

For all of you who don't know me, I would like to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Bethany Small and I am the new District Representative in the Mid-Carolinas district. I have been a Rural Carrier since February of 2007 at the Ocean Isle Beach branch of the Shallotte Post Office. I was elected as the Local Steward in 2008 and I became an Area Steward in 2010. I was an RCA until 2012 when I became a PTF. I became a Part-Time Assistant District Representative in 2013, right before I became a Regular carrier in 2014. I started as a Full-Time Assistant District Representative in 2015 and remained such until taking over as the District Representative in January of 2020.

I was raised in upstate New York in a tight-knit family. I attended college in Rhode Island and New York and graduated with a BA in Business Administration and Marketing. I have been married to my husband, Matthew for almost 14 years and we live in Southport with our dog. We love spending time on the water and we also enjoy travelling and exploring new places.

I was raised to put family first, cherish my heritage, to mean what I say and say what I mean, and always stand up for what I believe is right. I believe that my Mother's social conscience must have imprinted on me at some point, and I have lived my life from the perspective of wanting to fix what I see as wrong. I love a success story; I love when the little guy wins and justice is served. What's even more satisfying is when I get to contribute to those outcomes. This is why I am a steward.

I believe that we can do good in a very difficult setting. I believe that if we work together, we can make things better not only for ourselves, but for our brothers and sisters in the next case, or the next town, or the next state. But these ideas sometimes seem out of reach. These ideas seem to take more energy to bring to fruition than we have to give. It is not easy being a postal employee. But if adversity has taught me anything, it's that the feeling of hopelessness must not be left unchecked. That feeling of powerlessness is a call to arms, it's the warning sign that indifference or inaction is about to pull you across the line into complicity. Whatever we do as a craft, we can't give up, we can make a difference!

The last 11 years have taught me so much. First and foremost, that time moves quicker than I had ever hoped. My life now is completely different than when I first started with the Postal Service. In many ways, I have grown up with you all. Some of my co-workers became like family and have helped shape me into the person I am today. I can't promise you that I won't make mistakes or a wrong decision or that I'll never be wrong. But I can promise you that I will always try and I will won't give up.

Lastly, I want to thank you all for your patience and support during this period of transition. I am looking forward to meeting and working with each of you in the coming months and years.