

Have a Safe and Happy New Year

from the Officers and Executive Board of
BRANCH 34 NALC BOSTON

National Association of Letter Carriers
Joseph P. Considine Branch 34 NALC, AFL-CIO
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Branch 34's CLAN

National Association of Letter Carriers

123 Years of Proud Union Participation and Accomplishments ★ 1890 - 2013



President's Corner

Happy Holidays to All!

Happy holidays to you and yours! Once again it's that time of year to enjoy family and friends. Try not to get overwhelmed with anxiety during this holiday season. It's easy to do because of finances, shopping malls, etc. Let's enjoy this season without placing too much additional pressure on ourselves. Relaxation can be the best way to enjoy the holidays. I assure you I wouldn't know firsthand but I've heard that. I'm going to try it someday if I get some free time (lol). Until then I'll see you in the malls.

The holiday season is a good time to reflect on what we have and what we've accomplished individually and collectively during the past year. How have I been as a co-worker, father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, neighbor, etc...? Did I achieve any set goals? Financially am I on track? Job wise, have I contributed to my financial security. Have I done my part to provide for my family? Have I strengthened my Union? Have I contributed to our political action fund (COLCPE)? Do I respond to e-Activist notifications? Do I conduct myself professionally during the performance of my duties (in the office and on the street)? Do I support my union? Do I attend union events, rallies etc...? Do I attend union meetings? Does my shop steward attend meetings? Do I inquire (if I can't attend) from my shop steward as to what transpired at the most recent union meeting? Does my office even have a shop steward? If the answer to that question is no then you may ask the following question: "Can I help?" The obvious answer is "of course you can!" You are the answer. The solution always lies within the membership.

If you're not satisfied with your responses than now is the time to make changes. Commit to becoming involved. Support *your union* and the betterment of *your brothers and sisters*. Apathy is a cancer and has the ability to spread like wildfire but it can be reversed. It's like working out, in order to get in shape you have to get up off your ass. The same goes for furthering our cause as a union. Instead of sitting back and being critical, make sure you're doing your part. The answer to counteracting apathy is participation and involvement. This holiday season make a resolution you can keep. Make a resolution to become involved in *your union*. I'm not asking you dedicate your life but to the contrary just to help out where you can make a difference. A telephone call to a legislator's office, a donation to COLCPE, solidarity on the workroom floor and if you elect to go further: **GREAT!**

If you elect to become a shop steward, don't just go through the motions, lead by example. Confront management when they've violated the contract, go to union meetings, protect your station's members, work with your branch officers to file the appropriate grievances and remember we're on the same team. We have certain individuals who will say they're on the same team but actions speak louder than words. As our deceased President Emeritus **Vince Sombrotto** once said, "Those individuals with a personal self promoting agenda who think they're bigger than this union end up playing out. Nobody is bigger than this union. Ultimately the members figure it out". Translation: get involved for the right reasons!

Our monthly meetings are the second Tuesday of every month and locations are rotated (Moose in Malden on Route 99, Sons of Italy in Quincy on Quarry Street and

the Elks in West Roxbury on Spring Street). If you can't make it to the monthly meeting I would inquire from your shop steward if there's anything going on you should know about? If you're the shop steward give a stand-up report on the second Wednesday every month in your unit. Keep people abreast of matters of concern.

Some stations don't have a shop steward and that's pathetic. Nobody to police the day-to-day business taking place within their own unit: "That's the other guys job not mine." I have to say that's the epitome of apathy and in my eyes disgraceful. Everyone's on the sidelines but no one will carry the ball. Touchdown management!

Enough said; we have work ahead of us and it's going to take a membership to get it done. Time to step it up!

CCA's

City Carrier Assistants are our newest edition this past year. In most offices they're a welcome sight for their mere presence can be the difference of getting a day off versus being forced for unwelcomed overtime especially for those that want a rest.

Some postal officials forget these CCA's are new, unfamiliar employees. They forget what it was like when they started or perhaps they never carried period.

It's a learning process and many times it takes more than ninety days to get through that curve. Certain supervisors believe these new employees were born carriers which is quite evident with the workloads and expectations they demand from them.

They whine that we can't get enough CCA's while they squeeze the life out of the ones they have. Wake up! Cut these employees some slack if you expect them to



Robert A. Lind
President

learn, grow and stay with this organization. We've had a number of these new employees voluntarily walk away or be fired and as an organization one must ask **WHY?** The question should be what are we doing wrong and what must we change? Are they being setup for failure? Management needs to re-evaluate their current expectations and workload from the District Manager down.

On the flip side: to you new CCA's welcome to the postal service. It doesn't matter what you previously did or how they treated you on your last job, this is the postal service. Attendance is expected. Don't look for logic: it doesn't exist. You're the bottom rung of the ladder and as all postal employees learn quite quickly, you're going to be worked and probably more than you want to. Don't expect days off to go to family picnics, ski trips or enjoy a day at the beach. Welcome to the postal service.

Get thick skinned quick because you're going to need it. If I had it my way you'd receive more money and a lighter workload but I don't run this company. Do the best you can in the allotted time. Try to get through your ninety day probationary period without incident if that's possible. Conduct yourself in a professional manner while in the performance of your duties. Try to be punctual and show no attitude despite the many obstacles you face in the course of your daily routine. Maintain a poker-face even if you're fuming inside. You have certain management personnel out there that will drop you like a hot potato based on attitude (even if they deserve the attitude).

CCA's are joining this company at a difficult time in its history. I ask our rank and file members to be somewhat sympathetic to their plight (unless they're a scab). Try

(continued on page 7)

Branch 34 Upcoming Membership Meetings

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

January 14, 2014

at the Sons of Italy Hall
120 Quarry Street, Quincy

February 11, 2014

at the Boston Lodge of Elks #10
Spring Street, West Roxbury

March 11, 2014

at the Malden Moose Hall
582 Broadway (Rte. 99)
Malden

Check
Out These
Dates & Locations

Tel. / 781-281-1133
Fax / 781-281-1127
www.nalcbranch34.com

INSIDE

Branch 34's CLAN

Several Ways the P.O. is Not a Real Business

Page 2

Just a Few Thoughts

Page 3

Nalcrest Bids

Page 4

Updated Branch 34 2014 Calendar

Page 16



Massachusetts Congressional Delegation

U.S. SENATE

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Hart Senate Office Bldg., Rm. 317
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202-224-4543 Fax: 202-224-2417
www.warren.senate.gov

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
Russell Senate Office Bldg., Rm. 218
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Vacant
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Several Ways the Post Office is Not a Real Business

1.. The concept of “investment” is nearly absent from the Postal Service, which must live from one annual budget to the next. It is not able to access private capital markets, such as the bond market, to finance major capital investments. That prevents it from making investments that would probably pay off in the long run, such as replacement of its aging, inefficient delivery fleet.

2. Similarly, the Postal Service is hamstrung when it comes to launching new products that are not immediately profitable.

3. The Postal Service does enjoy low interest rates on its debt because it can borrow from the federal government. But it has reached the legal limit of its ability to borrow. And much of its debt was racked up to cover subsidies to the federal budget that were **dressed up as prepaid retiree health benefits** and pension fund payments.

4. “Real businesses are not required to invest **ALL** their pension assets in low interest government bonds but instead can choose to invest them in a balanced portfolio,” noted one anonymous commenter. “The difference in average returns on pension assets of the USPS and the average returns of a typical businesses pension assets amount to over \$10 billion per year.”

5. “They are forced to deliver to unprofitable addresses,” notes Mike Seethaler, president of Raintree Graphics in Jacksonville, FL. “If a customer is too far out and too small for us to make a profit, we don’t do business with them.” In contrast, one commenter noted, “USPS is mandated to serve all areas of the country, every address, everyday.”

6. Speaking of unprofitable customers, USPS cant charge higher prices for customers who are expensive to serve. People who get front-door delivery pay no more than those who receive their mail curbside or in cluster boxes. When USPS has to rely on airplanes, boats, or donkeys to get mail to remote places, it can’t charge a premium for these services. And it costs you 46 cents to send a letter from Maine to Alaska, or to send it across town.

7. Unlike most postal agencies around the world, the U.S. Postal Service is legally restricted from straying outside of its core business of offering postal services. And even its delivery-related ventures can run into problems if they compete with private businesses. “Consider the fact that USPS came up with the concept of overnight mail first,” says R.E. Perry. “It made so much money for the service that USPS bought a bankrupt airline rather than continue to pay other carriers to provide that service. Complaints that private companies could be making this money led to Congress ordering the service to sell the airline, and return to paying others to move their mail.”

8. The Postal Service is subject to a regulatory agency, the Postal Regulatory Commission, that has no authority over USPS’s private-sector competitors.

9. “Another way USPS is not like a business; it is mandated by the Constitution of the United States,” wrote Kofi M.G.W. Opantiri. (Technically speaking, the Constitution authorizes but does not require Congress “to establish Post Offices.”)

10. It is exempt from income, sales, end reel estate taxes. On the other hand, USPS is not eligible for the kind of tax breaks that incent private businesses to expand and to become more energy efficient.

11. “Real businesses don’t have two private police agencies who have to enforce thousands of federal rules and regulation **WITHOUT** reimbursement,” noted one commenter.

12. “Not even Wal-Mart risks electrocuting its employees,” tweeted Dave Berdych, alias Dry Mail Man, referring to OSHA’s four-year investigation of electrical safety hazards in numerous postal plants.

13. “No real business would have this many layers of redundant management (bureaucracy),” responded one reader, echoing a complaint often heard from postal workers.

14. “Real business management incompetence is usually dealt with a demotion or termination,” wrote another. “Postal incompetence is rewarded with a promotion.”

Leave Carryover

The 2013 leave year ends on Friday, January 10, 2014.

The 2014 leave year begins on Saturday, January 11, 2014 and ends on Friday, January 9, 2015.

Maximum carryover amounts can be found in SLM 512.32.

ELM 512.12 Definitions

The following definitions apply for the purposes of 510:

- Leave year – the year beginning with the first day of the first complete pay period in a calendar year and ending on the day before the first day of the first complete pay period in the following calendar year.

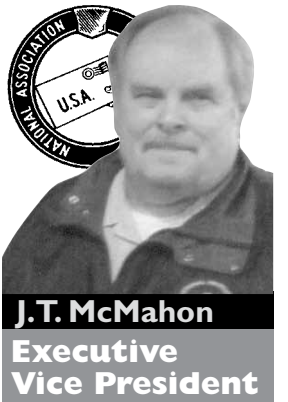
512.321 Maximum Carryover Amounts

The maximum carryover amount, i.e., the maximum amount of previously accumulated annual leave with which an employee may be credited at the beginning of a year, is as follows:

- Bargaining Unit Employees. The maximum leave carryover for bargaining unit employees is 55 days (440 hours).
(Credit: Dead Tree Edition and the ELM.)

★★★★★

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and yours.



J.T. McMahon
Executive Vice President

Don’t Just Do Something – Just Stand There!!!

In a change from the unofficial slogan of the United States Postal Service, the Postal Service finally did something right. The Postal Service joined forces with e-commerce giant Amazon.

Amazon.com recently unveiled an agreement with the United States Postal Service to deliver packages in some markets on Sunday. Amazon will deliver packages from its warehouses to Postal Service sites late Saturday or Sunday, and, under the terms of the deal, the Postal Service will deliver them to consumer’s doorsteps. Outside of some Sunday delivery during the Christmas holiday season, the deal marks the first broad Sunday delivery initiative for the Postal Service and could, and should, be a model for other retailers.

Delivery has already begun in the Los Angeles and New

York metropolitan areas and Amazon said it intends to roll it out to Houston, Dallas, Phoenix, New Orleans and other cities in 2014.

The Postal Service – which has reported a widening budget gap – acknowledges the arrangement with Amazon will represent only “a small percentage of total Parcel Select volume,” but it is a start to building the business back to what is once was.

In closing, I wish every Letter Carrier has a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday Season for you and your own.



Bob Simpson
Vice President



Of course, we all know packages are the future of the Postal Service...



But this is the present, so... scan ‘em attempted... and curtail!

Just a Few Thoughts

I had a few thoughts that I thought were worth sharing as the year 2013 comes to a close.

All letter carriers just received a one percent pay increase with CCA's receiving a two percent pay increase. For regular career city carriers earning top step the increase will be worth \$565 annually. City Carrier Assistants will see an increase of 30 cents per hour.

What better time for all carriers to contribute to COLCPE. The Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education is the NALC's political action fund that helps elect friends of letter carriers to Congress. Today, more than ever, we need to elect members of Congress that actually support the Postal Service instead of aiding in its destruction. The current Senate Bill being discussed will help destroy the Postal Service by cutting Saturday mail delivery and may allow the Postal Service to go to four or even three day delivery. It would also end door to door delivery to millions of postal customers. This bill does not fix the pre-funding problem which accounts for 80% of the losses by the Postal Service. **Please contribute to COLCPE.**

I noticed that none of the non-members of Branch 34 turned down the raise that

we just received. Wouldn't it be nice if they paid union dues like the over 98% of Branch 34 members. None of these non-members turn down the annual leave or health benefits negotiated by the NALC. **Let's pay your fair share!**

Recently a number of carriers have been questioned by the Office of Inspector General of the Postal Service. The questioning has been on a variety of issues including drugs, delivery of mail, and other issues. For some reason most of these carriers have not requested union representation. Many of these carriers have been placed in Emergency Off Duty Status. Every carrier has the right to union representation if questioned by management, OIG, or Postal Inspectors. Many carriers do not know that we must ask for union representation, it will not be offered to you. **Please ask for your shop steward when being questioned.**

Carriers get injured on the job. Unfortunately that is a part of our job. The NALC and Branch 34 offer OWCP assistance to all members who get injured at work. For some reason many carriers do not call the branch until they encounter a problem with their claim. We can help with filling out the proper form as well as medical evidence required to have your claim approved.

Please contact the branch if you are injured at work.

Many of us are looking forward to retiring at some point in the future. It seems we are wishing our lives away. This is a reality brought on by the treatment of workers by Postal Management. As we continue to work and look forward to the day that we will become free of the daily stress brought on by our jobs, try to live every day and enjoy as best as you can. Then **enjoy your retirement, you earned it!**

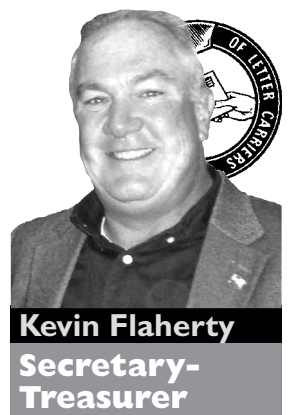
Speaking of stress, often times we hear management belittle and berate our fellow carriers. There is a Zero Tolerance policy on such treatment of all postal employees. When you hear or see such action speak up and write a statement on what you saw or heard. **We need to stick together to stop such behavior by management.**

Carriers come to work every day to do their job and go home safely. Carriers should never skip their breaks or lunch to make some supervisor look good. Work safely and remember **a fair days work for a fair wage.**

Shop stewards do a great job in the stations looking out for the welfare of the carriers in their station. Dealing with management, playing peacemaker, filing griev-

ances can be a difficult job. **Tell your shop steward what a great job he or she is doing representing you!**

The older we get the quicker times goes on. It seems like only a short while ago I was writing an article for the Christmas issue of "Branch 34's CLAN." Take time to enjoy the holidays with family and friends and be kind to one another. Life is too short to do otherwise. **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all Branch 34 members and family!**



Kevin Flaherty
Secretary-Treasurer

Something to Cheer About

Recently the NALC announced that the RUSPS had an operating profit of \$600 million this fiscal year. However, because of the 2001 Congressional mandate to pre-fund future Retiree Health Benefits. There was a net loss of \$5 billion.

Let's all hope in the New Year, the present members of Congress move forward to stabilize the current overburdened requirement for pre-funding placed on the USPS instead of downsizing public service and attacking our pay and benefits. Legislation is the *only* solution and and this goal can *only* be reached by the many who can contribute and not *only* by the few who do.

The best way to combat these pressures is to contribute to COLCPE and join the e-Activist Network.

Also, the NALC announced a seven-day package delivery agreement between the USPS and Amazon.com. This is a step in

the right direction, but let's not forget it was not too long ago we were told the Postal Service needs to go to five-day delivery to remain profitable. This announcement by the NALC came on the heels of the recent MOU (M-01826) dated October 22, 2013 regarding CCA Staffing which allows the Postal Service to hire holiday Carrier Assistants during December 2013, as operationally necessary.

The first round of CCA's converted to Full Time Career status took place on November 10, 2013. The NALC estimates many of the approximately 1,500-2,000 CCA's converted had been former T.E.'s hired under the 2006-2011 National Agreement. At press, I have not heard of any CCA's converted in Boston, because we still have PTF's to convert to Regular.

I have been notified however that CCA's were converted in New England. Congratulations to the NALC for securing

these members Career appointments with all other benefits.

It wasn't all too long ago this Contract was awarded, hopefully this news is something our CCA's can understand and strive for, and put to rest the stigma that the CCA's would never receive full-time Carrier positions.

We also just received our first salary increase from our new contract and the release of the January 2014 Index for COLA's is soon to come.

★★★★★

With all that said, I would like to wish everyone and their families a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a safe and prosperous New Year."



Steve Mahoney
Editor

Cruising

Just got back from a two week cruise where I ate, drank, danced, explored and relaxed my way through the Caribbean. Had a great time while I was away, but I admit the minute the ship docked in Tampa I started thinking about work. Once the gangway was secured I hit the ground running. (OK, I don't run so well. so let's all agree that I was walking briskly.)

During the trip I accumulated lots of stories as well as gained some new perspectives.

I was touched by the impact of world events on the boat's crew. The majority of the ship's workers hailed from the Philippines. While we were at sea, the Philippines were devastated by Typhoon Haiyan. Our porter, Isabelle, was a young single mother whose daughter was home in the islands being cared for by her grandparents. While all was well as the storm missed their town, you could see the anguish on her face as the details of the storm's destruction became apparent.

Nobody likes politicians. On one of our shore trips (Barbados), our bus driver commented on the number of palm trees

on the island or as the Barbadians refer to them, "politician palms." Why "politician palms?" Because they are around for years and bear no fruit!

Nothing like sipping a piña colada from a beach chair on Aruba, then hopping into the lagoon to cool off even more.

Everybody on the islands loves the Red Sox, especially Big Papi. On another excursion I had on my Red Sox hat which caught the eye of our ferry driver. This started a conversation about his love of the game and how he once played on the Cuban national team. For several years he was hoping to be drafted by an MLB team, but it never worked out. I don't know if the story is true, but he sure knew all about the Red Sox, Braves and Rangers.

The history of the islands is incredible, be it Blackbeard or the rock formations at Harrison's Caves or the Mayan ruins at Cozumel. There were some discussions about me staying and becoming a Mayan god-king, but it never got to the sacrifice stage. (Apparently I would have to make a sacrifice.) Boy do I have a list to choose from!

Weirdest Sights – On one horizon, Cuba, another day, the oil rig fires off Venezuela.

Weirdest Sounds – After docking in Tampa, hearing Christmas Carols blaring in the malls on November 15th, are you serious?

Now that the reality of being back has now hit –


Congratulations to Boston Mayor-Elect Marty Walsh. Marty is a Union guy and that should serve Boston well as the city looks to move ahead past Tom Menino.

Still can't figure out the Postal logic of the stations closest to the sorting machines getting their mail last or late. They have enough trucks. It's that they can't schedule. They can't figure out daily work schedules, holiday schedules or transportation schedules. They all must have brain cramps.

Have a Happy and Safe New Year!



Michael Kidd
Legislative Liaison



Branch 34's CLAN

Founded May 1971

AWARDS

International Labor Communications Association
GENERAL EXCELLENCE – LOCAL UNION PUBLICATIONS – CIRCULATIONS of 2,500 to 9,999
First Place, 2003

National Association of Letter Carriers
GENERAL EXCELLENCE – LARGE BRANCH PUBLICATIONS – MORE THAN 1,500 MEMBERS
First Place, 2012
First Place, 2010
First Place, 2008
First Place, 2002
First Place, 1996
First Place, 1994
Second Place, 2006
Second Place, 1992
Third Place, 2004
Honorable Mention, 1982
Judges' Commendation, 1988

BEST STORY
First Place, 1996
Third Place, 1990
2 Honorable Mentions, 1992
Honorable Mention, 1990

BEST CARTOON OR PHOTO
First Place, 2006

PROMOTING UNIONISM
Third Place, 1992
Judges' Commendation, 1988

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**Protect Your Future!
Give to COLCPE! Become an e-Activist!**

Spread Holiday Cheer with Letters to Santa

*“And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow,
stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so?
It came without ribbons. It came without tags.
It came without packages, boxes or bags.
And he puzzled and puzzled ‘till his puzzler was sore.
Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn’t before.
What if Christmas, he thought, doesn’t come from a store.
What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more.”* - Dr. Seuss

With each coming year, many of us bemoan the fact the holiday season begins earlier and earlier, with each year appearing more commercialized than the last; let us not forget the lesson belatedly recognized by all the Grinch’s out there with their heart’s *two sizes too small*, that Christmas and the entire holiday season is about children, family and giving to those less fortunate. OK, it is also time for some celebrations, but I digress.

While finding a suitable organization to facilitate your charitable giving never seems to be a problem, one could also look no further than the Fort Point Station and the USPS *Operation Santa* program as a worthy venue.

Letter’s to Santa, now in its 101st year, matches the Dear Santa letters received from needy children and families with anonymous donors willing to adopt the letters and fulfill the holiday wishes. From almost as long as it has been in existence, the Postal Service has received letters addressed to Santa Claus via the North Pole. In 1912, Postmaster General Frank Hitchcock authorized local postmasters to allow postal employees and the public to respond to these letters, officially ushering in *Operation Santa*. Once again, the Boston District is one of the approximately two-dozen post offices around the country

which field the letters and offer them to the public for adoption.

Be forewarned, these letters from children and needy parents can be heart wrenching. Innocent kids caught up in the life circumstances of their parents and often times grandparents. Mothers and fathers; many jobless or underemployed and embarrassed by their inability to provide their children little more than the requisite necessities. While many letters request toys and the like, many others seek nothing more than clothes, socks and winter coats.

People who wish to adopt a *Letter to Santa* can choose from among the hundreds of letters received at the downtown Boston Fort Point facility (25 Dorchester Avenue) adjacent to the South Station Commuter Rail, from now until December 18th, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00am to 3:00pm and Saturday’s from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

The Postal Service has created a policy for ‘adopting’ Letter’s to Santa that’s designed to protect the privacy of all involved. Individuals who would like to adopt letters are asked to do so in person, present valid photo identification and fill out short form which includes a list of the letters they are adopting (yes, the Postal Service has form’s for this too).

The Postal ‘elves’ have redacted the let-

ter writer’s identifying information, leaving only the first names, ages and requests from the children. Each letter is given a number. Benefactors select a letter and then return to the Fort Point Post Office with the gifts and purchase the postage to ship them. The *elves* will then match the number with the child’s address, apply a label to it and put the package into the mail stream. **Packages must be received by Friday, December 20th in order to ensure delivery.**

What a perfect opportunity for you and your family or co-workers to adopt one or more of these Letters to Santa. It only takes minutes for you to catch the true spirit of the holidays and have the opportunity to

put smiles on the faces on needy kids on Christmas morning.

In closing, as we come to the end of another year, we all have many things to celebrate; and whether you break your fast at Ramadan, light Hanukkah candles, explore your roots at Kwanzaa or decorate a Christmas tree, it is clearly a perfect opportunity to remember and do for others less fortunate than ourselves. Best wishes to All!



Michael Yerkes
Financial Secretary

NALCREST Apartment Bids - Two-Week Intervals – SIGN UP NOW!!

Listed below are the weeks available for NALCREST, in Lake Wales, Florida. The rental fee for the one bedroom apartment is \$195.00 per week, plus a \$55.00 cleaning fee for a total of \$445.00 for two weeks.

Anyone interested in renting the apartment, should submit their requests to the Branch 34 office, 400 West Cummings Park, Suite 3950, Woburn, MA 01801, in care of Kevin Flaherty. (*This is for Branch 34 members/families only*).

The weeks start on Monday and runs through Sunday. A random lottery will determine the selection if more than one request is submitted for the same weeks. You can submit multiple weeks.

The apartment is available for two-week intervals only.

- December 30, 2013 – January 12, 2014
- January 13 – January 26, 2014
- January 27 – February 9, 2014
- February 10 – February 23, 2014
- February 24 – March 9, 2014
- March 10 – March 23, 2014
- March 24 – April 6, 2014
- April 7 – April 20, 2014
- April 21 – May 4, 2014
- May 5 – May 18, 2014
- May 19 – June 1, 2014
- June 2 – June 15, 2014
- June 16 – June 29, 2014
- June 30 – July 13, 2014
- July 14 – July 27, 2014
- July 28 – August 10, 2014
- August 11 – August 24, 2014
- August 25 – September 7, 2014
- September 8 – September 21, 2014
- September 22 – October 5, 2014
- October 6 – October 19, 2014
- October 20 – November 2, 2014
- November 3 – November 16, 2014
- November 17 – November 30, 2014
- December 1 – December 14, 2014
- December 15 – December 28, 2014
- December 29, 2014 – January 11, 2015

From the Field

Season’s Greetings, Brothers and Sisters

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every member of Branch 34 a safe, happy, and healthy Christmas and Holiday season; and of course I hope Santa Clause is good to you. For those of you who have yet to commit to paying your own way (union dues) and becoming true Brothers and Sisters, you remain SCABS... **BAH HUMBUG**, I hope you enjoy your stocking full of coal. Although it’s a bit late for Thanksgiving, I would be remised if I didn’t mention what I am thankful for as a letter carrier as this year expires. I would like to thank each and every member who has supported me over my nearly seven years as an Area Steward. I truly do appreciate the opportunity to represent all of you on a daily basis. A special thanks to the Executive Board of Officers for assisting me in my daily duties. Last but not least, I would like to thank all the shop stewards of Branch 34 for doing an almost impossible job every day; your job remains the most difficult in our great union and you will never get enough recognition for the countless hours and inherent aggravation of the job. Happy New Year!!!

New Year, New Possibilities or Same Old, Same OLD

As another year draws to a close it’s natural to reflect on how things transpired in both your work and personal lives. Hopefully you had more triumphs than defeats and more smiles than tears. As I ponder the upcoming year, I am trying to remain upbeat and optimistic (but this is really against my nature). This is much easier to do regarding my personal life and nearly impossible in thinking about the daily life of a letter carrier. As I’m sure most would agree, it’s been an extremely difficult year; one I’m not sad to see end. Most carriers are working more hours than ever, under

extremely tough conditions, and increasing scrutiny of micro management. Understaffing has continued to takes it’s toll on all carriers by breaking down morale on the work room floor or just plain breaking down the carriers physically. The Postal Service higher up’s must acknowledge these issues and deal with them head on, although my faith in that happening is limited. CCA’s continue to be hired weekly, however it seems that as soon as a few new hires show up, a few miss-treated CCA’s quit or get removed, and this formula clearly will not solve our staffing issue. So, what is the answer? I don’t exactly know, but maybe it starts with the USPS possibly considering a better than modest pay increase for CCA’s. This might go a long way in retaining the over work under appreciated workers. Additionally, management must start treating these new hires with dignity and respect and stop treating them like a disposable work force. It is my hope that the retention rate for the CCA work force will increase thus stabilizing the staffing levels throughout the district and restoring some normalcy to the overtime desired list once again. I do want to remind all members that the vast majority of the CCA work force is signing up for membership with this union and should be treated as such. Please make every effort to support both your Stewards and each other for we are all in this together.

I Will Cooperate with Your Investigation, But, I Need to Speak to My Steward First

This should be a phrase that all letter carriers should commit to memory. Lately, throughout the district we have seen an increase in OIG involvement and related discipline. Unfortunately more than a few carriers have entered into the OIG interviews without any representation,

this has never led to a positive outcome for a letter carrier. Even if your completely innocent of any wrong doing, these things can go south in a hurry. I have seen countless

letter carriers be placed in off duty status by management based solely on the OIG involvement, numerous carrier have been cleared of any wrong doing but had to wait out the entire situation at home without pay, sometimes for months. Through my ten plus years of experience as a Steward, Area Steward, and Arbitration Advocate, I can only recall one instance that an OIG interview didn’t end with a letter carrier in the “Hot Seat”. So all of the shop Stewards out there; please use this article as a reminder and talk to all of your members personally on this subject. Let them know that they need to ask the OIG Agent or Inspector to provide a union representative as soon as any interviews begin; the Agent or management has no obligation to offer union representation. Please do not answer any questions until you have had a chance to meet with your union representative. Make it clear to the Agent or inspector that you will gladly cooperate with his or her investigation once your union representative has been furnished; If for no other reason but to get a second set of ears on the questions being asked and to keep notes of the answers provided by the carrier. In closing if you find yourself in the unenviable situation of being questioned by an OIG Agent or Postal Inspector, please take a deep breath, calm down, and asked for your union representative. We are there to help.



Brian Manning
Area Steward

Congratulations Retirees

On behalf of President Lind, the Board of Officers and all the Brothers and Sisters of Branch 34, we extend our wishes for a long, happy, healthy and well deserved retirement to the following recently retired members:

- Edmund J. Bosia, Jr. Malden
- Robert Botelho..... Braintree
- Brian G. Compton Hingham
- Maureen M. Duff.....Needham
- Frederick LondonArlington
- Michael Longo..... Cambridge A
- Michael T. McBride..... Watertown
- Paul F. McCarthy Braintree
- Roger W. Palmariello IMC Winthrop
- William Polito Hingham
- Steve M. Schillaci.....Arlington
- Robert Terranova Braintree

– Michael Yerkes
Branch 34 Financial Secretary

In Memoriam

- William J. Bramley
Active Member – Lexington
- Angelo Colangelo
Active Member – Fort Point
- Timothy J. Ross
Active Member – Quincy

* Denotes 50-Year Life Member

Rest in Peace

What Drove Me Crazy in 2013

In last year's "Branch 34's CLAN" I wrote my first "What Drove Me Crazy" article. I had such fun with it I decided to keep a list for 2013 and see what happened. So with thanks to the late Andy Rooney of 60 Minutes fame for inspiration and a disclaimer that this article is for fun and not meant to offend, let's get started.

In no particular order:

- Weeds. Why can't people pull the weeds from the sidewalks. In some places, it's a jungle out there. This could be a great job for kids of all ages.
- Microwave Lights. This is going to get me in trouble at home. If you take something out of the microwave early, clear the timer. Otherwise that blue light will be blinking at 2:00 AM when I'm looking for a snack. OK, sometimes it lights the way.
- Bright Sneakers. Why do people have such bright sneakers, like sunburst orange or neon green? Is it so they can find their feet easily?
- 13 Items in a 12 Items Express Lane. Repeat offender.
- Boobs who take up two spots at a gas station by parking in between two pumps even when they have midget cars.

- Cheez-It cheese getting stuck on your teeth.
- New Sneaker Shoelaces. How long do they have to be?
- Store Receipts (CVS/Kmart) that have coupons longer than I am tall.
- Politicians who don't take down their signs after elections.
- Cheap Postal Supplies. (Think elastics!)
- Lazy people on Street Cleaning Day. They move their cars as they should, but they double park on the other side of the street for hours at a time.
- Lack of Manners. An occasional "thank you" would be nice when I open/hold a door for you.
- Postal Management when they ask the question, "Don't you care about your customers?," but get paid for mailings gathering dust at your case.
- Let's have a shorter baseball season so we don't end around Halloween. Have some doubleheaders.
- Does Sen. Elizabeth Warren ever go to an event? All I ever see of her are videos being played on big screens. Does her house have a room with flags as a backdrop so she can film her bit and then get right back into her pajamas?



Michael Kidd
Area Steward

- Those runners and dog walkers who don't believe the sidewalk is for sharing. The runners bang right through you and the walkers expect you to hurdle over extended leashes.
 - Body hair that grows in the weirdest places.
 - Stores who try to keep my pennies. When I give you a dollar bill for an item costing 99 cents – give me my change! If I don't want the penny, I will tell you.
 - The itty-bitty keys on all cellphones. Spending too much time correcting texts.
 - Guys, really? Wearing black socks with shorts and sandals?
- A reminder to vote for all the Letter Carriers in your life – truck drivers, U-men, and the carrier who delivers your mail at home. With that said, "Merry Christmas to All, and to All a Good Night!"

–Michael "Scrooge" Kidd

Woburn Letter Carriers Show Off Their Charitable Side

Henry Shaughnessy Memorial Golf Tourney – September 6

On September 8, at 1:30 p.m. Woburn letter carriers held their **Fourth Annual Henry Shaughnessy Memorial Golf Tournament to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association** at the Woburn Country Club.

Henry was a life-long Woburn resident, who attended the St. Charles School before graduating from Woburn High School in 1945.

After graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. In 1950, he enlisted in the U.S. Army.

Henry was a letter carrier for over 50 years in the City of Woburn – most of them spent in the Hammond Square area. Henry was a great union member and supporter of the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

To honor Henry and benefit his favorite charity, his family of letter carriers is soliciting donations from corporations, family and friends. People can still donate. All donations are tax deductible. Checks can be made out to Branch 34 MDA and mailed to: Branch 34 MDA, P.O. Box 2063, Woburn, MA 01888.

Fred Casey, MDA Golf Chairman, Woburn, states, "Any help or support you could give would be greatly appreciated. Muscular Dystrophy is a debilitating neuromuscular disease. Letter Carriers have and will continue to deliver the cure.

"Any donations will be recognized in our Union paper, "Branch 34's CLAN," which is mailed to 4,500 letter carriers.

"If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 781-937-8695. Thank you in advance for your time and donation."

(Reprinted from the Woburn Times-Chronicle.)

Henry Shaughnessy Woburn Holiday Food Drive Recipients Say Thanks

Dear Mr. Lind:

Thank you so much for your support of the Woburn Letter Carriers Henry Shaughnessy Memorial Holiday Food Drive to benefit our Food Pantry by providing the customer cards to publicize the event!

This food drive is vitally important to keeping our shelves stocked for the record number of households we are serving as well as preparing to distribute over 400 holiday food baskets for Thanksgiving and again at Christmastime.

You can be very proud of the Woburn Letter Carriers, who conduct this additional food drive with energy, enthusiasm and community spirit, this year collecting over \$30,000 worth of food!

Our deepest appreciation to you and the wonderful men and women of the Woburn Post Office!

Sincerely,
Karen Colatrella,
Woburn Food Pantry Director,
Council of Social Concern

Scenes from a Well-Dressed Past



MEDFORD POST OFFICE CIRCA 1970 – It should be noted that the above carriers at Medford Branch represent only a small number of the fine-looking, well-dressed men who reflect credit on our service by their fine appearance. Each carrier knows whether he can measure up to these standards. Left to right: Harold E. Healey, Assistant Superintendent; Ralph Farrell, Secretary, Branch 34 NALC; Edward Whitaker; John Baginsky; Norman Whitman; Tim Calnan; John Hogan; Walter Reid; Paul Kenney; Robert Scott; Emil Liberatore; Edward Mazerski; Arthur Dinsmoor; Bob Winn; Fred Hitchins, Assistant Superintendent, Delivery and Collections; and George H. Ferran, Branch Superintendent.

(Photo courtesy of John Baginsky, originally printed in the Postal Patriot)

From the Field

"Tis the Season"

Another Arlington Carrier retired this week, **Fred London**. Fred has been my go-to guy for years. Anytime a collection had to be made for a charity, anytime someone was needed to manage a phone for political action, anytime a rally or convention was held you can bet Fred London was in attendance and working. **Bob Lind** and **J.T. McMahon** drove out from the hall and recognized Fred's service to Branch 34. The really sad part of this story is that no one from the 4th floor was in attendance and local management had to scurry to put something together for Fred's last days. This is the sixth time this year that a Letter carrier from Arlington has retired and no one showed from our upper management in Boston. Well all I gotta say to them is: "SCREW YOU!" If employees here were

doing something wrong there would be a parade at the door of upper management. It's funny how they can argue with me on a removal or an EOD until the cows come home, but God forbid they should have to recognize someone in a positive fashion for providing decades of service to the USPS.

The real reason for this is that the current leadership in Boston is under the impression that we are lucky to have a job with the USPS. If they really want to see someone who is lucky to have a job all they have to do is look in a mirror. Past upper management would always recognize an employee's service when they retired. I understand that money is tight, but all it would take is a typed letter and an appearance by one of these "Leaders". It's really sad that this organization has evolved into this. What

a message this sends to the new CCA's that they are attempting to hire, after spending 30 or 40 years working for an organization there is no recognition for a job well done and good luck in your future endeavors. It's more like "don't let the door hit you in the ass on the way out!" Oh yea, another CCA in Arlington phoned in his resignation today. He got the same reaction from the 4th floor as Fred (NONE).

Fred London – your presence in Arlington will be missed!

Happy Holidays to all members of Branch 34!



Jerry McCarthy
Area Steward

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Branch 34 Holiday Story

'Twas the night before Christmas at Branch 34
Our staff was still working like many nights before.
Grievances were stacked on the desks everywhere
A sure sign local management just doesn't care.
QSS, DPS, Scanners, now a phone
"Keep it to eight" in that challenging tone.
Long lines of ladies and gents wearing hats
Our lobbies are full, we're surely coming back.
We were wrapping it up, "let's call it a day"
When a ruckus out back caused us a delay.
At the loading dock there arose quite a clatter
"Jump to your feet, let's see what's the matter."
We bolted downstairs and converged in a flash
Rendering aid to a man all covered in ash.
As always our members were first on the scene
Assisting the man and getting him clean.
Just out of our view, what next did appear?
A badly wrecked sleigh and 9 banged up reindeer.
That dirty little fellow jumped up and was quick
His laugh left no doubt; it's surely Saint Nick.
"Your delivery is best and that's why I came"
"My vehicle's damaged; I'm a bit off my game."
"Take packages, take first class, take Express mail too"
"No time for second best: I need the men dressed in blue."
We unloaded his sled and filled BMC's all
There were gifts, toys and goodies, watch out they don't fall.
"Your branch is the greatest!" with a wink of an eye
"Deliver this order so kiddies won't cry."
So to work we all went, knowing just what to do
Our carriers pulled together to get this task through
Loading nuttings and hampers right up to the roof
In our authorized footwear, the kind that's slip proof. (green tag approved)
His goods were presorted, Santa doesn't fool around
He color codes packages, now isn't that profound.
To the housetops we went with perishables too
We delivered all night, some went through the flue.
There were toys and boxes, we even had snacks
All snugly positioned in his big relay sacks.
One member's eyes did twinkle with merrry
As some carriers delivered an oddly shaped wherry.
Wait! I can see by your mouths, curling down like a bow
What's a wherry? A hint; It's something you row.
Armed with mail bags and scanners corralled in their sheath
We brought perfumes and ornaments attached to a wreath.
We delivered clothes and games even food for the belly
Tasty turkeys with stuffing but the best was the jelly.
Boston's Branch 34 worked alongside his elves
Moving mountains of surprises, till we emptied all shelves.
A cry came from the crowd to which someone said:
"We've sent out for chow, let's put this to bed."
The second shift folks had just finished their work
They began to unwind with a satisfied smirk.
"At last this assignment is hereby complete"
"That's right we've accomplished an incredible feat."
To those disbelievers who never heard of this story;
Carriers always get the job done but hide from the glory.
It was said Santa shouted from the dark of the night
'you're a hell of a union, Merry Christmas, Goodnight!'

-- Joe Gottron, Roxbury Carrier

President's Corner

(continued from page 1)

to be more than reasonable when you give off time to a probationary brother or sister CCA. Give them the kind of hit you'd give off the day before Christmas. You know what I'm talking about. Good deeds are never forgotten.

Workplace and Drugs

The only time these two words mix is when prescribed by a medical doctor for health reasons. Other than that they don't, period. All too often someone will bring, what they consider, recreational drugs into the workplace and soon they become someone else's nightmare. Like thieves there is no honor in drug addiction. Someone gets caught, sings like a canary, and others fall like dominos. Good people get hurt. Families are devastated and providers lose their employment. A word for the wise: if you're dealing with an addiction, get help. If you choose not to get help don't bring others down with you. It doesn't matter whether it's on the clock or off the clock if you're arrested for drugs you'll be removed from your position.

We've had multiple situations over the years and the outcome is never pretty. People need to take responsibility for their actions. Sometimes they do but all too often it's somebody else's fault. We don't need any more letter carriers being marched out the door. If you're using: get help. Every issue of "Branch 34'S CLAN" contains an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) devoted article. Take down the number, give them a call and remember; it's confidential. Get the help you need.

Thank You Maureen

Many of you know **Maureen Marinelli** from her work over the years. Maureen was the first woman in Branch 34 to hold office on the Branch 34 Executive Board. In 1989 when the newly-created four Area Steward position(s) were posted for election Maureen decided to run. A field of fifteen candidates threw their hats into the ring that election in hopes of securing one of the four vacancies but it was Maureen that topped the ticket with a total of 1,384 votes, ahead of **John Casciano** (1,065), **Ron Hughes** (960) and **John McMahon** (896) all of whom were also elected.

Maureen was also the underwriter for a cutting edge program back in its day called the "Listen Program." A program aimed at being corrective in nature rather than carriers being subjected to punitive actions taken by management like we had and still have practiced today. The program set goals to correct work deficiencies rather than always dropping the hammer with discipline. Unfortunately management never liked losing, in their eyes, control and eventually put the kibosh on the program.

She also served as an E.I. Facilitator for the NALC and Branch 34 under the Employee Involvement Program. A program created to give letter carriers a voice in their day to day operation within the workplace. Once again it was a voice the postal service didn't want to hear from and was disbanded despite the many achievements our teams managed to accomplish. You can't progress when you're led by close minded individuals.

Maureen persevered despite these setbacks and stepped up to be editor of "Branch 34's CLAN" in 2001. While serving as editor of this branch, the "Branch 34's CLAN" continued to receive high honors for overall excellence as the best publication in the large branch category within both the NALC and the ICLA. After that term, Maureen decided to step down to focus on her personal life (acting, grandchildren, etc...).

Her retirement from union business was short-lived when I approached her and asked her to take the Massachusetts State Letter Carrier Association (MSLCA) President



Maureen Marinelli (right) met recently with U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) to discuss postal issues facing legislation.

position in 2004 which she accepted and remained until 2006. Maureen bowed out gracefully only to have me solicit her in 2010 to again assume the President's position of the MSLCA. As she did in 2004, Maureen answered the branch call and helped tremendously with our legislative battlefronts for the NALC.

In a job where we don't always part friends I'm proud to say myself and Maureen have always maintained a friendship and good working relationship. Maureen has decided to move on from the postal service and enjoy a much deserved retirement. Whether she was doing a grievance, advocating a case in arbitration or visiting a U.S. Senator or Congressperson, Maureen has always given it her all. On behalf of the membership of the NALC and Branch 34 thank you Maureen for your lifetime contribution. We wish you a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Somerville is Chelsea Bound

Find it incredible that in an age of high tech communications (e-mail, text, cell phones, faxes and don't forget the old reliable telephone nor the U.S. Mail) that I have to still gather information from outside sources rather than the fourth floor of the GMF, Boston. What is their nonsense top secret? Morons! Well once again I finally am informed from a reliable individual that the Somerville letter carriers are scheduled to be relocated to the I.M.C. in Chelsea on President's Day weekend (February 17th, 2014).

Again I must say what a cost cutting maneuver by our USPS think tank. Now the Somerville carriers can join their brother and sisters fighting their way in and out on the highly trafficked roads which lead to this well thought out facility. Did I mention how the roads are already suffering from disrepair? It was only a few years back the postal service was adamant about relocating these carriers back to their respective towns. That's precisely why they signed a multi-million dollar lease on a vacant facility were still paying for.

Penny wise, pound foolish should be our motto because that's what the postal service's actions demonstrate. Our historic building located in Union Square is an area slated for major transformations thus becoming prime invaluable property. They can now take those savings and spend the money on buying a fleet of postal vehicles, gas, upkeep, travel time and go rent a retail store to boot. Brilliant! Sure they'll say we don't have to heat that building, we have 1 less manager, blah, blah, blah. You know and I know they'll squander any alleged savings on numerous (postal cliché) "unanticipated obstacles".

I'm sure some of you reading this will be around long enough to see this brainstorm reversed and then again with the decisions these people make the postal service may not be around long enough to reverse its own harebrain decisions.

In the interim our Somerville carriers will become part of that facility with bidding, vacation and overtime opportunities practiced within its confines.

Exemplary Employee

I'd be remiss if I didn't report the recent loss of brother letter carrier, **William Bramley**. Bill was a Lexington carrier nearing retirement and had plans to do so in the upcoming spring. Unfortunately he passed away while in the performance of his duties on Monday, December 2, 2013.

Carrier Bramley was a quiet man who took pride in servicing his customers and never took a sick day during his lengthy career. A former shop steward told me "He was the first guy with his wallet out ready to give when there was any type of station collection and he never let anyone infringe on his rights when it came to his daily workload. He was always out there performing his duties." Bill's untimely passing has left a void within his workmates, friends and postal patrons alike. Rest in peace my brother and thank you for a job well done.

Creating New Holiday Traditions

We all know that families change over time. In the cycle of life, some people will leave the family, while new individuals will join. Sometimes it helps to reassess your old holiday traditions to see if they still work for your family in its current form. It may be best to strike a balance between continuing with certain past traditions and starting some new ones.

Focus on the "Now"

If the activities you've always done seem to be creating stress or conflict in your family now, consider changing them. When planning rituals or celebrations, think of ways to make them meaningful for the family mix you have today. Let go of activities that you no longer enjoy.



Gather New Ideas for Holiday Celebrations

Ask the whole family about their favorite holiday traditions, and also for new ideas. You can include kids, parents, extended family members and friends. It can also be good to look to the past for a few good ideas. Try to recall your warm childhood holiday memories and what made them special. Consider such holiday traditions that you could realistically refresh and pass along to your children.

Be Creative

Always be on the lookout for new things you can do with your family during the holidays. This could include low- or no-cost activities such as going ice skating together, visiting a big downtown holiday display, or attending a community interfaith or cultural celebration. Also consider taking advantage of today's technologies, e.g., video chat, to bring together family members who may be far away at this time.

When to Let Go

If everyone can't agree on whether to do a certain activity or event, then it's probably best to leave it off the list this year. Making sure everyone's input is considered can help the family better enjoy this holiday season.

Now That's An Idea!

Holidays on a Budget

Plan to limit your spending. Estimate the total amount that you can afford this year, without buying items on credit that you don't start paying for until next year. Don't exceed that limit!

Consider gift alternatives. Decide how the spending for each person on your list will fit into your budgeted total. Then look for ways to trim the amounts for each person through less expensive gifts.

Focus on the thoughtfulness, not the quantity. Consider giving homemade gifts such as baked items and handmade crafts. These are often less expensive than store-bought gifts, and are always more appreciated.

Shop early. Last-minute gift buying usually results in spending more than you planned.

Shop alone. You'll be less likely to be distracted from your established gift list and budget.

Seek savings in numbers. When groups of people are involved in gift giving, draw names and put a dollar limit on gifts.

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***Branch 34's Officers and Executive Board
Wish Everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah,
Happy Kwanzaa and Happy New Year!***



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If you have moved, please notify the Branch directly, Personnel does not notify us of change of addresses.

Name _____

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Zip _____

Send change of address to:

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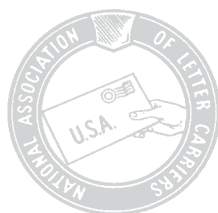
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Business Agent & Area VP Strike Accord

I am extremely pleased to report that after months of meetings and discussions, the Area Vice President and myself have reached agreement on Article 12. The result is that the letter carriers of New England's long nightmare of withholding is ending.

For far too many years, virtually every letter carrier position that became residual, was withheld for possible excessing. These actions adversely affected the staffing in many delivery units, and froze the conversions of most of our part-time flexibles. While we waged valiant attempts previously at the dismantling of USPS' right to withhold our assignments, we registered few victories. Most arbitrators grant the Postal Service great sway and a wide berth to predict their staffing requirements.

I will not take up much of this writing space in rehashing what we believe are solid reasons as to why Article 12 should have closed in an earlier timeframe.

We will now move forward and I will address the benefits of this agreement.

As information, most of us are aware that the parties at the national level have recently entered into a Memorandum (M-01824) that outlines a pecking order for PTF conversions, transfers and CCA conversions to career status. However, that Memorandum does not apply to installations that are under Article 12.

Now, by virtue of the agreement, PTF promotions, transfers and CCA conversions to career status have commenced.

Part-time flexibles will convert to full-time regular in their installation if there are vacancies. Career city letter carriers may obtain a transfer by going on e-Reassign. PTFs who elect to transfer to another installation will receive an additional bonus, a re-treat right back to their original installation.

City Carrier Assistants (CCAs) will convert to full-time status where appropriate as outlined in M-01824. As I pen this article, the first CCAs in New England are converting to full-time status, with more to follow.

This agreement does not limit USPS' contractual right to withhold city letter carrier positions. There will be continued limited withholdings due to planned plant closings and route inspection impacts.

None of this could have been achieved without the support and hard work of our branch presidents, branch officers and shop stewards, who diligently reported their residual vacancies. For this, I am very grateful to you all.

However, our work is not complete. Branch Presidents need to continue to report every residual vacancy to the Business Agents office.

The clock is ticking on M - 01824.

Another result is that we will now be able to resolve hundreds of cases currently scheduled for regional arbitration. This will then move all other cases up in the batting order. That's more good news.

So for now brother and sisters of New England, the sun is shining and we have another reason to celebrate a Happy Holiday Season.

On behalf of Elaine, Rick, Jerry and myself, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!



John J. Casciano
National
Business Agent

★ ★ To Our Troops! ★ ★
Thank You For Your Service
and Your Sacrifice!

**BRANCH 34
SUPPORTS YOU!**

Lafferty & Lafferty
— Attorneys at Law —



William J. Lafferty
Sean P. Lafferty
William P. Carroll (Of Counsel)

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44 Mall Road • Burlington, MA 01803
Fax (781) 270-4447

Courage: The Ability and Willingness to Confront Fear, Danger, Uncertainty and Intimidation

I often hear letter carriers bad mouth or twist the words of a union steward in an attempt to belittle or make that individual look bad. But... please remember when there was a steward's election that person had the courage to step up and become your shop steward. He or she made that decision despite full-knowing that they not only become the shop steward but they put themselves out there to become a target. Badmouthing people seems to be human nature or at least a characteristic flaw within our ranks but remember we're a **UNION!**

When push comes to shove in your office you as a letter carrier should have each other's back: **NO QUESTIONS ASKED!** You can talk all day about what you want but when it's us against them you should be backing **US** up! The NALC is the carrier force and the goals of the NALC are the goals of the carriers collectively. Could this union be greater? Of course it can but you don't achieve that by merely throwing bricks: you build from within.

We currently are growing with the addition of CCA's as union members and should be treating these new members as brothers and sisters. They have a voice and are the future of this branch and the NALC. Everything we've achieved over the decades we've had to fight for and it'll always be that way. Nobody is going to give us anything.

The sooner the membership figures that out the better off we'll be.

The best way to promote solidarity and our agenda is to unite. We have to stop placing stumbling blocks and spreading disharmony within our own ranks. A kingdom divided will not stand! We have one common bound: We're letter carriers. We provide a service to the American people.

The NALC are men and women like you working for the betterment of carriers nationwide but it starts right in our stations. Let's show the nation what union means. Let's show the nation the meaning of solidarity. Let's not have shop stewards undermining each other or members trying to subvert one another. The word **UNION** in the proper context means one, a family of brothers and sisters.

In our hands rests the success of this branch and union. Stop with the tired old whining mantra: What has the union done for me? You know what they've done. We can achieve more but only **together** for that's where this union's strength originates. In Solidarity!



Marty Foley
Trustee

Don't Be A SCAB!

Urge them to pay their fair share and join Branch 34!

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Anthony M. Pineau

AUBURNDALE

Robin I. Devitto

BACK BAY

Brian Culver C.C.A.
Ralph E. Donovan
Christopher A. Douglass
David P. Widrow

BELMONT

Joshua M. Mahoney.. C.C.A.

BRAINTREE

Joseph Charmody..... C.C.A.

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Linda M. Hazell
Monica McRae C.C.A.
M.G. Tramontozzi C.C.A.

CAMBRIDGE

Christopher Glennon. C.C.A.

CAMBRIDGE-MOONEY ST.

Janice A. Hudson
Blanca I. Teebagy

CHESTNUT HILL

Ra-Shaun Flattes C.C.A.

COHASSET

Jessica L. Pasteris.....P.T.F.

FIELDS CORNER

Richard McLain C.C.A.

FORT POINT

Wayne J. Chin

HINGHAM

Sandra Civitillo..... C.C.A.
Mark J. Dion

IMC-CHELSEA

Clarisse F. Abromowich.. C.C.A.
P. Dhungana..... C.C.A.
A. Raji C.C.A.
Sandra Giordano
Gena Hart..... C.C.A.

J.F.K.

Emma G. Hemphill

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Kathleen Silveira C.C.A.

MALDEN

G.M. Altavilla..... C.C.A.
Eileen M. Finn
E. Kamili..... C.C.A.
J.R. Silva..... C.C.A.

MATTAPAN

MacArthur Giraults ... C.C.A.

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Charles S. Rosen

NEEDHAM

Tina M. Doherty
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Thomas A. Caryl

NEWTON HIGHLANDS

Zineh Bennani C.C.A.

NEWTONVILLE

Michael J. Zirpolo

ROXBURY

John M. Finn, Jr..... C.C.A.
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Allison Magee..... C.C.A.
M.N. Rosolko C.C.A.

(If your name wrongly appears on this scab list, please accept our apology. This information is forwarded from our national office. If you're still not in the Union, it's time to step up and pay your fair share. Contact your Shop Steward to join!)



Plan for a Smoother Holiday Season

The winter holiday season can be fun and festive. It can also be stressful and tiring. You can reduce your stress—and stay in better balance—if you plan well, keep up your healthy habits, and stay within your budget for gifts.

Your program can provide ideas on how you and your family can have a happier, healthier holiday season this year.



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Branch 34's Salutes Some Recent Retirees!



Arlington's Fred London

Arlington's Fred London (center) is congratulated on his retirement by Branch 34 Executive Vice President J.T. McMahon and Branch 34 President Bob Lind.



Arlington's Fred London (second from right) poses with Branch 34 Executive Vice President J.T. McMahon, Arlington Shop Steward and Branch 34 Area Steward Jerry McCarthy and Branch 34 President Bob Lind.



Manager Mike King presents Fred London with a "Certificate of Appreciation."



Fred London says thanks to his Arlington co-workers.

Cambridge A's Mike Longo



Branch 34 President Bob Lind congratulates Cambridge A's Mike Longo for a job well done.



Arlington's Fred London receives his retirement gifts from Branch 34 President Bob Lind.



Cambridge A's Mike Longo (right) retires as Shop Steward and Branch 34 Trustee Marty Foley says thanks.



Cambridge A's Mike Longo (center) receives his retirement gifts.

Hingham's Bill Polito



Former Hingham Shop Steward Larry Johnson, new retiree Bill Polito, Current Hingham Shop Steward Mike Bertrand and Branch 34 President Bob Lind.

Cambridge A's Mike Longo (center) receives congratulations from Branch 34 President Bob Lind and Cambridge A's Shop Steward Marty Foley.



Branch 34 President Bob Lind thanks Hingham's Bill Polito for his years of dedicated service.



Hingham's Bill Polito retires (looking for Union money?).

MDA Top Dogs in 2013

1. Woburn..... \$ 14,388.00
2. Dorchester Center \$ 539.53
3. Wellesley Square..... \$ 508.20
4. Arlington \$ 415.00
5. Waltham \$ 314.00
6. Hingham / Hull \$ 297.00
7. Jamaica Plain \$ 277.00
8. Roxbury..... \$ 245.88
9. South Boston..... \$ 230.00
10. Back Bay \$ 200.00

Great job to all who helped out!

Thanks to All who Donated to the Golf and Bowling Tournaments for MDA in 2013!

GOLF

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Shaughnessy
 Past President of Branch 34
 Mike O'Connor
 Bill Sullivan (Edward Jones Financial)
 Same Adams Brewers
 Anonymous, Woburn
 Association of Notre Dame, Cambridge
 Woburn Foreign Motors
 Seaboard Products, Danvers
 Golfsmith, Reading
 Woburn Country Club, Paul Barkhouse
 George Adams
 Woburn Letter Carriers
 Boston Letter Carriers
 Mutual Benefits Association
 In Memory of the Longfellow Family
 Middlesex-Essex Postal Employees
 Federal Credit Union
 Cusdato Construction
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 Albert Fitzgerald Tile Inc.
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 Woburn Police Patrolmen's Association
 Tatarini Financial, Woburn
 Colonial Package Store
 Woburn Glass
 Martignetti Enterprises
 The Great Mandarin Restaurant
 Avenue Management LLC
 Northeast Snow and Ice
 Management Corp.
 Micros Northeast Inc.
 Pinnacle Private Wealth
 Cooper's Jewelers
 Morromaco Chiropractic
 Hogan Tire
 Deschaamps Printing, Salem, MA
 A.W. Chesterton
 IBEW Local 1505
 Salem Five Insurance Services LLC
 Mail Handlers Union Local 301
 Industrial Motion
 Engineering Landmark
 Impressions
 Amly Corp.
 Lawton and Lawton LLC
 PAC Flooring

Committee to Elect Congressman
 Stephen Lynch
 Lynch-Cantillon Funeral Home
 Bob and Lannie Dever
 Braese Real Estate LLC
 Lawton Real Estate LLC
 Dan and Beverly Shaughnessy
 Tom Coleman
 Anthony and Melissa Desimone
 Past President MSLCA
 Maureen Marinelli

BOWLING

Dan Shapiro
 Branch 34 Vice President Bob Simpson
 Committee to Elect Congressman
 Stephen Lynch
 Dan O'Connor
 B.J.'s Wholesale
 Santarpio's Pizza, East Boston
 Veronica Bertrand
 MDA
 Lanes & Games, Cambridge
 Panera Bread
 Past President MSLCA
 Maureen Marinelli

Branch 34 Donates \$23,027.68 to MDA in 2013

| | Shamrocks | St. Pat's Carnations | Office Raffles | Satchel Drive | Tonic Cans | Office Collections | Walk A Thon | New Year's Day Swim | Special Collections | Golf Tournament | St. Valentine Roses | Carnations | Total |
|------------------------|-----------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------|------------------|
| Allston | 30.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | 30.00 |
| Arlington | 200.00 | | | | | 215.00 | | | | | | | 415.00 |
| Auburndale | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| Back Bay | 200.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | 200.00 |
| Belmont | 85.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | 85.00 |
| Braintree | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| Brighton | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| Brookline | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| Cambridge Central | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| Cambridge - Mooney St. | 90.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | 90.00 |
| Charlestown IMC | 30.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | 30.00 |
| Chelsea | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| Chestnut Hill | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| Cohasset | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| Dorchester Center | 203.00 | | | 336.53 | | | | | | | | | 539.53 |
| East Boston | 92.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | 92.00 |
| East Weymouth | 45.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | 45.00 |
| Everett | 43.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | 43.00 |
| Fenway | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| Fields Corner | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| Fort Point | 145.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | 145.00 |
| Hingham / Hull | 297.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | 297.00 |
| Hyde Park | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| Jamaica Plain | 277.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | 277.00 |
| JFK | 138.00 | | | | | 52.00 | | | | | | | 190.00 |
| Kenmore | 80.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | 80.00 |
| Lexington | 180.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | 180.00 |
| Malden / Melrose | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| Mattapan | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| Medfield | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| Medford | 63.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | 63.00 |
| Milton | 66.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | 66.00 |
| Needham | 119.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | 119.00 |
| Newton Centre | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| Newton Highlands | 100.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | 100.00 |
| Newton Upper Falls | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| Newtonville | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| North Quincy | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| North Weymouth | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| IMC North | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| Quincy | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| Revere | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| Roslindale | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| Roxbury | | | | 245.88 | | | | | | | | | 245.88 |
| Scituate | 67.00 | | | 230.00 | | | | | | | | | 297.00 |
| South Boston | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| South Weymouth | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| Somerville | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| Stoneham | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| Waban | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| Waltham | 111.00 | | | | | 203.00 | | | | | | | 314.00 |
| Watertown | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| Wellesley Square | 31.00 | | 351.20 | | 25.00 | | | | 71.00 | | | 30.00 | 508.20 |
| Wellesley Hills | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| West Newton | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| West Roxbury | 175.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | 175.00 |
| Weston | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| Weymouth Landing | 95.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | 95.00 |
| Winthrop | 18.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | 18.00 |
| Woburn | 3,388.00 | | | | 90.00 | 60.00 | | | 100.00 | 10,800.00 | | | 14,388.00 |
| Wollaston | | | | | | | | | | | | | .00 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 16,023.08 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 300.00 | | 300.00 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 3,600.00 | | 3,600.00 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 23,027.61 |

Past President Br. 34 Mike O'Connor
 Bowling

300.00
 3,600.00

2013 UAW Union-Built Vehicles List

UAW CARS

Buick LaCrosse
Buick Verano
Cadillac ATS
Cadillac CTS
Chevrolet Corvette
Chevrolet Cruze
Chevrolet Malibu
Chevrolet Sonic
Chevrolet Volt
Chrysler 200
Chrysler 200 Convertible
Dodge Avenger
Dodge Dart
Ford Focus
Ford Focus (Electric)
Ford Fusion*
Ford C-Max/(Full Hybrid/Electric)
Ford Mustang
Ford Taurus
Lincoln MKS
SRT Viper

UAW SUVs/CUVs

Buick Enclave
Cadillac Escalade ESV
Cadillac Escalade/Hybrid
Chevrolet Suburban
Chevrolet Tahoe/Hybrid
Chevrolet Traverse
Dodge Durango
Ford Escape
Ford Expedition
Ford Explorer
GMC Acadia
GMC Yukon/Hybrid
GMC Yukon XL
Jeep Compass
Jeep Grand Cherokee
Jeep Patriot
Jeep Wrangler
Lincoln Navigator
Mitsubishi Outlander Sport

UAW TRUCKS

Chevrolet Silverado/Hybrid**
Ford F Series
GMC Sierra/Hybrid**
Ram 1500*

UAW VANS

Chevrolet Express
Ford E Series
GMC Savana

CAW CARS

Buick Regal
Cadillac XTS
Chevrolet Camaro
Chevrolet Impala
Chrysler 300
Dodge Challenger
Dodge Charger

CAW SUVs/CUVs

Chevrolet Equinox
Ford Edge
Ford Flex
GMC Terrain
Lincoln MKT
Lincoln MKX

CAW VANS

Chrysler Town & Country
Dodge Grand Caravan
Volkswagen Routan

These vehicles are made in the United States or Canada by members of the UAW and Canadian Auto Workers (CAW). Because of the integration of United States and Canadian vehicle production, all the vehicles listed that are made in Canada include significant UAW-made content and support the jobs of UAW members.

However, those marked with an asterisk (*) are produced in the United States and another country. The light-duty (LD) crew cab versions of the vehicles marked with a double asterisk (**) are manufactured only in Mexico; other models are made in the United States.

When purchasing one of these models, check the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). A VIN beginning with "1" or "4" or "5" identifies a U.S.-made vehicle; "2" identifies a Canadian-made vehicle.

Not all vehicles made in the United States or Canada are built by union-represented workers. Vehicles not listed here, even if produced in the United States or Canada, are not union made.

MDA Corner MDA MDA MDA MDA MDA

Things You Might Not Know About the MDA

MDA is the non-profit health agency dedicated to finding treatments and cures for muscular dystrophy, ALS and related diseases by funding worldwide research. The Association also provides comprehensive health care and support services, advocacy and education.

MDA combats neuromuscular diseases through programs of worldwide research, comprehensive medical and support services, and far-reaching professional and public health education. With national headquarters in Tucson, MDA has more than 200 local offices across the country, sponsors some 200 medical clinics and supports more than 300 research projects around the world.

MDA is the nation's largest nongovernmental funder of scientific research seeking better treatments and cures for the more than 40 neuromuscular diseases in this program. MDA has funded the discovery of the genetic underpinnings of almost all diseases in its program – including the muscular dystrophies, spinal muscular atrophy, ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease) and several other neuromuscular diseases – and treatments based on this knowledge are being developed, with support from MDA.

The Association's comprehensive services program includes diagnostic and followup medical consultations, flu shots, support groups, MDA summer camps for youngsters, a national medical equipment program, assistance with equipment repairs and modifications, and resource referrals.

Through its national advocacy program, MDA works to make life better for people with muscular dystrophy and related muscle diseases by providing representation in matters of public policy and research advancement, nationally and internationally; and facilitating active involvement by the people it serves.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Muscular Dystrophy is the name for a group of genetic, degenerative diseases primarily affecting voluntary muscles. In some cases, the heart and other organs are affected. There are nine main types of muscular dystrophy: myotonic, Duchenne, Becker, Limb Girdle, Facioscapulohumeral (FSHD), Congenital, Oculopharyngeal, Distal, and Emery-Dreifuss.

ALS is the abbreviation for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a/k/a Lou Gehrig's Disease or Motor Neuron Disease. ALS is a disease of the parts of the nervous system that control voluntary muscle movement. In ALS, motor neurons (nerve cells that control muscle cells) are gradually lost. As these motor neurons are lost, the muscles they control become weak and then non-functional.

MDA also covers neuromuscular diseases like Spinal muscular atrophy, Pompe Disease, Freidrich's Ataxia, Mitochondrial, Charcot-Marie-Tooth, and more.

Visit www.mda.org for a complete list of the 43 diseases under MDA's umbrella.

Research News

MDA grants totaling \$891,156 were awarded in August, 2012 aimed at understanding some of the processes that underlie amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), including a \$301,614 MDA grant to **Marc Weisskopf**, associate professor of environmental and occupational epidemiology at Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, who has launched a large-scale study to search for non-genetic risk factors for ALS.

A trial of a drug for children with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) using antisense therapy is to change the way instructions from the SMN2 gene are interpreted so

that full-length, functional SMN protein can be made is underway thanks to MDA funding. Investigators hope to enroll a total of 24 children with SMA at sites around the country, including one in Boston. ISIS-SMNRx was developed by Isis Pharmaceuticals in collaboration with MDA-supported researcher **Adrian Krainer** at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory.

MDA has given hope to families affected by Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, DMD. In addition to a massive study showing an increase in lifespan for boys with DMD by up to 11 years in certain cases, clinical trial results for the Duchenne MD drug eteplirsen, manufactured by Sarepta Pharmaceuticals (HQed in Cambridge, MA), show real improvements in dystrophin production and walking ability, so much so that the drug company has expanded their exon-targeting drug development program and is moving towards seeking FDA approval. MDA has provided over \$4 million for the development of exon skipping for DMD since 1996 and supplied supplemental funding for the current eteplirsen trial. All trial participants showed significant increases in dystrophin production in sampled muscle fibers, with those receiving eteplirsen for all 48 weeks showing the protein in 47 percent of their sampled fibers.

A new lead has been found in the search for a treatment for myotonic muscular dystrophy. MDA grantee **Ruben Artero** at the University of Valencia in Spain was part of a research group that recently

identified a new way to block a disease-causing genetic mutation underlying type 1 myotonic dystrophy (MMD1, or DM1). This research could pave the way for future drug development efforts.

MDA's Services

Specialized, multi-disciplinary care by doctors who understand the complexity of caring for someone with muscular dystrophy or ALS at a network of **hospital-affiliated clinics**. Massachusetts has seven of these clinics.

Support groups – traditional, online, and through our clinics – to connect the community we serve. We also bring people together with "Phone a Friend", local picnics and holiday parties, and through national webinars about topics that matter.

Access to, and repair of, durable medical equipment through a nationwide system of **loan closets**.

A national **advocacy** team based in DC that speaks up for the rights and needs of our community.

Educational resources for people affected by muscle disease, caregivers, educators, health providers, and the public, including publications, webinars, conferences and symposiums.

Transitional services to help meet the needs of individuals we serve who, thanks to advances in care, can now lead an independent, "normal" life.

Summer camp for kids ages 6-17 – free, fully adaptive, and all about fun!!

JOIN THE NEWLY-FORMED NATIONAL LETTER CARRIERS MOTORCYCLE CLUB!

NATIONAL LETTER CARRIERS MOTORCYCLE CLUB

Bikers: Ride for MDA

Letter carriers are forming a motorcycle club to raise funds for MDA and assist carriers who are motorcycle enthusiasts to get together from time to time. For a donation of \$35.00, you will receive our Official Membership Card, Lapel Pin, Cap, Large Patch and Small Patch bearing our club seal. All proceeds will be given directly to the Muscular Dystrophy Association!

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

APPLICATION

YES, I want to support MDA with a \$35.00 Donation

NAME _____

BRANCH NO. _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ EMAIL _____

TYPE OF MOTORCYCLE _____ YEAR _____ MODEL _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO **NALC**

Please fill out send this application to:

**James Williams, National Letter Carriers Motorcycle Club,
c/o NALC, 100 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20001**

The Boston Letter Carriers Mutual Benefit Association

Founded May 18, 1889

522 Dorchester Avenue, South Boston, MA 02127
Telephone (617) 269-9111

Assets: \$5,000,000

Life Insurance: \$5,500 • Weekly Benefit: \$42*

Lifetime Sick Benefit: \$480 • Annual Dues: \$14

NO PHYSICAL EXAM

Applicants must be under forty years of age and less than three years a full-time Letter Carrier. Premiums have never been increased. Managed by Boston Letter Carriers. Supervised and audited by the Massachusetts Department of Insurance. See your Station Mutual Benefit Association representatives for further details, or call 617-269-9111.

* After first seven days with no leave to your credit.

President: Thomas Sheehan • Recording Secretary: Arthur Dinsmoor



Active letter carriers:
Contribute
to **COLCPE**
using PostalEASE

by phone.....or online

Letter carriers can contribute directly to COLCPE (NALC's Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education) from their paychecks every pay period using the Postal Service's PostalEASE. Through PostalEASE you can designate COLCPE as one of your three* payroll "allotments."

- 1 Be sure you know your 8-digit Employee ID Number (on your paystub) and 4-digit USPS Personal Identification Number (PIN). If you cannot remember your PIN, call PostalEASE at 1-877-4PS-EASE (1-877-477-3273), select "1", enter your 8-digit employee ID number, and select "2" to have your PIN mailed to you.
- 2 Create your own Account Number by inserting in the spaces at right the first seven digits of the ID number that appears above your name on the back cover of your Postal Record.

YOUR 17-DIGIT ACCOUNT NUMBER:

0 0 3 4 9 5 2 5 3 5
(First 7 digits of ID number on Postal Record label)

*****A1T0** 5-DIGIT 84321
XXXXXX 9 LC 9876 W13 08
JOHN CARRIER
1234 MAIN STREET
ANYWHERE, US 54321-9999

3 Now you are ready to call PostalEASE toll-free at 1-877-4PS-EASE (1-877-477-3273)

- When prompted, select "1" for PostalEASE and then enter your 8-digit Employee ID Number and your USPS PIN
- Select "2" for payroll options
- Select "1" for allotments
- Disregard instruction to complete Allotment Worksheet and select "2" to continue
- Select "3" to add a new allotment
- Enter the following Financial Institution Routing Number:
0 6 4 0 0 0 1 7
- Select "1" to continue processing allotment
- Select "1" to "enter the allotment now"
- Enter your 17-digit Account Number from above
- Enter "1" for Checking
- Enter amount of allotment: \$_____.00 per pay period. If amount is correct, select "1"

* If you already have three allotments, you must cancel one to contribute to COLCPE through PostalEASE. To do so, follow the instructions at left but instead of selecting "3" to add a new allotment, select "2" to cancel an allotment.

After completing your entry, do not end the call until you hear the following:

Confirmation Number: _____
Your allotment will become effective on: _____
Your allotment will be reflected in paycheck dated: _____
Keep this information for your records and future reference.

By making a COLCPE allotment through PostalEASE, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your monthly contribution is not a condition of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers or of employment by the Postal Service, nor is it a part of union dues. You may refuse to contribute without any reprisal. COLCPE will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office and undertake other political spending as permitted by law. Your selection shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled through the PostalEASE system. Only NALC members, NALC executive and administrative staff, and their immediate household family members may contribute to COLCPE. Contributions to COLCPE are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.

Contribute on the web at
liteblue.usps.gov

Carriers can also go online to use PostalEASE. With PostalEASE, carriers can contribute directly from their paychecks every pay period. Through PostalEASE you can designate COLCPE as one of your three payroll "allotments."

- 1 Be sure you know your 8-digit Employee ID Number (on your paystub) and your 4-digit USPS Personal Identification Number (PIN). If you cannot remember your PIN, call PostalEASE at 1-877-4PS-EASE (1-877-477-3273), select "1", enter your Employee ID Number, and select "2" to have your PIN mailed to you.
- 2 Create your own Account Number by inserting in the spaces at right the first seven digits of the ID number that appears above your name on the back cover of your Postal Record.

3 Now you are ready to go online to liteblue.usps.gov

- Enter Employee ID and PIN and click "log on"
- Click on "Postal Ease"
- Click on "I agree"
- Enter Employee ID and PIN again and log in
- Click on "Allotments/Payroll NTB"
- Click on "Continue"
- Click on "Allotments"
- Enter the 9-digit Financial Institution Routing Number: 0 6 4 0 0 0 1 7
- Enter your 17-digit Account Number from above
- Enter Account type as "checking"
- Enter amount of your contribution
- Click on "validate"
- Click on "submit"
- Click "print page" to see and print your confirmation number for your records



Contribute to **COLCPE** monthly from your bank account via Electronic Fund Transfer

Every month on the 1st of the month, COLCPE will automatically (and without a fee) deduct from your bank account the amount you choose to contribute.

Please fill out and mail this coupon with a voided check to:
NALC-COLCPE
100 Indiana Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20001-2144

I hereby authorize my bank to deduct from my checking account monthly the sum of:
 \$25 \$20 \$15 \$10 \$5 Other: \$_____

and forward that amount to NALC's Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education (COLCPE). I make this authorization voluntarily and may revoke it at any time by notifying the NALC COLCPE Committee in writing.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Name (please print): _____
Social Security Number: _____ OR Postal Record number: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

By making a COLCPE Electronic Fund Transfer authorization, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your monthly contribution is not a condition of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers or of employment by the Postal Service, nor is it a part of union dues. The guideline amounts listed above are merely suggestions, and you may contribute more, less or nothing at all without advantage, disadvantage or reprisal. COLCPE will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office and undertake other political spending as permitted by law. Only NALC members, NALC executive and administrative staff, and their immediate household family members may contribute to COLCPE. Contributions to COLCPE are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.

Attach a voided check here

RETIREES!

4 easy ways to start your allotment!

Contribute to **COLCPE** directly from your ANNUITY

Retired NALC members have the option of making voluntary COLCPE contributions directly from their monthly CSRS or FERS annuities, a convenient way to make regular donations to the political action fund similar to the

payroll system available to active carriers. The amount you decide to contribute will come out of your annuity each month. Choose a method below. Before you begin, you'll need your CSA retirement claim number.

Phone: Call the NALC Retirement Office at 202-662-2877 anytime, or toll-free at 800-424-5186 Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon and from 2 to 4 p.m. (ET).

Coupon: Detach and complete the coupon below and mail it to NALC Headquarters.

Mail: Send a letter to Office of Personnel Management, Retirement Operations Center, Boyers, PA 16017. Be sure to include your CSA number, the amount you want to contribute monthly, and the organization name: National Association of Letter Carriers—COLCPE.

Internet:

- Go to www.servicesonline.opm.gov
- Enter your CSA number, beginning with the letter A and ending with a zero. SAMPLE: A22222220
- Enter your PIN (Personal Identification Number). If you don't know it, click *Using Services Online* for help in getting one.
- Once you've entered your CSA number and PIN, click *Log In*.
- On the next page, click *Allotments to Organizations*.
- Click *START*.
- Select *Natl Assn of Letter Carriers - COLCPE*.
- Enter the amount of your monthly contribution
- Click *SAVE*.
- On the next page click *YES* (if correct), then print the next page for your records.

For Retired Members

I wish to contribute to COLCPE, the political action fund of the National Association of Letter Carriers. I understand the Office of Personnel Management will withhold the amount below from my monthly annuity payments.

Mail completed coupon to: NALC Retirement Department, Attention: COLCPE, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144.

Name (please print): _____ Branch: _____
CSA or Social Security number: _____ Phone: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____

I wish to contribute monthly:
 \$25 \$20 \$15 \$10 \$5 Other: \$_____

By making a contribution to the Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that it is not a condition of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers nor a part of union dues. You may refuse to contribute without reprisal. COLCPE will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office and undertake other political spending as permitted by law. Your selection shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled through the Office of Personnel Management. Contributions to COLCPE are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.

Service is our priority

When looking to buy or sell a home, call 617-429-2642 or 617-796-2741



Melvin A. Vieira, Sr.



Melvin A. Vieira, Jr.

Two for the Price of One



17 Canton Avenue
Milton, MA 02186
617-696-0075



NEW HEIGHTS REAL ESTATE

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Fax 508-230-9515
www.NewHeightsRealEstate.com



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MA

GET YOUR

Branch 34
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TO BENEFIT THE BRANCH 34 SCHOLARSHIP FUND

(SIX \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED EACH YEAR)

AVAILABLE IN NAVY BLUE & GRAY SIZES M-XXXL

ONLY \$10 EACH

ORDER YOUR SHIRT AT THE BRANCH 34 UNION OFFICE 781-281-1133!

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Postal Uniforms • Shoes

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CALENDAR YEAR 2014 ROTATING NON-SCHEDULED DAYS

Robert A. Lind, President
 John T. McMahon, Executive Vice President
 Robert Simpson, Vice President
 Kevin Flaherty, Secretary-Treasurer
 Michael Yerkes, Financial Secretary
 Steve Mahoney, Editor, Branch 34's CLAN
 Michael Gorham, Health Benefit Officer
 Michael Murray, Sergeant-at-Arms

Rich Galvin, Clerk, NSBA
 Paul Roche, Chairman, Trustee
 Daniel O'Connor, Trustee
 Marty Foley, Trustee
 Jerry McCarthy, Area Steward
 Brian Manning, Area Steward
 Michael Kidd, Area Steward
 Bernadette Romans, Area Steward

1 - LEGAL NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

BRANCH MEETINGS **W** WEST ROXBURY at 7:00 P.M. **Q** QUINCY **M** MALDEN

10% - PAYDAYS **10%** - Boston/Cambridge Leave Information

JANUARY 2014

| SUN. | MON. | TUE. | WED. | THU. | FRI. | SAT. |
|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| | | | 10% D | E | F | F |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 10% | A | B | C | D | E | E |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 10% | F | Q A | B | C | D | D |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 10% | E | F | A | B | C | C |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 10% | D | E | F | A | B | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

JANUARY 1: NEW YEAR'S DAY
 JANUARY 20: MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

FEBRUARY 2014

| SUN. | MON. | TUE. | WED. | THU. | FRI. | SAT. |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | | | | | | B |
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 10% | C | D | E | F | A | A |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 10% | B | W C | D | E | F | F |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 12% | A | B | C | D | E | E |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 10% | F | A | B | C | D | |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | |

FEBRUARY 14: VALENTINE'S DAY
 FEBRUARY 17: PRESIDENT'S DAY

MARCH 2014

| SUN. | MON. | TUE. | WED. | THU. | FRI. | SAT. |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | | | | | | D |
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 10% | E | F | A | B | C | C |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 10% | D | M E | F | A | B | B |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 10% | C | D | E | F | A | A |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 10% | B | C | D | E | F | F |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 10% | A | | | | | |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

CANVAS CARRIERS FOR PRIME TIME VACATIONS

MARCH 5: ASH WEDNESDAY
 MARCH 17: ST. PATRICK'S DAY

APRIL 2014

| SUN. | MON. | TUE. | WED. | THU. | FRI. | SAT. |
|------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|
| | | 10% B | C | D | E | E |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 10% | F | Q A | B | C | D | D |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 10% | E | F | A | B | C | C |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 12% | D | E | F | A | B | B |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 10% | C | D | E | | | |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |

APRIL 15: PASSOVER BEGINS
 APRIL 18: GOOD FRIDAY
 APRIL 20: EASTER SUNDAY
 APRIL 21: PATRIOTS' DAY

MAY 2014

| SUN. | MON. | TUE. | WED. | THU. | FRI. | SAT. |
|------|------|------|------|-------|------|-------|
| | | | | 10% F | A | A |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 10% | B | C | D | E | F | 14% F |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 14% | A | W B | C | D | E | E |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 14% | F | A | B | C | D | D |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 16% | E | F | A | B | C | C |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

MAY 11: MOTHER'S DAY
 MAY 26: MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 10: NALC FOOD DRIVE

JUNE 2014

| SUN. | MON. | TUE. | WED. | THU. | FRI. | SAT. |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | | | | | | B |
| 16% | D | E | F | A | B | B |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 16% | C | M D | E | F | A | A |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 16% | B | C | D | E | F | F |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 16% | A | B | C | D | E | E |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 16% | F | | | | | |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |

JUNE 14: FLAG DAY
 JUNE 15: FATHER'S DAY

JULY 2014

| SUN. | MON. | TUE. | WED. | THU. | FRI. | SAT. |
|------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|
| | | 16% A | B | C | D | D |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 16% | E | F | A | B | C | C |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 16% | D | E | F | A | B | B |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 16% | C | D | E | F | A | A |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 16% | B | C | D | E | | |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

JULY 4: INDEPENDENCE DAY

JULY 21-25: NALC NATIONAL CONVENTION IN PHILADELPHIA, PA

AUGUST 2014

| SUN. | MON. | TUE. | WED. | THU. | FRI. | SAT. |
|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|
| | | | | | 16% F | F |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 16% | A | B | C | D | E | E |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 16% | F | A | B | C | D | D |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 16% | E | F | A | B | C | C |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 16% | D | E | F | A | B | B |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 16% | | | | | | |
| 31 | | | | | | |

SEPTEMBER 2014

| SUN. | MON. | TUE. | WED. | THU. | FRI. | SAT. |
|------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|
| | | 16% C | D | E | F | A |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 16% | B | Q C | D | E | F | F |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 16% | A | B | C | D | E | E |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 16% | F | A | B | C | D | D |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 14% | E | F | | | | |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |

SEPTEMBER 1: MDA LABOR DAY SHOW OF STRENGTH

SEPTEMBER 1: LABOR DAY
 SEPTEMBER 25: ROSH HASHANAH BEGINS

SEPTEMBER 13: LAST DAY FOR FALL 2014 NON-CHOICE VACATION

NO BRANCH MEETINGS IN JULY & AUGUST

OCTOBER 2014

| SUN. | MON. | TUE. | WED. | THU. | FRI. | SAT. |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | | | A | B | C | C |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 14% | D | W E | F | A | B | B |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 14% | C | D | E | F | A | A |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 10% | B | C | D | E | F | F |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 10% | A | B | C | D | E | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

OCTOBER 4: YOM KIPPUR BEGINS
 OCTOBER 13: COLUMBUS DAY
 OCTOBER 31: HALLOWEEN

NOVEMBER 2014

| SUN. | MON. | TUE. | WED. | THU. | FRI. | SAT. |
|-------|------|------|------|------|------|---------|
| | | | | | | 10% E |
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 10% | F | A | B | C | D | D |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 10% | E | M F | A | B | C | C |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 10% | D | E | F | A | B | 10%+1 B |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 10%+1 | C | D | E | F | A | A |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 10% | | | | | | |
| 30 | | | | | | |

NOVEMBER 4: ELECTION DAY
 NOVEMBER 11: VETERANS' DAY
 NOVEMBER 27: THANKSGIVING DAY

DECEMBER 2014

| SUN. | MON. | TUE. | WED. | THU. | FRI. | SAT. |
|------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 10% B | C | D | E | F | F |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 10% | A | Q B | C | D | E | E |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 0% | F | A | B | C | D | D |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 0% | E | F | A | B | 5% C | C |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 5% | D | E | F | | | |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

DECEMBER 17: HANUKKAH BEGINS
 DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE
 DECEMBER 25: CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 26: KWANZAA BEGINS
 DECEMBER 31: NEW YEAR'S EVE