

## AUSPL PEOPLE

### Lois Mitchell Praises New Orleans Conference 2014

Lois Mitchell, a member since 2004, is a big fan of AUSPL, having attended AUSPL conferences in Arlington, VA, Las Vegas, NV, and most recently New Orleans, LA. “The Postal Service changes on a dime. The organization empowers members to deal with USPS,” says Lois. “Knowledge is power.”

“The conference in New Orleans was fabulous, especially the session on EMCOR and maintenance. Now I don’t panic when I receive a certified letter from EMCOR. I’m not intimidated by them. I know they have to send the letter,” says Lois. “And, I’m not angry at the postmaster for not calling me about a maintenance issue because I know he has to call EMCOR first.”

In 2004, Lois bought her first post office. “I wanted a steady income,” she says. Her broker was an AUSPL member who encouraged her to join. “I’ve found the organization to be invaluable. I always thought the conferences were educational and very good,” she continues. Lois own three post offices, individually and in partnership.

As an advocate for postal lessors like Lois, AUSPL frequently visits with legislators in Washington, D.C. to discuss postal reform and the leasing program, reporting on the trips and lobbying efforts, online and in print.

Lois and her husband Ronald Longacre recently held their own “meet and greet” for their Congressman Tim Bishop (D-1<sup>st</sup> NY). Lois asked the lawmaker his position on post offices, mentioning the buildings she owns and AUSPL, its lobbying efforts, conferences, and the leasing program, of which he was not aware. While the Congressman is not on any postal-related committee, he is familiar with pending postal reform legislation, and he supports rural post offices, as well as six-day mail delivery.

Lois says that Rep. Bishop was aware of the intention of USPS to close the local East Setauket branch post office, and he supported the community’s efforts to keep it open. The AUSPL “Save the Post Office” guide for preventing the closure or consolidation of post offices provides support for such community actions, which can include signing petitions and talking with media.

Today, Lois is semi-retired from a career as a CPA. “I’m licensed in New York and California, and I only do some personal client taxes during tax season,” she tells us.

#### ***Share Your Story with Us***

***Members are sharing stories about their experiences with fellow lessors, the Postal Service, CBRE, EMCOR, and more! We can’t wait to share your experiences with visitors to our website. Send to [auspl@auspl.com](mailto:auspl@auspl.com) or mail to AUSPL, 8283 N. Hayden Road, Suite 295, Scottsdale, AZ 85258.***



*Ron Longacre and Lois Mitchell*