lot of good information when it comes to Social Security, Medicare and things that effect or will effect retirees. They are planning to have this same instructor at the State Convention, so if you did not make it to Roanoke, try it at State, this class will benefit anyone regardless of how many years you have to go or if you are retired. The instructor is excellent and covers everything. The incoming Virginia State President for Virginia for 2009, Elaine Cook, of Pembroke, is already in her planning stages, she announced the Roanoke Conference for next year will be April 16-19, so active and retiree's plan, mark your calendars now. On Saturday morning I left Roanoke, as did most of your State officer's and headed on to Washington for our annual Legislative Training Conference. I spent Saturday until Wednesday there and it was also more good fellowship and training as usual. This conference in Washington is not just for officer's, anyone can attend, if you have never attended, I suggest you do. Next year these two conference's are not be back to back and should be more convenient for those attending. I hope to see you in Charlottesville in July, and do not forget our meeting will be 11:00 on Monday morning, we are trying to schedule our retiree's luncheon for 12:30 that same day. The National Convention will be in St Louis August 23-29 2008, they have set the date for the Alaska National in 2009, it will be September 12-17, so start saving. I hope to see all of you in Charlottesville, I 'm asking all retiree's to come and lets help the Virginia Chapter bind together as one of the strongest chapter's in the country.

WOULD THE PERSON OR PERSONS WHO RETURNED THE AREA FLAGS AND BANNERS TO OUR PRESIDENT, PLEASE CONTACT MARY HARRISON-JONES AT (804) 642-6164. WE OWE YOU A BIG THANK YOU FOR RETURNING THESE ITEMS. THEY HAVE BEEN MISSING FOR A FEW YEARS AND WE ARE SO HAPPY TO HAVE THEM BACK.

WANT TO GET ON THE EMAIL LIST FOR VA NAPUS?

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR NAME TO pmttoolbox@aol.com WITH THE SUBJECT LINE - VA NAPUS. YOU WILL BE ADDED TO THE FAMILY NETWORK. WE SHARE NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OUR CHAPTER.

Editor's Column

Tamika Pippin, Huddleston 24104



I was very happy to see everyone who attended the VA NAPUS Executive Conference in Roanoke. We had a great time even though it was cut a little short due to the National Legislative Conference in DC. I was sad to see we did not have more attendance. Kimmie did a great job for Career Development and there were a variety of informative classes to take. I hope you plan on attending the VA NAPUS State Convention in July, I am sure she will have an excellent variety there also. Thank you to everyone who took the time and effort in planning this conference, from the chairmen to the instructors, you are appreciated.

I would like to announce my candidacy for President of the Virginia Chapter of NAPUS for 2009. I joined NAPUS in 1999 when I was appointed Postmaster of Pembroke Virginia. Since then, I have served as Committee Chairman, Career Development Chair, Co-Chair of the Executive Conference, Postmaster Services Representative, State Convention Chair 2 year straight, and currently, 1st Vice President. As President, I want to partner with the Retirees and ask their members to volunteer to serve on each committee that is formed. Our retirees built our organization, and they have a wealth of knowledge that needs to be tapped. LET US DO TOGETHER WHAT WE CANNOT DO ALONE. If elected President, I am hoping to hold our State Convention at The Inn at Virginia Tech. This is Virginia Tech's new conference center. Many of you have either been to, or have heard of the wonderful attendance and times that was shared at the Donaldson Brown Continuing Education Center. I hope by returning to Blacksburg that many of our Postmasters and Retirees that have chosen not to come to our most recent events, will come back out and join us. For the next year, please feel free to contact me to let me know what issues you would like me to focus on. I will work with Claudette this year and with our elected leaders next year to address your concerns. I hope that everyone is planning on attending the State Convention at the Omni in July. Being a big HOKIE, I did not expect to like the town of Hoo'ville, but I LOVED it! The hotel is gorgeous and opens out into the pedestrian mall that has restaurants, shopping, brick walkways and benches. I am looking forward to going back in July and hope to see you too, in Charlottesville!



Elaine Cook, Pembroke 24136

It's clear to me that no one person can raise all of the money necessary to find a cure for cancer. But hopefully by working together, a cure will eventually be found. I feel proud to know that I am helping to find a cure and each of you should feel proud too because your donation will make a difference. I can't wait until April when I can test the limits of the human spirit and see what I am truly capable of. Knowing that when I cross the finish line I will not only have achieved a milestone in my life, but that I will have also raised \$3,600 for cancer research in the process, will make this achievement that much more meaningful. If you would like to make a donation, please visit my website at:

<http://www.active.com/donate/tntva/tntvaECook> (Your donation can be anonymous, if you do not want your name listed on the website) Or, you can send me a check made out to "LLS" at:

Elaine Cook
P O Box 915
Pembroke VA 24136-0915

All donations are **100% tax deductible** and no donation is too small. A minimum of 75% of every dollar spent by the Society goes directly toward cancer research, education, advocacy and patient services.

Virginia Chapter President

Claudette Wilcher, Millboro 24460



WeBbat audits, Quarterly audits, MYPO, EDR, PFP, BSA training, order stamps, return stamps, Business Connect, daily star, answer the phone, log in, log out, sort the mail, wait on customers, online training, eBay, check your checkbook, get out on time, get back on time...sound familiar? Are you feeling overwhelmed with the tasks you are required to complete by a certain deadline, frustrated and confused because you have been inadequately trained and haven't been given the resources or the time you need to finish the job? You should have been in Roanoke at the Executive training conference! You are required to submit reports or access programs and many of you have no idea where to even start or how to complete all the things that are mandated to you everyday. You had the opportunity to get that training in March. Yes, it costs you annual leave, and yes, it costs you registration and the cost of your room if you don't live close enough to commute but it could save your job and your sanity. If you are committed to doing an excellent job, and most of you are, then you will have to seek out the training you need. Our state convention in July, at the OMNI in Charlottesville, VA (July 13th thru 16th) is another opportunity to get the training you need and to get information on other issues that affect you and you fellow postmasters. We will have a class on FERS and Civil Service retirement information and personal consultations will be available. Many of you are worried your office won't pass an audit or financial review— information will be available to help you bring your office into compliance. Kim Allen, our Career Development chair, has some excellent training planned and may even throw in a little fun. It is up to you to make sure you are doing the right thing. "I didn't know" will not save your job or your reputation. Most of us are committed to excellence and to provide that we will have to aggressively seek out what we need to attain it. You are given 5 days of convention leave to get this training and if you don't use it you may find the very training you missed was the training that would have saved your job! Take advantage of the training, networking, and fellowship the convention offers. You will find you get as much information by interacting with fellow postmasters as you do in the classroom. I would also like to add a note for the benefit of OICs and PMRs – you are welcome too! We would love for you to have this opportunity to join us. This convention could be one of your greatest resources for information if you are interested in upward mobility. The training is awesome and the networking and fellowship could help you find the tools you need to move forward. You will have to use personal leave but it will be well worth the time and effort you invest. I would like for you to take the time to get to know your NAPUS officers and let us know how we can better serve you. I would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to serve your organization by serving either on a committee or as an elected or appointed officer. This organization has been strong because of the commitment of its members and will stay strong for the same reason. I would like to close with this thought – "Life is a journey, not a destination". Don't lose your focus. Your family and friends will be there when the job is gone. Take the time and invest in what is really important. Keep your faith, love each other, strive for excellence and HAVE SOME FUN!!!

Charlotte Court House, VA, Postmaster Angela Williams wanted to do something special for service members wounded from overseas combat, she came up with a plan to send them Valentine's Day greetings. Williams with the help of Charlotte County art teacher Katie Jones, asked 389 students from the Phoenix, J. Murray Jeffress and Bacon District elementary schools to make homemade Valentines. Williams sent the Valentines through www.americasupportsyou.mil, a Department of Defense program that connects individuals and organizations with service members. "I hope these cards put a smile on the soldiers' faces and let them know that we appreciate all they have done for our country," Williams said.

Area 6 National VP

JIM BIBEY



GREETINGS...First of all, I regret that I was not able to attend the training classes in Roanoke this year. My obligation as National VP required that I be at the Executive Board Meeting on that Friday and Saturday, but I look forward to visiting with you at your State Convention in July. The National Executive Board meets for two days prior to the start of the Leadership Conference and is open to all active NAPUS members. There were a lot of agenda items to cover and the board was kept busy both days, but rest assured " we took care of business. " I am sure the Gazette will have a more detailed report of what was covered, but I will highlight some of the agenda items with you now. Our National Sec/Tres Ruthie Caudle reported that our organization is in great financial condition. She gave a report on the 2007 and 2008 Financial reviews and the Audit Committee followed up with their report that found the records to be in excellent order. The Audit Committee consists of five members of the Executive

Board. Ken Engstrom, our National Director, gave a National Office report concerning upgrades on the structure, renewal of contracts and warranties, replacement of some office equipment and introduced the newest member of our national office staff, Tiffany Marshall. Ken reviewed the proper procedures of using the Resolution Log with the Board members. Bob Levi gave the Board a report on what items were to be addressed with our Congressional Representatives at this years Conference. He also reviewed with us the results of a survey he sent out to the Legislative and PAC Chairs of each State Chapter. One issue of concern from this survey was whether these positions were given enough time at State Conventions to speak and to present their issues. Be sure to look over the upcoming issues of the Gazette for details on the issues that your NAPUS representatives brought before the Congressional aides concerning our jobs and benefits. Other items that were presented before the Board included: A presentation by Jerry Huklick, from Mass Benefits, on NAPUS Service Updates. Presentations for the site of our 2011 National Convention by Chattanooga, TN ; Orlando, FL ; Virginia Beach, VA ; San Juan, PR; Atlanta, GA; Hampton, VA; and Ft. Lauderdale, FL. President Dale informed the group that the free registration for first-timers at this years National Convention in St Louis has been extended until June 30th. There was a Postmaster Rep Committee report by Shelia Hunter, a report on our 2007 National Convention by Martha Lujan, the 2008 Convention by Gerri Ann Wood, and on our 2009 National Convention by Dan Carper. Virginia's favorite son, Charlie Moser, gave a report on Membership and informed us that we are at 73.32 % on the national level.

There was more general business to take care of and committees to appoint, but your probably **bored** with this **board** talk already, so I will close for now and end this by wishing you all a summer of health and good cheer. And I hope to see many of you in July.....**Jim**

Financial Tip #1 - Credit Card Statements

All of us have credit cards we use almost every day. When you receive your statement, do you simply make the required payment without looking at the list of charges? I am sure many of us give the statement a quick review without taking a close look at every individual charge, especially if the amounts are under \$50.00. The bad guys recently have developed methods to incur charges on your credit card in small amounts, amounts you would probably never notice, especially if there are a number of charges on your statement. However they will not hit you for these charges on a monthly basis. Your account will be charged on an irregular basis periodically, so you may not notice these small amounts for many months. Be careful of this latest credit card scam. And if you think it can not happen to you, that is what I said.....until it happened to me!

Wayne Orshak
Candidate for NAPUS National Secretary-Treasurer

**THE OMNI - CHARLOTTESVILLE
REGISTRATION FORM**

**Virginia Chapter of NAPUS State Convention
July 13 - 16, 2008**

Registration Fees	By July 1 st	After July 1 st and On site
<input type="checkbox"/> Member Full Registration	\$75	\$95
<input type="checkbox"/> Retiree	\$65	\$95

One day Only Registration Fees

<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday/Presidents Reception	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> Monday/Lunch	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday/Lunch	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday/Lunch/Grand Banquet	\$60
<input type="checkbox"/> Grand Banquet Only	\$30

Note: Emergency refund requests only will be honored. You must submit in writing.

(Please Print) Badge Name _____ Title _____

Full Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone Number _____

If you are a Past President and plan on attending the Presidents Reception Sunday, please fill in the year you served _____.

Make Checks Payable to: Virginia Chapter of NAPUS

Mail To: Mary Harrison-Jones

Virginia Chapter National Association of Postmasters

Po Box 306

Gloucester Point VA 23062-0306

HOTEL ROOM RATES -- \$109.00 PER ROOM

OMNI CHARLOTTESVILLE HOTEL

235 W MAIN ST

CHARLOTTESVILLE VA 22902

CALL 1-434-971-5500 FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS

ASK FOR NAPUS CONVENTION

226 Area News

The Postal Service continues to change daily. Are you willing to learn new procedures with little training and experience? None of us know what the future holds in the Postal Service. The future is never guaranteed just offered daily with challenges. We need to make sure we know how to achieve what is expected daily with ever changing technology. I realized this quickly when given the opportunity to accept a detail in a position I had not been in for 4 years. Some of the programs were still being used, but the manual information we use to input has now been replaced with scanning technology that does the calculation for you. Being willing to change hasn't been the problem. Understanding what the information is being used for or how I am supposed to be able to use the information gathered to improve the work performance has been challenging. I am looking forward to training that is offered at State Convention. I can't believe how much I learned at Conference. Being familiar with a program is not the same as being taught how to navigate it and to use it for your betterment. I can't begin to share with you all the information that was received. As a Postmaster in this generation you need to become involved in NAPUS. The OIG is out there and you will be out in right field if you don't step up to the bat. There is not only good training but the network you establish with fellow Postmasters is invaluable. Who do you go to when you have a question? No one is any busier than anyone else in this business; it's just where you put your priorities. Take the first step and join us at State in Charlottesville this year. Sign up today! Karen Davis and Kim Timberlake are State Convention Chairs; they are both from our area, so let's give them our support. Call a neighboring Postmaster and get them to share the expense. Don't forget the neighboring Retired Postmaster, get them involved too. They will love to visit with old friends and share their wealth of knowledge with others. Just like Jerry Fisher, retired Postmaster Woodstock who came back to help with the Rural Mail Count. I'm sure Jennifer enjoyed his presence and I got to reminisce with him during training. It's not about being satisfied in the office that you are assigned and you are not interested in furthering your career, it's about having the knowledge to do your current job the right way. We are held accountable for our actions. You better know where it is in writing not just from "I've always done it this way." Sandra Pugh taught that being a Postmaster **you** are responsible for knowing how to do your job correctly. Let me know that you signed up and we can plan as an area to attend together, 465-4620, mpearson@shentel.net. We have some new OIC's in the area. If they are serving your office while you are in a detailed position and you don't plan to attend, volunteer to work for them so they can!

HOT CHOCOLATE:

A group of Postmasters, well established in their careers, were talking at a convention and decided to go visit another Postmaster, now retired. During their visit, the conversation turned to complaints about stress in their work and lives. Offering his guests hot chocolate, the retired Postmaster went into the kitchen and returned with a large pot of hot chocolate and an assortment of cups - porcelain, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite - telling them to help themselves to the hot chocolate. When they all had a cup of hot chocolate in hand, the retired Postmaster said: "Notice that all the nice looking, expensive cups were taken, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. The cup that you're drinking from adds nothing to the quality of the hot chocolate. In most cases it is just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was hot chocolate, not the cup; but you consciously went for the best cups... And then you began eyeing each other's cups. Now consider this: Life is the hot chocolate; your job, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain life. The cup you have does not define, nor change the quality of life you have. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the hot chocolate God has provided us. God makes the hot chocolate, man chooses the cups. The happiest people don't have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything that they have. Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. And enjoy your hot chocolate.



Form 1187

Request and Authorization for Voluntary Allotment of Compensation for Payment of Employee Organization Dues

SECTION A—All New Members Complete

Your title determines whether you also complete Section B or C

USPS Employee Identification Number (EIN):			
Social Security Number	Date of Birth	Gender Male ___ Female ___	Home Telephone ()
Name of Employee (PRINT Last Name, First, Middle)			Nickname
Home Address (Street and Number/PO Box)		City	State ZIP+4
Spouse's First Name	Personal E-Mail Address		Total Years of Postal Service

SECTION B—Postmasters Only Complete

Post Office City/State	ZIP Code	Post Office Finance Number
Post Office Level	Postmaster's Direct Post Office Telephone ()	

SECTION C—(Check One): Officer-in-Charge Associate PMR—Only Complete

Post Office City/State	PO Finance Number of OIC Detail		
Date of PM/OIC Appointment	Post Office Telephone Number	()	
Former Postmaster at this Office has	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired Date / /	<input type="checkbox"/> Detailed to (Title and Location)	
Home Payroll Office Finance Number		Employee Designation Code	

SECTION D—For Use by the Employee Organization

Mail completed form to: National Association of Postmasters of the United States (NAPUS) 8 Herbert Street Alexandria, Virginia 22305-2600		
I hereby certify that the regular dues of this organization for the above-named member currently are established at \$_____ per calendar month.		
Signature and Title of Authorized Official	<input type="checkbox"/> NAPUS Membership Chair <input type="checkbox"/> NAPUS Chapter Secretary-Treasurer	Date
Member submitted as: <input type="checkbox"/> Withholding <input type="checkbox"/> Cash (attach check/money order)		

SECTION E—Authorization by Employee

I hereby authorize the above-named agency to deduct from my pay the first pay period of each month the amount certified above as the regular dues of the (UN-P) National Association of Postmasters of the United States (NAPUS) and to remit such amounts to that employee organization in accordance with its arrangements with my employing agency. I further authorize any change in the amount to be deducted that is certified by the above-named employee organization as a uniform change in its dues structure.

I understand that this authorization is a monthly deduction. It will become effective the first pay period of the calendar month, which includes the first day of the month, following its receipt in the employee organization's headquarters office: NAPUS, 8 Herbert Street, Alexandria, VA 22305-2600.

I further understand that revocation forms—Standard Form No. 1188, "Revocation of Voluntary Authorization for Allotment of Compensation for Payment of Employee Organization Dues"—are available from my employing agency and that I may revoke this authorization at any time by filing such a revocation form or other written revocation request "Certified Mail" directly to the employee organization's headquarters office: NAPUS, 8 Herbert Street, Alexandria, VA 22305-2600. Such revocation will not be effective, however, until the first full pay period following March 1 or Sept. 1 of any calendar year, whichever date first occurs after the revocation is received in the employee organization's headquarters office.

Yes, at the same time I join NAPUS, I'd like to join NAPUS Federal Credit Union and also receive a NAPUS FCU Visa card, if I qualify! After I've received my Credit Union account card in the mail, I understand I may call PostalEASE (1-877-477-3273) and set up a payroll allotment to NAPUS FCU. The CU's routing number is 254074934.

Signature of Employee	Date
-----------------------	------

Who/what most influenced your decision to join NAPUS? _____

Trigg Harrison

Trigg Harrison was politically appointed Postmaster, Chesapeake VA in 1963. He was the first Postmaster for the City of Chesapeake. He became very active in the National Association of Postmasters of the United States (NAPUS). Having served the Virginia Chapter in many capacities including Membership Chairman, Convention Chairman, Secretary/Treasurer and President, he was well known across the state. He was very proud of his accomplishments in the area of membership. During his years, the Virginia Chapter maintained membership figures in the 90% range. He worked very hard for the chapter and its members, and included his whole family in the work. He traveled to every area of the state to attend area meetings and functions. He traveled the state with his wife, Anne and put his daughters to work stuffing envelopes, applying stamps for mailings and putting together goodie bags for conventions through the years. He also attended National events and represented our state in a professional manner. Trigg was never too busy to be available for others or to help any Postmaster who needed him. He always made others feel welcome and included in all events of the chapter. It has been said that he gave rides, meals, money, and rooms to fellow postmasters in need. Trigg was a very large man, but was a very gentle man. He was always seen walking around with a clipboard taking notes and overseeing anything that needed taking care of. It was his dream to have the NAPUS National Convention in our state. He worked diligently with other members of our chapter to promote Virginia Beach as a possible convention site. After several years of trying, a committee presented a presentation in Puerto Rico during the convention and won the vote to host the 1988 National Convention in Virginia Beach. He was chosen to be National Convention Chairman and he immediately began working on the plans. Unfortunately, Trigg became ill and passed away in September, 1985. (The 1988 National Convention was dedicated to his memory.) He was suppose to be attending the National Convention in Las Vegas, but had to cancel due to hospitalization just weeks prior. Word was relayed to those from our state in attendance that it didn't look good for him. The delegation meet in a room in Vegas and decided then and there that a scholarship was going to be given in his memory. The members knew that Trigg believed in the youth and the futures that they may have. Sadly, Trigg died the day the plane landed bringing the Virginia delegates back home. The first scholarship was awarded in 1986 and it has continued to grow year after year. The Virginia Chapter of NAPUS holds a benefit auction every year during the Executive Conference. We ask that all those registered for the Conference and anyone not able to attend or wishing to donate, bring or send their items to be auctioned. All funds raised during this event goes to ensure our children and grandchildren become educated leaders for the future. Funds for the Scholarship will be derived from this auction, donations and memorials. Memorial donations can be made in honor of a family member or friend. This year we will be giving one scholarship for \$2500, one for \$1500 and one for \$1000. Applicants will be notified of the results. Recipients will be invited to attend the State Convention to accept their scholarships. High School graduates will also have their scholarships announced during their awards ceremonies. We appreciate all those that applied and look forward to presenting this scholarship yearly in honor of a great man who gave so abundantly from the heart.

(Special thanks to Mary Harrison Jones)

Coconut Macaroons

From: Katy Bush

1 pkg (14 oz) coconut	4 egg whites
2/3 cup sugar	1 tsp almond extract
6 tablespoons flour	1/4 tsp salt

Mix coconut, sugar, flour and salt in a large bowl. Stir in egg whites and extract until well blended. Drop on greased and floured cookie sheet. Bake at 325 for 20 minutes or until edges are brown. Remove to wire racks and cool.

Thank you for the submission of articles. Do to space restraints some articles could not be included in this issue. These articles will be included in the next issue if possible.

Deadline for June issue is May 14. Please call if you have any questions. 540-314-4249

Leadership Conference



VA Chapter NAPUS
Mary Harrison Jones – Secretary/Treasurer
PO BOX 306
Gloucester Point, VA 23062



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