



Vote For Your Future!
Make Sure You Hit the Polls
on Tuesday, November 6th!
Polls Open 7:00 am-8:00 pm



National Association of Letter Carriers
 Joseph P. Considine Branch 34 AFL-CIO
 400 West Cummings Park, Suite 3950
 Woburn, MA 01801-6396
 Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Boston, MA
 Permit No. 54631

Volume XLI, Number 3 • October-November 2012

The Award-Winning Newspaper of Joseph P. Considine Branch 34 NALC, AFL-CIO



Branch 34's CLAN

National Association of Letter Carriers

122 Years of Proud Union Participation and Accomplishments ★ 1890 - 2012

Branch 34 Official Election Notice

OFFICERS

The election of officers for Branch 34, Boston will be held at the March 2013 branch meeting. The successful candidates for the offices of president, executive vice president, vice president, secretary-treasurer, financial secretary, editor, sergeant-at-arms, clerk, NSBA-MBA, health benefit officer, three trustees and four area stewards will serve from April 1, 2013 through March 31, 2016.

Nominations will be taken from the floor at the January 2013 branch meeting. There will be no nomination papers necessary to run in this election. Any potential nominees who cannot be in attendance must submit a letter of acceptance at the time of nominations. The names of all nominees will be read off by the close of the meeting.

The election will take place at the March 2013 branch meeting. All officers must be elected by a plurality vote. The vote shall be counted and tabulated at that time.

DELEGATES

The election of delegates to the Massachusetts State Convention will be held at the December Branch 34 Meeting. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the November Branch 34 Meeting. There will be no nomination papers necessary to run in this election. Any potential nominees who cannot be in attendance must submit a letter of acceptance at the time of nominations. The names of all nominees will be read off by the close of the meeting. If necessary, the election will take place at the December Branch 34 Meeting. All delegates must be elected by a plurality vote. The vote shall be counted and tabulated at that time.

Delegates to the Massachusetts State Conventions will not receive financial assistance unless they attend 16 to 24 meetings in the prior two years. Alternates will not be entitled to financial assistance unless they become delegates. The sergeant-at-arms will validate proof of attendance with the regular monthly meeting signature book.

– John Baginsky, Chair,
 Election Committee, Branch 34

President's Corner

“Our Fight, Our Future!”

This special edition of “Branch 34’s CLAN” is dedicated to the upcoming Presidential and the Massachusetts US Senatorial and Congressional elections.

Our Fight, Our Future! That was the mantra from this past summer’s NALC’s 68th Biennial Convention. The message was plain and simple; we can’t rely on anyone but ourselves to get the job done. If the postal service is to be saved it will have to be saved by letter carriers. That being said what’s the plan? Do we have one?

This is “**Our Fight, Our Future!**” Not mine, not hers, not his but “**Our Fight, Our Future!**” We can’t leave it up to anyone else, especially management. We can only depend on each other. First ante up by contributing to COLCPE which is our political action fund. We need to help out our legislative friends who in turn can help our cause. That’s how politics works, like it or not!

Next, we need to help out our NALC endorsed candidates (see page 7 for the NALC/MA AFL-CIO endorsed candidates) anyway we can. Phone banks, labor walks, holding signs are merely a few ways to get involved. If we all pull together it’s not a heavy lift. I’m well aware of our many outside commitments (spouse working, football, hockey, fall baseball, etc...) but if each of us make alternate arrangements and attend one organized labor event we’ll get the job done easily. “**Our Fight, Our Future!**” Let’s take care of business.

These elections will shape our future and when I say “**our**” I mean the postal service. What do we have riding on this election? Job security, health benefits, pensions and

our standard of living.

We need to vote and vote for our jobs, period! I hear the derogatory remarks, “Nana” in reference to **Elizabeth Warren**. My response to that is did your grandmother look out for your well being? You bet she did! If that’s someone’s shallow perception well then there’s their answer.



Robert A. Lind
 President

This is “**Our Fight, Our Future!**” Not mine, not hers, not his but “**Our Fight, Our Future!**” We can’t leave it up to anyone else, especially management. We can only depend on each other. First ante up by contributing to COLCPE which is our political action fund. We need to help out our legislative friends who in turn can help our cause. That’s how politics works, like it or not!

Scott Brown on the other hand is out there professing to be a union guy, **NOT! Not even close!** He voted against us seventy-five percent of the time (he also co-wrote S.1789). **Elizabeth Warren** is labor-friendly and will fight for our future, not destroy it. AFL-CIO National President **Richard Trumka** said it best when he said, “We need a Warrior fighting for us all the time, not 25 % of the time. We need **Elizabeth Warren** in the US Senate.”

I’ve met with **Elizabeth Warren** and she gets it! She knows the dire situation we’re in and vows to fight to rectify it but we must elect her first.

We also have to elect our present and future (**Joe Kennedy III**) Congressional supporters and President **Barack Obama** as well. We support them and they support us; that’s how

it works. The NALC and the AFL-CIO have collaborated to get certain NALC members released to help get out the vote for our candidates. It’s that important. This isn’t just another ho-hum election; it’s our future at stake.

(continued on page 2)

Branch 34 Upcoming Membership Meetings

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

November 13, 2012

at the Sons of Italy Hall
 120 Quarry Street, Quincy

December 11, 2012

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

January 8, 2013

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

Check
 Out These
 Dates & Locations

INSIDE

Branch 34’s CLAN

Vote to Protect Your Job!

Page 3

NALC’s Effort in Massachusetts

Page 4

NALC/MA AFL-CIO Endorsements

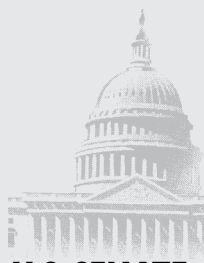
Page 7

Branch 34 2013 Calendar

Page 12

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





Massachusetts Congressional Delegation

U.S. SENATE

The Honorable John F. Kerry
Russell Senate Office Bldg., Rm. 218
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-2742 Fax: 202-224-8525
kerry.senate.gov

The Honorable Scott Brown
Russell Senate Office Bldg., Rm. 317
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4543 Fax: 202-224-2417
scottbrown.senate.gov

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

First Congressional District
The Honorable John W. Olver
Longworth House Office Bldg., Rm. 1111
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-5335 Fax: 202-226-1224
www.house.gov/olver

Second Congressional District
The Honorable Richard E. Neal
Rayburn House Office Bldg., Rm. 2266
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-5601 Fax: 202-225-8112
www.house.gov/neal

Third Congressional District
The Honorable James P. McGovern
Cannon House Office Bldg., Rm. 438
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-6101 Fax: 202-225-5759
www.house.gov/mcgovern

Fourth Congressional District
The Honorable Barney Frank
Rayburn House Office Bldg., Rm. 2252
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-5931 Fax: 202-225-0182
www.house.gov/frank

Fifth Congressional District
The Honorable Niki Tsongas
Longworth House Office Bldg., Rm. 1607
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3411 Fax: 202-226-0771
www.house.gov/tsongas

Sixth Congressional District
The Honorable John F. Tierney
Rayburn House Office Bldg., Rm. 2238
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-8020 Fax: 202-225-5915
www.house.gov/tierney

Seventh Congressional District
The Honorable Edward J. Markey
Rayburn House Office Bldg., Rm. 2108
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-2836 Fax: 202-226-0092
www.house.gov/markey
Represented Communities: Middlesex County – Arlington, Belmont, Everett, Framingham, Lexington, Lincoln, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Natick, Stoneham, Waltham, Watertown, Wayland-Pct. 2, Weston, Winchester, Woburn; Suffolk County – Revere, Winthrop

Eighth Congressional District
The Honorable Michael Capuano
Longworth House Office Bldg., Rm. 1414
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-5111 Fax: 202-225-9322
www.house.gov/capuano
Represented Communities: Middlesex County – Cambridge, Somerville; Suffolk County – Boston-Wds. 1, 2; Wd. 3, Pcts. 1, 2, 6-10; Wd. 7, Pct. 10; Wds. 8-12; Wd. 13, Pcts. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6; Wd. 14; Wd. 15, Pcts. 1-5, 7-9; Wd. 16, Pcts. 1, 3; Wd. 17, Pcts. 1-3, 5-12; Wd. 18, Pcts. 1-8, 13-15, 21; Wd. 19, Pcts. 1, 3-6, 8, 9; Wds. 21, 22; Chelsea

Ninth Congressional District
The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch
Rayburn House Office Bldg., Rm. 2348
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-8273 Fax: 202-225-3984
www.house.gov/lynch
Represented Communities: Bristol County – Easton; Norfolk County – Avon, Braintree, Canton, Dedham, Holbrook, Medford, Milton, Needham, Norwood, Randolph, Stoughton, Walpole, Westwood; Plymouth County – Bridgewater, Brockton, East Bridgewater, Hanson-Pcts. 1, 3, West Bridgewater, Whitman; Suffolk County – Boston-Wd. 3, Pcts. 5, 6; Wd. 5, Pcts. 3-5, 11; Wd. 6; Wd. 7, Pcts. 1-9; Wd. 13, Pcts. 3, 7-10; Wd. 15, Pcts. 6; Wd. 16, Pcts. 2, 4-12; Wd. 17, Pcts. 4, 13-14; Wd. 18, Pcts. 9-12, 16-20, 22-23; Wd. 19, Pcts. 2, 7, 10-13; Wd. 20

Tenth Congressional District
The Honorable William Keating
Cannon House Office Bldg., Rm. 305
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3111 Fax: 202-225-5658
www.house.gov/keating
Represented Communities: Barnstable County – Barnstable, Bourne, Brewster, Chatham, Dennis, Eastham, Falmouth, Harwich, Mashpee, Orleans, Provincetown, Sandwich, Truro, Wellfleet, Yarmouth; Dukes County – Aquinnah, Chilmark, Edgartown, Gosnold, Oak Bluffs, Tisbury, West Tisbury; Nantucket County – Nantucket; Norfolk County – Cohasset, Quincy, Weymouth; Plymouth County – Abington, Carver, Duxbury, Hanover, Hanson-Pct. 2; Hingham, Hull, Kingston, Marshfield, Norwell, Pembroke, Plymouth, Plympton, Rockland, Scituate

“Our Fight, Our Future!”

(continued from page 1)

I don't think we need to discuss Mitt Romney and the Republican Party's stance on the future of the postal service. Their platform is to dismantle it. They went on record as equating us as antiquated as the pony express. He'll create jobs all right, low pay, no benefits after he destroys good union working class jobs.

Once our candidates are elected, we need to concentrate on getting the job done legislatively. We get them elected then we demand performance and we only let up when the job is done. We have to accomplish this task because the alternative is we lose. We have to fight to win but that can't be done sitting on the sidelines. This is your fight, my fight so let's get to work.

COLCPE donations are imperative. I just don't understand the lack of involvement from our membership. A few dollars a pay-period helps protect our future employment. Everyone should be donating and it shouldn't be left up to the other guy, sign up today! Again this isn't just my, his or her fight; it's **OUR** fight!

Let's get the word out immediately to friends, family and acquaintances. Don't let anyone get hoodwinked again like the last Senate election. We've got a few short days before November 6th and the ramifications from this election will affect not only your future but your children's future too.

GPS come, GPS go

You may or may not be aware but as of 8:00 a.m. on Friday 9/28/12, the GPS Program was discontinued nationally. No longer will we be monitored and scrutinized in that specific aspect. A plan is being finalized to remove the devices as each vehicle is scheduled for maintenance in FY13.

I would speculate that the money spent to employ the tracking service fell short on the return end. Thanks for the memories and good riddance.

41.3.0

At the September Branch 34 Monthly Meeting the results of the recent vote concerning 41.3.0 was announced. The results were as followed:

Cohasset.....	Yes (2)	No (0)
Hingham/Hull.....	Yes (16)	No (1)
Cambridge.....	No (30)	Yes (24)
Woburn.....	No (30)	Yes (7)
Medfield.....	No (2)	Yes (0)
Scituate.....	No (6)	Yes (4)
Boston.....	Yes (398)	No (360)

Disqualified Votes: 3 with town only
(yes or no not checked off)

1 who cares

1 with every category checked off

17 - yes with no installation checked off

19 - no with no installation checked off

Total = 921

There seems to be some confusion in regards to when 41.3.0 will take effect. First the National Agreement must be resolved then the branch will open local negotiations concerning the local memorandums of understanding. For those installations that voted in favor of Article 41.3.0 we will invoke that provision of the contract as willed by the membership.

Once local negotiations are agreed upon and signed off we will then begin honoring this provision of the contract. Some may deem 41.3.0 as a divisive provision while others embrace its passing. There is no right or wrong pertaining to this issue. The majority in Boston voted to exercise this controversial provision based on the premise of seniority ruling. There's nothing wrong with that mindset, in fact it's the very essence of unionism. So I would ask every member to remember that this provision protects them also. Try not to be too judgmental and critical to this business change for it has worked in certain branches throughout this country for many years.

Grievance Information

Management may not determine in advance how much time a steward reasonably needs to investigate a grievance.

Unions have the right to request information relevant to the grievance at hand. It is incumbent upon Management to provide the time and data to process grievances.

Stewards have the right to examine and obtain copies of a wide variety of documents prior to filing or arguing a grievance, whether it is a contract or discipline grievance.

Steward time to discuss a grievance may not be denied solely because a steward is in overtime status. It is the responsibility of the Union and Management to decide mutually when the steward will be given an opportunity to investigate and adjust grievances.

An employee must be given reasonable time to consult with his or her steward, and such reasonable time may not be measured by a predetermined factor.

Article 17.4 provides that the grievant and a steward shall be paid for the time actually spent in grievance handling.

On another note, I seldom publicly comment on elections. However these National and State elections compel me to. At risk in these upcoming elections are our pensions, health insurance, Medicare and Social Security, to name a few of our life-changing events that are under attack.

These are not “entitlements,” the code word used by our adversaries. We've paid out over the years for these rights. These rights have been earned!

Eliminating these rights aren't all they're after. They want

it all, they want our jobs too.

The Republican platform has included privatizing the Postal Service, if or when it takes the White House.

Even retirees are not safe from these people. They are attempting to transfer our Health Benefit Plan from the same system that Congress has, to a system controlled by the Postal Service. This means our health insurance will not be protected!

Our opponents have consistently changed the preference they have on rearranging Medicare. First the age level would be the early fifties, then they went up to 55, now they are talking about 60 or older to implement some type of cheap voucher system, that will leave us on the hook for thousands of dollars.

This coming lame-duck session after the November election, the Republican Chairman of the House Governmental Affairs Committee, wants to immediately implement some delay on the Postal Service's Retirement Prefunding problems. However Chairman **Darrell Issa** wants to implement the 5-Day work week now and eliminate the no layoff clause, once our contract has been negotiated or arbitrated.

**WE ALL HAVE A STAKE IN THESE ATTACKS!
VOTE FOR OUR FUTURE AND LIVELIHOOD!**



J.T. McMahon
Executive Vice President

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 31, 2012 – January 13, 2013

January 14 – January 27, 2013

January 28 – February 10, 2013

February 11 – February 24, 2013

February 25 – March 10, 2013

March 11 – March 24, 2013

March 25 – April 7, 2013

April 8 – April 21, 2013

April 22 – May 5, 2013

May 6 – May 19, 2013

May 20 – June 2, 2013

June 3 – June 16, 2013

June 17 – June 30, 2013

July 1 – July 14, 2013

July 15 – July 28, 2013

July 29 – August 11, 2013

August 12 – August 25, 2013

August 26 – September 8, 2013

September 9 – September 22, 2013

September 23 – October 6, 2013

October 7 – October 20, 2013

October 21 – November 3, 2013

November 4 – November 17, 2013

November 18 – December 1, 2013

December 2 – December 15, 2013

December 16 – December 29, 2013

December 30, 2013 – January 12, 2014

Vote to Protect Your Job!

The dire financial circumstances of the Postal Service require dramatic restructuring. In a world of rapidly advancing telecommunications, mail delivery from the era of the Pony Express cannot long survive. We call on Congress to restructure the Service to ensure the continuance of its essential function of delivering mail while preparing for the downsizing made inevitable by the advance of internet communication. In light of the Postal Service's seriously underfunded pension system, Congress should explore a greater role for private enterprise in appropriate aspects of the mail-processing system.

These words can be found on page 25 of the 2012 Republican Platform. This is what the Republicans actually believe, that our work is from the Pony Express era and our pension system is underfunded. Wrong on both counts and I am insulted by this comparison. This paragraph should be enough for any letter carrier to realize that candidates like **Scott Brown** and **Mitt Romney** are not our friends. If they are not defeated in November's election, the Postal Service and therefore letter carriers will be in deep trouble.

How many times can they be wrong in one paragraph? Any letter carrier knows that our job has been getting more difficult over the years. With the advent of DPS first and FSS more recently, letter carriers are out on the street for six to seven hours per day not counting any overtime. Our duties can hardly be compared to the Pony Express. Secondly the pension system of both Civil Service and FERS employees are not underfunded. According to two independent accounting firms, the Civil

Service Retirement System has between a **fifty to seventy billion dollar surplus**. There is also a **6.9 billion dollar surplus** in the FERS pension plan which is not disputed. These surpluses hardly reflect any underfunding. Thirdly privatizing the Postal Service will only hasten the demise of the Postal Service. In addition Vice Presidential candidate **Paul Ryan** has proposed to cut ten percent of the federal workforce.

These factors alone should persuade all letter carriers to vote for Obama and Brown as well as the other candidates endorsed by NALC and the AFL-CIO (a full list can be seen in the September *Postal Record*). However there is more evidence that Romney, Brown and the Republican cronies want to eliminate the middle class. The Republican Party wants to return us to the failed policies of the past and in the process undermine unions, eliminate collective bargaining, and hurt American working class families. The GOP platform also calls for the passage of a national "right to work" law aimed at destroying private-sector unions. Romney has already endorsed the idea of national right to work law. The Republicans further want to change our pension plan to reflect a high five as opposed to the current high three geared towards retirement calculations, in effect reducing our retirement. The President and the Democratic Party believe in the right for workers to organize and strongly favors collective bargaining.

Postal Reform is a term that we constantly hear. It was the Postal Reform bill passed in 2006 that established the pre-funding requirement for health benefits.

For those that do not know its impact, it is that law that requires the Postal Service to pre-fund seventy-five years of pensions in only ten years. This requires a 5.5 billion dollar deposit annually for employees that are not even born yet. No other federal agency or private industry is required to do this. This results in the Postal Service losing this money before a stamp is even sold. By eliminating the pre-funding mandate most of the Postal Service losses can be eliminated. Republican candidate for Massachusetts Senate **Scott Brown** was one of the architects of the recent Senate version of Postal Reform (S 1789). This bill passed by the Senate calls for the elimination of six-day delivery which in turn would eliminate eighteen percent of all postal jobs (approximately 100,000 jobs). It would amend the collective bargaining provisions of our contract, close many plants across the nation, eliminate door to door delivery, greatly reduce Workers' Compensation benefits, and in effect cause the ultimate demise of the Postal Service and our jobs.

These facts are not made up. This is what the Republican Party actually believes. Letter carriers have heard the mantra for years, this election is very important. Brother and sister letter carriers this time it's real. **This is the most important election in our lives.** If we want to ensure our jobs remain, as decent paying jobs with decent benefits, there is no choice. It is time to vote our jobs, plain and simple. Without our jobs we have nothing. The November election is about our jobs and about our very way of life. It is about the fight to maintain the middle class that built this great country

If you want to keep your job, your health care, your pension, your very way of life, the choice is clear. If you want to help eliminate your job, allow the very wealthy to get wealthier and the middle class to become extinct, your choice is also clear. Please join me in voting for President **Barack Obama**, **Elizabeth Warren** for Senate, My Congressman **Stephen Lynch**, as well as all the NALC endorsed candidates.

The choice is clear and your job is on the line!



Kevin Flaherty
Secretary-Treasurer

My Two-Cents...

With this eternal election process drawing to a close, I felt it was time to offer my unsolicited thoughts, for whatever that's worth. Like many, I long ago realized that it was in my own best interest to support the candidates who support my best interests. Given that rarely would one find a political candidate whose ideals mirror that of themselves, it is necessary to prioritize the myriad of issues that can affect myself and my family. Be it issue's of gun control, environmental concerns, same sex marriage or foreign policy and untenable situation in the middle east; nothing is more important to me presently that my livelihood. My job. Nothing!

In assessing both presidential candidates, I find that President **Barack Obama**, given the economic circumstances he inherited upon taking office has performed admirably. From his leadership in the auto industry bankruptcy and the BP Oil debacle to his thwarted efforts to create additional jobs through public works projects. Moreover, while President Obama disappointed many postal employees with his ill-advised support of five-day delivery, his successful fight for universal health care and overall continued support for the labor movement in his appointments to the NLRB, Labor Department and most importantly, the Supreme Court all equate to a labor friendly president. While the economy is not where anybody would like, I shudder to think where it could be.

Contrast those accomplishments to that of **Mitt Romney** whose fortunes and life achievements are entwined with an apparent uncanny ability to downsize corporations, outsource jobs and make more money for himself and fellow billionaires. How such a record of abolishing jobs can suddenly be interpreted by some as the clear path to economic recovery boggles the mind.

On top of that, former Governor Romney is on record as targeting you and your job. In stump speeches across the country he

has asserted that he wants to cut the federal workforce to "stop the unfairness of government workers getting better pay and benefits than the taxpayers they serve". In similar remarks at a secretly taped fundraising event, he voiced regret noting that "I wish we weren't unionized so we could go a lot deeper than you're actually allowed to go."

I considered the Romney/Ryan ticket's attacks on the collective bargaining rights of public employee's and their stated intent to privatize as much government service as possible, including the USPS, as the single biggest issue of this election.

This is not intended to be a typical political article meant to scare anyone; these are statements of record. Look them up. Google it. Or better yet, go to Romney's Boston Headquarters and ask him; I'm sure he can just dismiss you just like 'the other 47% he can't worry about'.

Everything stated above relative to the presidential election can be conveyed to our Massachusetts Senate and congressional races. In the Massachusetts race between incumbent Senator **Scott Brown** and **Elizabeth Warren**, there exists clear difference beyond the contrast of personalities.

Despite Senator Brown's readily transparent attempt to skate down the middle of issues affecting middle class America in his abbreviated term, he's taken some very revealing votes on woman's issue and collective bargaining rights for public employees.

Senator Brown backed Wisconsin Governor **Scott Walker's** budget that decimated public employee collective bargaining, calling it the "will of the people." At the height of the battle over bargaining rights in the state, he appeared on MSNBC and actually praised Scott Walker.

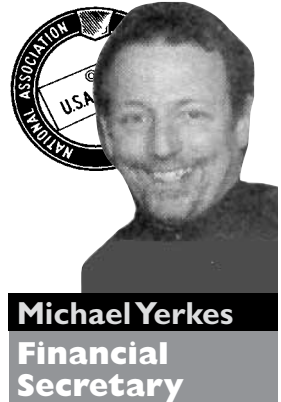
Senator Brown also voted against The Paycheck Fairness Act of 2012 which would have required employers to prove that any discrepancies between male and female pay are job-related and not based in discrimina-

tion. Given that I am the father of three working class daughters and that a recent census report revealed that women typically earn 77 cents for every dollar their male counterparts earn for the same position; such a vote in my opinion was and is unconscionable.

Finally, Senator Brown's two-year anti-worker voting record in the Senate, including votes to eliminate Davis-Bacon construction wage provisions, subsidies for big oil companies and support for doubling the loan interest rate for students and their families from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent. The Massachusetts AFL-CIO notes that Senator Brown voted with labor less than 23% of the time.

In the end, it always comes down to a question of 'who do you trust more?' Brothers and Sisters, *if your not on the cusp of retirement*, you should seriously consider the thoughts in conjunction with that question. It is my opinion that every Branch 34 member, and their families, has a vested interest in ensuring the re-election President Obama and the defeat of Senator Brown on November 6th. That's just my two-cents.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to salute all our Veterans who have served this great nation. On Veterans Day, we give thanks to the men and women who have defended our country and to celebrate the courage, dedication and sacrifices exhibited not only by our service members but their families as well. Throughout our nation's history, our military community has selflessly served to protect our country's values, freedoms and ideals. Thank you for your bravery and patriotism. We can't say it enough.



Michael Yerkes
Financial Secretary



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

BRANCH 34's CLAN is the Official Publication of Branch 34 of the National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO. The Boston Branch was Chartered by the NALC on June 18, 1890. BRANCH 34's CLAN is published six times each year. It presents the various issues of the day that are of concern to the membership. The views and opinions expressed in the articles and columns do not necessarily reflect the official position of the NALC Branch 34 or its officers, but rather those of the author.

Any articles submitted for publication in BRANCH 34's CLAN must be typewritten, double-spaced and received at the Branch office no later than the close of business on the first of the month of publication: January, March, May, July, September, and November. The Editor reserves the right to amend articles and/or delay their publication due to the limited availability of space.



Permission is hereby granted for the REPRINTING of any article that originates in this paper provided an appropriate credit line also appears and a copy of the reprint in its new publication is sent to: Editor, NALC Branch 34, 400 West Cummings Park, Suite 3950, Woburn, MA 01801-6396.

BRANCH 34's CLAN enters the Postal Service as third-class, non-profit material. Any change of address should be sent to: Editor, NALC Branch 34, 400 West Cummings Park, Suite 3950, Woburn, MA 01801-6396.

Mary Collier, Editor
Robert A. Lind, Associate Editor
John T. McMahon, Associate Editor

2010-2013 BRANCH 34 NALC BOARD OF OFFICERS

Robert A. Lind	President
John T. McMahon	Executive Vice President
Bob Simpson	Vice President
Kevin Flaherty	Secretary-Treasurer
Michael Yerkes	Financial Secretary
Mary Collier	Editor
Michael Gorham	Health Benefit Officer
Michael Murray	Sergeant-at-Arms
Steve Mahoney	Clerk, MBA/NSBA
Paul Roche	Chairman, Trustees
Daniel O'Connor	Trustee
Marty Foley	Trustee
Jerry McCarthy	Area Steward
Brian Manning	Area Steward
Michael Kidd	Area Steward
Bernadette Romans	Area Steward

The Candidates

Barack Obama

The President received the endorsement of the NALC at the 2012 National Convention in Minneapolis MN. While not all delegates were thrilled at giving Obama the nod, I believe it is in our best interest as a union to vote for **Barack Obama** over **Mitt Romney**.

The past is always the best indicator of the future. While Obama has not been as good for us as we as letter carriers had hoped and expected, the alternative is far worse. In his first term as President, Obama has acted with the best interests of Americas middle class at heart. While accomplishing the passage of Obamacare, saving the auto industry (and the unions) and vowing to reform the tax code. middle class issues have been a priority for Obama. Obama has laid out a plan to create new, good paying union jobs in the energy and transportation (infrastructure) fields in a

second term, Obama wants to go forward while moving us away from the Republican economic policies that got us into this mess to begin with.

The same cannot be said for **Mitt Romney**. With his disdain for 47% of Americans, history of outsourcing and destroying American jobs/companies with Bain Capital, vow to repeal Obamacare (after distancing himself from his actions as Massachusetts Governor where he passed health care legislation that many feel was the foundation of Obamacare), not agreeing that wealthier Americans should pay more in taxes (he claims the wealthy need that money to reinvest in America, I haven't seen any reinvestment have you?) and selecting **Paul Ryan**, the author of the Republican economic plan including the Medicare/Medicaid voucher plan, as his VP choice should all send up

a red (*no pun intended*) flag, Romney is not on the side of the American worker.

Elizabeth Warren

Where do we begin? As a first time candidate she has made mistakes which have hurt her image. But she has stayed on point with her message. She is for working families and will be with them all of the time. Unlike the Obama/Romney race where Democrat Obama is seen as more friendly and one of us, in the Senate race **Scott Brown** has attempted to portray himself as the everyman with his coat, truck, family and what he claims his is his independent streak. But what does history show. The record speaks for itself. Brown has voted against: 1) the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) 2) Wall Street Reform legislation 3) the Obama stimulus legislation and 4) the extension of unemployment benefits (repeatedly). The record shows that since he has been in the Senate, Brown consistently votes against the good of the middle class.

U.S. Congress

The endorsed candidates chart on page 7 shows the National NALC is endorsing all the Democratic candidates running for Congress in Massachusetts. Just as important as winning the Presidency is having a Congress that is friendly to both the NALC in particular and labor in general. If our candidates win both the Presidency and Congress we will be able to enact legislation that helps both the NALC and the middle class move forward. If we lose both the Presidency and Congress we can expect a Republican steamroller hell bent on destroying the middle class starting with the dismantling of the Postal Service and busting Americas' labor unions.

Keep in mind this is not a Democratic/Republican issue. If a candidate is Republican yet stands with the NALC and labor he/she would gain our support. Indeed there are Republicans who have been endorsed by the NALC (see the *Postal Record*). It

just so happens that in Massachusetts the candidates who have supported us or have said they will support our causes are Democrats.

A reminder, no election is guaranteed. Even if your candidate has a commanding lead you still need to work on their behalf. That can include talking up your candidate at the coffee shop, holding a sign at a stand out, making phone calls, making a financial contribution or helping drive voters to the polls. The bottom line is **DO SOMETHING**.

In Massachusetts, besides the race between Warren and Brown which could decide which party controls the Senate, two races appear to be most competitive. In the 6th Congressional District the race is between incumbent **John Tierney** (D) and **Richard Tisei** (R), Tierney, a long-time friend of letter carriers; has recently had issues regarding his family involvement with an illegal gambling operation that provided an opening for Tisei. While voters may have different opinions of what happened voters can't lose focus that Tierney has been in our (letter carriers, labor, the middle class) corner as demonstrated by his **VOTES IN CONGRESS**. It would be a crime to lose such a friend.

A new face for the voters to consider is **Joe Kennedy III** in the 4th Congressional District. All indications are that Joe will continue the tradition of the Kennedy clan in being at the forefront of issues important to the middle class. Kennedys' opponent is Republican **Sean Bielat**. All indications are that Kennedy is well-funded and well-organized, while Bielat has campaign experience after running (and losing) to **Barney Frank** last election.



Michael Kidd
Legislative Liaison



Both NALC and the MA AFL-CIO gave its endorsement to Senatorial Candidate Elizabeth Warren. Meeting with her recently were (L to R) President Bob Lind, Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Flaherty, Warren, MSLCA President Maureen Marinelli, Executive Vice President J.T. McMahon and Vice President Bob Simpson.

Labor 2012 AFL-CIO

NALC's Effort in Massachusetts "It's Not Too Late To Get Involved!"

By Maureen Marinelli, NALC Massachusetts, State President,
Bob Damatin, Chief Steward, Jamaica Plain,
and Joe Demambro, Chief Steward, Brookline

In any close election, unions across America release worker's from their duties to work for the AFL-CIO on their campaign effort. The AFL-CIO runs a parallel campaign on behalf of a candidate as it is illegal for a union worker to work directly for a campaign, and be paid.

Here in Massachusetts, the NALC led the way for the release program in an unprecedented effort. President **Fredrick Rolando** approved the release of 15 letter carriers, and two legislative staffers. They are **Maureen Marinelli**, **Bob Damatin**, and **Joe Demambro** from Branch 34; **Van Heffernan**, **Scott Doughty**, **Paul Mulcahy**, and **Ken Mooney** from Branch 18; **Kevin Poe**, Branch 212; **Barry Doherty** and **Ken Dusombre**, Branch 25; **Rich Noslon** and **Jim Bussey**, Branch 33; **Patti Rogers**, Branch 46; **Lillian Franco-Mello**, Branch 51; and **Kenny Janulieicz**, Branch 12. All carriers were selected based on their strong union leadership skills, and previous campaign experience. Our staffers are **Leigh Ann Martin**, and **Jeremy Goldberg**, Regional Field Coordinators for the NALC.

The carriers work directly for a central labor council closest to their home. In Massachusetts, our effort clearly is focused on the **Elizabeth Warren** campaign, or the Senate side, and **John Tierney** on the congressional side. Prior to the primary there was an effort to secure the success of the Keating campaign.

Our goal is simple: to turn an undecided vote into a decided one for the candidate in order to get elected. We accomplish this by canvassing and phone banking union members regardless of their political affiliation. Direct voter contact is the most powerful way to turn a vote.

Other activities we engage in are recruiting volunteers from our own union, assisting a local with a mailing, and sponsoring events.

Notable events the NALC has sponsored have been NALC phone banks on Sundays at the Painter's Hall in Roslindale, and a Tewksbury Labor Walk with Congressman **John Tierney**, and Congresswoman **Niki Tsongas** run by **Kevin Poe** from Br. 212.

By the time you receive this, we will be engaged in the GOTV effort or "Get Out The Vote." We must get our identified Warren and Tierney voters to the polls. The emphasis will be on calling those voters, and we will need help! The Boston effort will be focused on the IBEW 103 Hall on Freeport St. in Dorchester.

For updated information, please call **Maureen Marinelli** at 617-680-1506. Thank You!

The Greater Boston Labor Council (GBLC) will be having a GET OUT THE VOTE PHONE BANKS at the IBEW Local 103, 256 Freeport Street, Dorchester on:
Sunday, November 4th
Monday, November 5th
Tuesday, November 6th
For times or to volunteer, contact Rich Rogers (GBLC) at 617-723-2370

Get Out and Vote!

Get Out and Vote!
Get Out and Vote!
Get Out and Vote!

Are you sick of hearing this? Well don't because I am going to say it again.

Get Out and Vote!

We always talk about how important elections are to the Letter Carriers, well this is the biggest in a long time. If you don't know by now who you are voting for then I will help you know who to vote for in the upcoming elections.

On the local scene, Vote **Elizabeth Warren** for U.S. Senator. She is the only candidate that supports the working class. Yes this is you my fellow brothers and sisters. **Scott Brown** talks about how he supports jobs in the State of Massachusetts but when he had a chance he voted against the job bills 50

out of 53 times. He says he votes for both party issues but the only time he did vote on a Democratic issue was when the vote was already a done deal. His voted didn't matter at all.

On the National scene, Vote **Barack Obama** for President. The other guy has already stated that he will look to privatize the Postal Service, then try and eliminate it completely. President Obama is trying to find ways to save the Postal Service not to get rid of it.

If we are to look for a future in the Postal Service, then vote Obama.



Michael Gorham
Health Benefit Officer

The Lesser of Two Evils

As we all know election time is upon us and come November 6th we will be facing a couple of really big decisions at the state and national levels; these decisions will have a crucial impact on almost all aspects of our lives including employment, education, taxes, and health care. By the time you are reading this article, most of the leg work for the various campaigns will be drawing to a close and the only thing that will be left to do is cast your ballot.

As a proud union members of a "blue collar" workforce and a father of a young family, the decision of who to vote for in these upcoming races was fairly clear before all the attack ads and wasting of billions of dollars occurred. I do have to say that nothing about either the Presidential race or the Massachusetts Senatorial race surprised me nor impressed me.

None of the four major candidates of these races left me thinking that he or she understands me or has ever walked a mile in my shoes. There is a clear disconnect between my way of living (pay check to pay check) and this group of millionaire's way of living.

I would like to make my distain for politics clear, if I haven't already, there isn't much I hate more than a small handful of millionaires preaching to the working public, pretending they endure the same struggles we do on a regular basis.

It also makes me sick to see how much money gets wasted on these political campaigns and where the money comes from. Billions of dollars have been spent by both parties in an attempt to place a strangle hold on the opposition never acknowledging compromise as an option, while ignoring a struggling economy and a national infrastructure on the verge of disrepair.

Despite my personal feelings about these high brow hate mongers and manipulators of truth, politics will continue with or without my involvement. I have made a conscious effort to get involved in this election at the request of our union and various labor leaders; also I've tried to encourage my fellow letter carriers to do the same. Most carriers will have sat by and allowed the work to have been done by others, much like to way they handle our union's plea for COLCPE contributions, the work of many was done by few. I would like to thank the letter carriers that have not ignored this call to action. At what point will we (all letter carriers) get involved in trying to save our own jobs? There is one thing that I expect

all carriers to do: get out and vote, bring a neighbor, friend or relative as well – every vote counts. I know that most of us are working on this day but please make the attempt our jobs and future depends on it. Contact your city or town hall for an absentee ballot if there is absolutely know way you can make it to the polls on Election Day.

Recently, I had the opportunity along with several of my letter carrier brethren to attend a labor rally in support of **Elizabeth Warren** that was well attended by numerous democrats from the local and national levels as well as many labor and trade union official and members. It was inspiring to hear that there is still plenty of enthusiasm among the labor movement.

I have come to the realization that we as letter carriers need to support any and all politicians that support the plight of the letter carriers. I do concede that there is **NO** ideal candidate in either of our two major races. Unfortunately, none of the Republicans Candidates are in support of the NALC positions on Postal Issues, this doesn't make them bad people; but it should make them unelectable to all letter carriers. Yes, I have heard many letter carriers firing back about the President being in favor of five day delivery even after enjoying overwhelming support of letter carrier in 2008; this was disheartening however at this rate it has become clearly a decision to vote for the "Lesser of Two Evils". NALC officials have repeatedly addressed this matter in the past issues of the *Postal Record* and at numerous Rap Session and Conventions. Our Union President has clearly stated that there remains an open line of communication between NALC Headquarters and the White House. **Barack Obama** has never voiced any plans to: break our union, implement of any right to work bill or privatize the Postal Service, where **Mitt Romney** repeatedly done so as part of his agenda. This should make our decision on November 6th 2012, fairly simple. There is only **ONE CHOICE** for letter carriers. **DO THE RIGHT THING!!!**



Brian Manning
Area Steward

Lafferty & Lafferty Attorneys at Law



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

(781) 270-5000
44 Mall Road • Burlington, MA 01803
Fax (781) 270-4447

GET YOUR BRANCH 34 T-SHIRT NOW!

**TO BENEFIT THE BRANCH 34
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**
(SIX \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED EACH YEAR)

\$10.00 PER T-SHIRT



SIZES:
M-XXXL

AVAILABLE IN
NAVY BLUE &
GRAY

**ORDER YOUR SHIRT AT THE BRANCH 34
UNION OFFICE 781-281-1133 OR
PICK ONE UP AT THE
MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING!**

NALC NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

**Sunday,
November 4th, 2012**

**Save the Date
Details to Follow**

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

IMPORTANT!!

ALL LETTER CARRIERS

Knee and Hip **ARTHRITIS** is the Silent
OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE that No One
Tells You About.

If You ...

1. Have had a hip/knee replacement; or
2. Have been diagnosed with leg arthritis; or
3. Have chronically sore knees; or
4. Have had knee surgery for **ANY** reason; then

YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO:
SUBSTANTIAL COMP
BENEFITS

For more information call:


Shapiro
& Associates
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

888 NALC Law
888.625.2529

Serving Letter Carriers for Over 30 Years

NALC/MA AFL-CIO Endorsements

PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES



Barack Obama*
(D)

NALC
YES

MA AFL-CIO
YES

U.S. SENATE – MASSACHUSETTS



Elizabeth Warren
(D)

NALC
YES

MA AFL-CIO
YES

U.S. CONGRESS

1st Congressional District



Richard Neal*
(D)

NALC
YES

MA AFL-CIO
YES

2nd Congressional District



James McGovern*
(D)

NALC
YES

MA AFL-CIO
YES

3rd Congressional District



Niki Tsongas*
(D)

NALC
YES

MA AFL-CIO
YES

4th Congressional District



Joe Kennedy III
(D)

NALC
YES

MA AFL-CIO
YES

5th Congressional District



Ed Markey*
(D)

NALC
YES

MA AFL-CIO
YES

6th Congressional District



John Tierney*
(D)

NALC
YES

MA AFL-CIO
YES

7th Congressional District



Michael Capuano*
(D)

NALC
YES

MA AFL-CIO
YES

8th Congressional District



Stephen Lynch*
(D)

NALC
YES

MA AFL-CIO
YES

9th Congressional District



William Keating*
(D)

NALC
YES

MA AFL-CIO
YES

GET OUT AND VOTE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6th, 2012
POLLS OPEN 7:00 am-8:00 pm

* indicates incumbent

Let First Priority help you

{Pri·or·i·tize}

verb: list or rate projects or goals in order of importance



New Location – New Reason to Celebrate!

First Priority has been serving members for over 85 years! We have provided excellent service to postal employees and their families since 1924 and are now open to those that live or work in Suffolk and Essex counties. Plus, we have a new reason to celebrate!

In addition to our Boston, Lowell and Waltham branches our newest branch at 100 Swift Street in East Boston offers a convenient location, drive-thru with ATM, expanded hours, and like all our branches, people ready to help you accomplish your financial to-do-list!

- **Save money**
We make saving easier with great rates and easy-to-use products!
- **Change your scenery**
First Priority offers online pre-approvals for mortgages, home equity loans, and lines of credit. We have a product to fit your home financing needs.
- **Spend more time doing what YOU want**
There are lots of convenient ways to bank with First Priority – phone, online, ATM, or in branch.

BRANCH LOCATIONS

Main Office General Mail Facility | 25 Dorchester Avenue, Boston, MA 02205

Hours Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Thursday 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

East Boston Branch 100 Swift Street | East Boston, MA 02128 (Now Full-Service)

Hours Monday – Wednesday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Thursday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Lowell Branch 155 Father Morrisette Blvd. | Lowell, MA 01853

Hours Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Waltham Branch Northwest Processing Facility | 200 Smith Street, Waltham, MA 02454

Hours Thursday 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



800.949.7628
www.firstprioritycu.com



Now Open at 100 Swift Street, East Boston, MA 02128

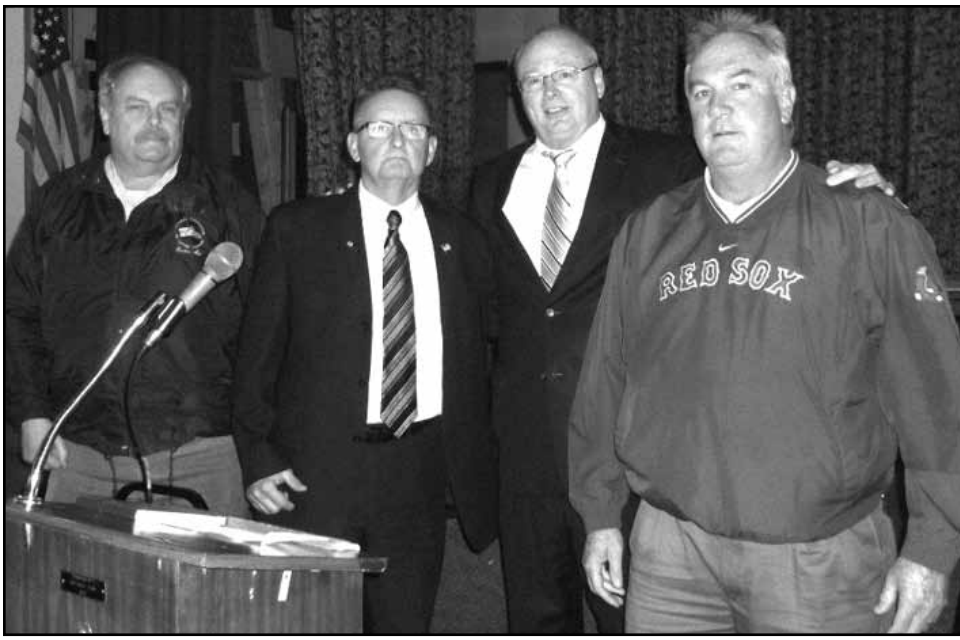
Drive-up ATM – Open 24 hours!

Lobby Hours:

Monday – Wednesday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Thursday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Drive-Up Hours:

Monday – Wednesday 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday – Friday 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



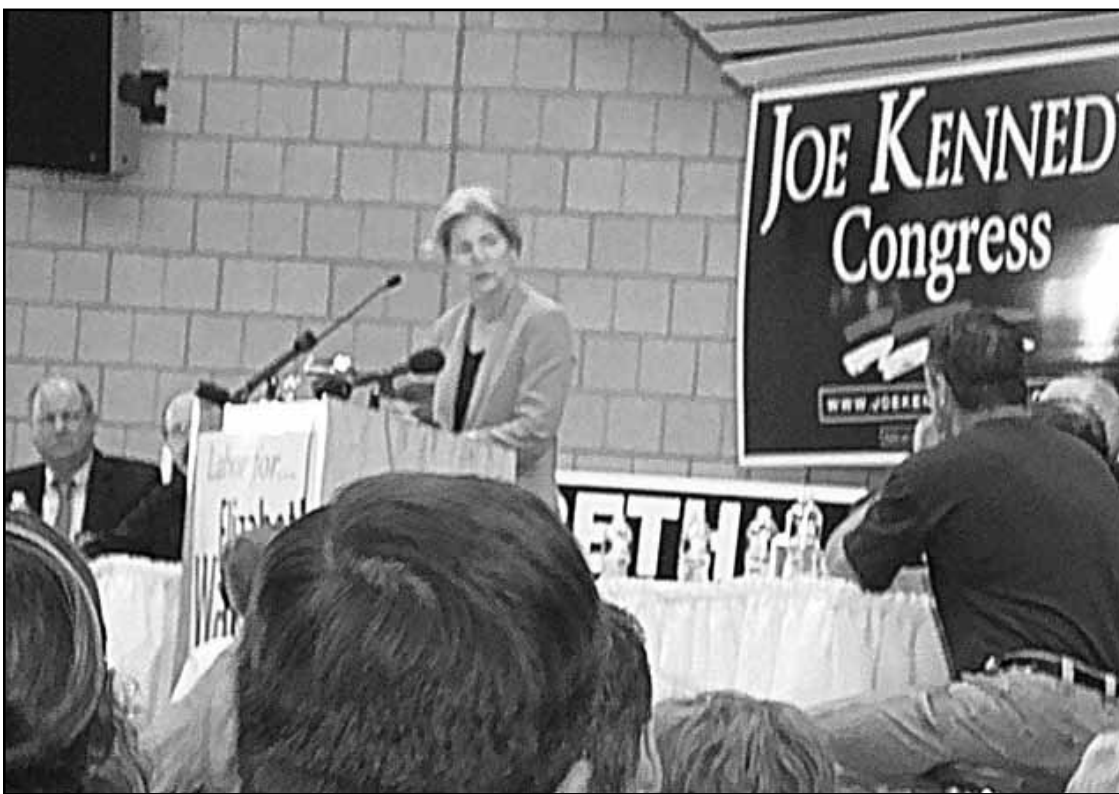
Branch 34 stands united behind the Massachusetts AFL-CIO and its President Steven Tolman, who spoke recently to the Branch 34 membership (photo right) imploring the members to help campaigns of candidate who help save Postal Service jobs. (Photo above) (L to R) Branch 34 Executive Vice President J.T. McMahon, Branch 34 President Bob Lind, Tolman, and Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Flaherty.

— Photos by Mary Collier

MA AFL-CIO President Steven Tolman Speaks to Branch 34 to Urge Them to Get Out and Vote!



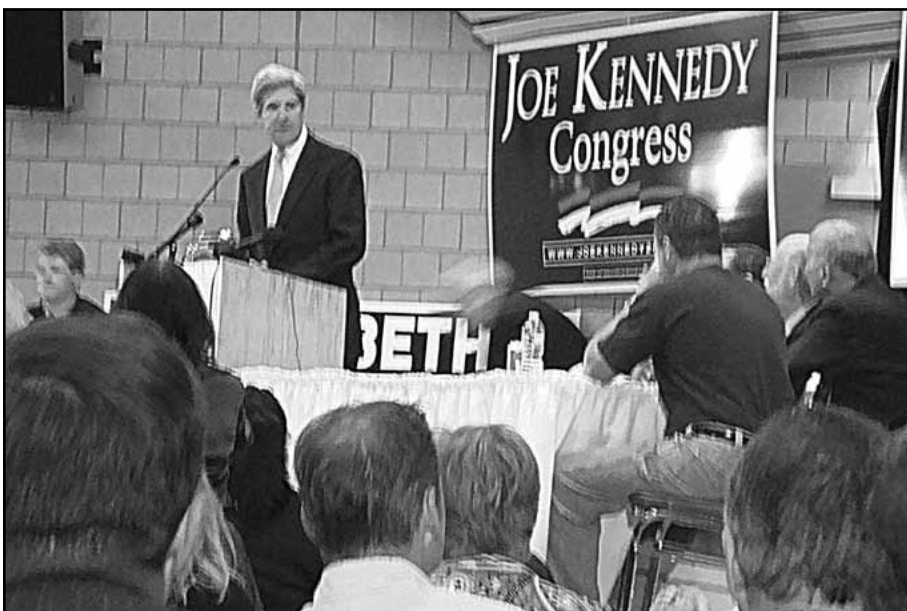
Branch 34 and Labor Leaders Rally for Candidates Helpful to Middle Class Values!



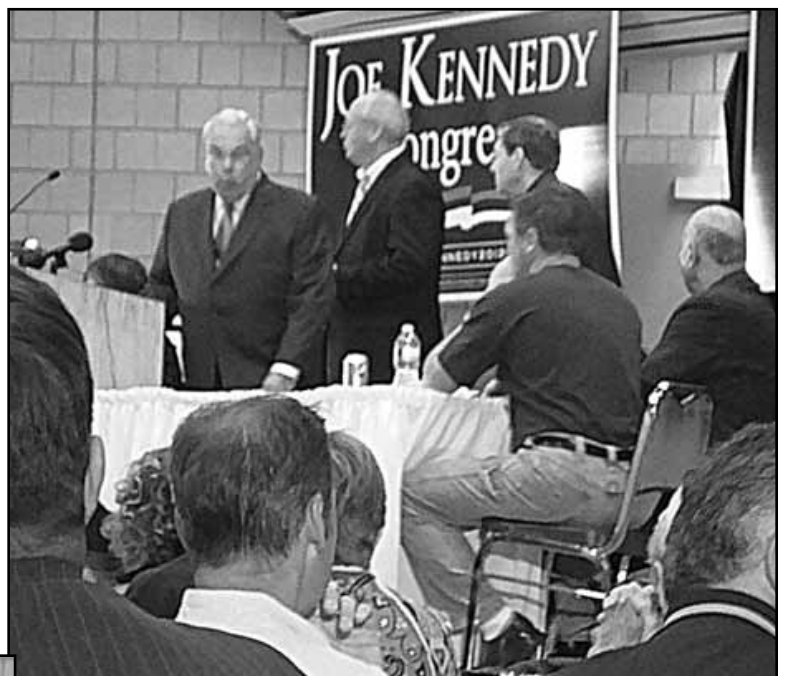
U.S. Senate Candidate Elizabeth Warren addresses her supporters at the 2012 Labor Kickoff at the IBEW Local 103 Rally.



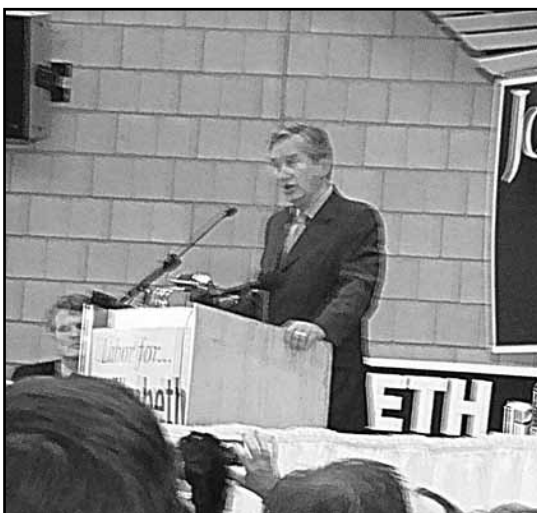
Congressional Candidate Joe Kennedy III of the 4th Congressional District follows in his family's footsteps pushing for strong Union presence to help build a strong middle class.



U.S. Senator for Massachusetts John Kerry heartily endorses Elizabeth Warren to join him in the U.S. Senate.



Boston Mayor Thomas Menino supports attending candidates Joe Kennedy III for the 4th Congressional District seat, John Tierney for the 6th Congressional District and Elizabeth Warren for the U.S. Senate.



Congressman John Tierney of the 6th Congressional District rallied those in attendance.



AFL-CIO National President Richard Trumka rallies supporters to vote for labor-friendly candidates like Elizabeth Warren.



Branch 34 President Bob Lind speaks to attending Region 14 Letter Carriers prior to 2012 Labor Kickoff Rally.

AROUND THE BRANCH



Branch 34 VP Bob Simpson is Welcomed Back by his Colleagues

Branch 34 full-time officers Kevin Flaherty, J.T. McMahon and Bob Lind welcome Branch VP Bob Simpson back. Bob's return visit was encouraging and demonstrated that he's on the road to a full recovery.

Branch 34 VP Bob Simpson checks out his desk as he stopped by the Branch Office to show his miraculous recovery efforts.



Hyde Park Shop Steward Rich Galvin (left photo) and Back Bay Annex Shop Steward Harry Judd (right photo) are recognized for their contributions to the Readiness Initiative (Boston Plan).



Branch 34 Honors New Members of the Million Mile Club and Readiness Initiative (Boston Plan)



North Weymouth's Best pose for a picture with Million Mile Club member Rich Nickerson (far left).



Weston's Errol Zammuto is recognized for his accomplishments of joining the Million Mile Club. Thirty years without an accident. Zammuto is congratulated by Weston Shop Steward Dave DeMarco.



New Million Mile Club member Rich Donovan of Chestnut Hill is recognized.

MDA Corner MDA MDA MDA MDA MDA

Branch 34 Helps "Fill the Satchel" to Support the Muscular Dystrophy Association



Medford Letter Carriers collect for the MDA "Fill the Satchel" Campaign. (Left to right) Branch 34 President Bob Lind and Medford Shop Stewards Steve White and Mike Ash.



Branch 34 Financial Secretary Mike Yerkes also joined the effort.



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:

- John W. Caputo..... Porter Square
- David L. Lawlor South Weymouth
- Jeffery C. Cirino Brookline
- Patrick W. O'Toole North Weymouth
- Albert R. Zappy Belmont
- Paul F. Zaniboni..... Braintree
- Linda J. Bogiages-Cobban Wollaston

— Michael Yerkes
Financial Secretary

In Memoriam

- James J. Kilcoyne
Retired Member – Wellesley Hills
- Edward R. Parsley
Retired Member – G.M.F.
- Robert T. Pirelli
Retired Member – Fort Point
- * denotes 50-Year Life Member

Rest in Peace

Did You Know? Branch 34 Has Their Own MetLife Dental Plan?

Did you know...Each year, Branch 34 analyzes rates and plan design options for the Branch members so that we can offer you our own dental plan, with enhanced benefits and is more cost effective than the plan offered through the Government/Post Office.

- The Branch 34 dental plan is through MetLife, but it is a separate contract, network and benefit design than the MetLife Plan that is offered through the Government.

- For example, the Branch 34 dental plan offers **orthodontia coverage right away to all dependants**, the Government plan has a 2-year waiting period and it is only offered to children under age 19.

- We will provide a side-by-side comparison for your review of our Branch 34 dental plan and the Government dental plan

Did you know...that included with the Branch 34 MetLife plan, **there is an EYE-MED Vision discount program?** This program offers you discounts on exams,

lenses, frames and lasik procedures, as well as other perks. See Michael Gorham for a brochure.

Did you know...that for all those enrolled on the dental plan in 2012, your calendar year maximum will increase from \$1,750 to a \$2,000 annual maximum for 2013?

Did you know...that **greater claims savings** are realized when in network services increase – meaning, **the more you utilize in-network MetLife providers, the greater the savings and discounts will be overall?** This is the best way to maximize your benefit and decrease the chances of

being responsible for a larger portion or “balance” of the bill.

We encourage you to seek out contracted MetLife Dentists for all of your dental care. The enrollment period for our dental plan will be from November 1-November 28 for a January 1, 2013 effective date. The new rates for 2013 are as follows:

Single - \$48.94
Family-\$113.74

Please watch out for upcoming communications being mailed to your home from Crosby Benefits regarding monthly payment options, etc.



MOVING?
Give Branch 34 Your New Address!

MOVED?
Change of Address

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

Name _____
Address _____
City/State _____
Zip _____

Send change of address to:
Branch 34 NALC
400 West Cummings Park, Suite 3950
Woburn, MA 01801-6396

BOB SOLANO
Disc Jockey • Musician
Master of Ceremonies
“Where Experience Makes a Difference!”
(603) 882-3441
P.O. Box 123 Stoneham, MA 02180

EAP Corner

Fun, Not Stress for the Holidays

Few things are more stressful than the effort of making the holidays special. In our pursuit to keep up with life’s responsibilities and accomplish all that is expected during this season, we are left feeling fatigued, unsuccessful, and yes, stressed!

A simple change in our perspective can help avoid such feelings. The following are suggestions you may want to apply... Even in this, remember to change only a few things at a time as trying to overhaul the way you do things at once can in itself be stressful.

Determine what is important to you during the season

Family, friends, co-workers and acquaintances all have different views of the holidays. In fact, many may celebrate a different holiday. So, determine what is important to you and see that you dedicate time and resources to that end. While being respectful of others’ priorities, keep yours in mind as you commit and spend.

Schedule the events of the season

Set time aside for decorating, cooking, and shopping, making sure that your expectation of what is to be done is con-

gruent with the amount of time allotted. For example, decorating may require setting aside two evenings rather than one, or shopping for the kids may need to be done on a different day than when you get the gifts for your siblings. Blocking out time and accomplishing the tasks assigned to that time will leave you feeling in control and capable!

As the parties get underway, look at your schedule and determine what you can and cannot attend. This is a difficult task for many people as it is difficult to say no, but remember that the invitations are meant to bring joy, not stress. If you are not able to attend an event, skip it. Just remember to let your host know you will not be in attendance.

Try new things

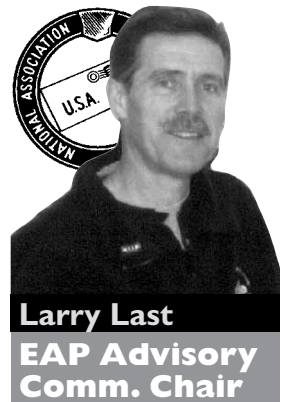
If in the past you’ve done things that have caused you to feel stressed, resentful, unsuccessful, etc., try avoiding them this time around. As you determine what is important to you, what does not work will be easy to identify. As you recognize what has not worked, try something new to replace it. Creating new traditions can be an energizing opportunity.

Maintain or Create Traditions

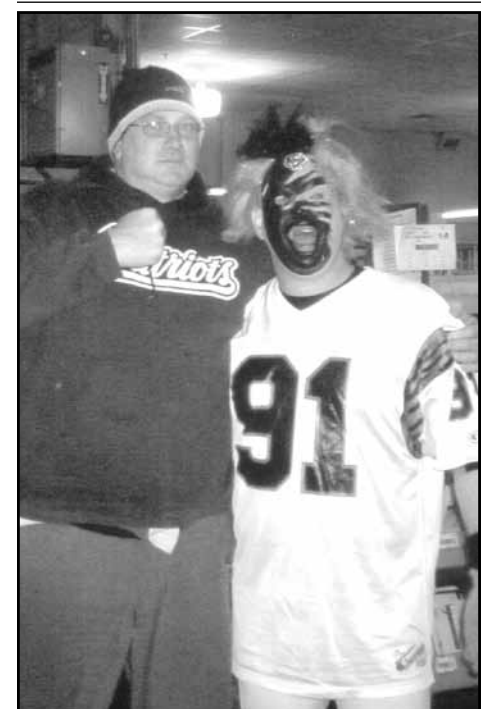
The repetitive nature of traditions fosters feelings of comfort and minimizes stress. Of course, this is only true if you have systems in place to make them work that way. Make sure your traditions center around what you have identified as important to you. Cooperate and contribute with others to make it a meaningful experience. Making yourself responsible for much or all that is required is not the best approach. Get involved and involve others as needed to lessen your load.

As you try to apply these ideas, remember that you are not alone in facing the challenges inherent of the holiday season.

If you need assistance prioritizing your time or dealing with stress, please call the EAP.



Make the Call!
1-800-EAP-4-YOU
(1-800-327-4968)
TTY: 1-877-492-7341
www.EAP4YOU.com



Better luck this time Luke (IMC and a Bengals fan), shown with Patriots fan Bobby.

Tell Your Congressman What You Think!

BECOME AN e-ACTIVIST TODAY!

Would you like to receive information from the Social & Recreation Office on upcoming events?

Please print legibly. *Required Fields

Name*: _____
Pay Location*: _____
Post Office Location*: _____
Telephone: _____
Email Address*: _____

Please complete the information above and mail to:
SOCIAL & RECREATION OFFICE
P.O. Box 51582, Boston, MA 02205-1562

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



Active letter carriers: Contribute to COLCPE using PostalEASE

by phone.....or online

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."

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)

*****AUTO** 8-DIGIT 54321
XXXXX 08 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.

- 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: \$ _____

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 adverse, 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

Protect Your Future!

GIVE TO COLCPE!

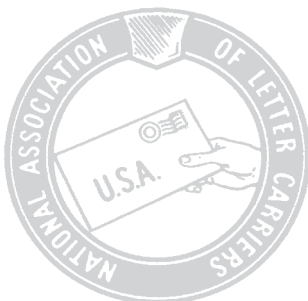
ESTABLISHED 1885
SIMONS UNIFORMS
Largest Inventory of
Union Postal Uniforms in New England
329 Lynnway, Rt. 1A South, Lynn, MA 01901
781-595-2644 or 800-451-1761
Fax 781-596-1950
sales@simonsuniforms.com
Walk in, Phone or Fax. Request a catalog.

Tricia's Gift Shop
PO Box 412
Arlington, Ma 02476
617-838-6538
Custom Gifts for anyone for any occasion!
Shop Online @ www.TriciasGiftShop.com

A Cluster of Clowns & Santa
Family Entertainment
SPARKLES THE CLOWN
Magic & Balloon Art
Face painting
Tea parties
Santa and Mrs. Claus
Holiday Charicure costumes
DJ
phone: 617-471-0890
E-mail: clowneeeee@aol.com
www.sparklesandsanta.com

GERARD COLLINS
LICENSED PLUMBER
PLUMBING/HEATING/ DRAIN
CLEANING/GAS FITTING
97 CENTRAL ST.
SAUGUS, MA 01906
781-484-7906 Lic # J-21504
781-435-1058

LANES & GAMES
195 Concord Turnpike (RT.2)
Cambridge, MA 02140
Tel. (617) 876-5533 • Fax (617) 876-1533
www.lanesandgames.com
lanesandgames@verizon.net
34 Candlepin 20 Ten Pin
AUTOMATIC SCORING • BOWLING • POOL
GAME ROOM • PRO SHOP • RESTAURANT • LOUNGE



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.servicessonline.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.

ROY TAILORS UNIFORM CO., INC.

Postal Uniforms • Shoes

Your Union-Preferred
Uniform Company

1905 Dalton Avenue • Cincinnati, OH 45214
(513) 621-4787 • (800) 543-0379
Fax: (513) 621-0483 • Postal Fax: (888) 724-7882

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

Direct 617-212-3944
Renee@NewHeightsRealEstate.com

135 Belmont Street
Easton, MA 02375
Main 508-230-9595
Fax 508-230-9515
www.NewHeightsRealEstate.com



Renee Anastos
Realtor
MA





NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

Branch 34

400 West Cummings Pk., Suite 3950
Woburn, MA 01801

T / 781-281-1133 F / 781-281-1127
www.nalcbranch34.com

CALENDAR YEAR 2013

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
Mary "Mazie" Collier, Editor, Branch 34's CLAN
Michael Gorham, Health Benefit Officer
Michael Murray, Sergeant-at-Arms

Steve Mahoney, 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 2013

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

JANUARY 1: NEW YEAR'S DAY
JANUARY 21: MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

FEBRUARY 2013

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

FEBRUARY 13: ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 14: VALENTINE'S DAY
FEBRUARY 18: PRESIDENT'S DAY

MARCH 2013

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

CANVAS CARRIERS FOR PRIME TIME VACATIONS

MARCH 17: ST. PATRICK'S DAY
MARCH 25: PASSOVER BEGINS
MARCH 29: GOOD FRIDAY
MARCH 31: EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 2013

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

APRIL 15: PATRIOTS' DAY

MAY 2013

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

MAY 11: NALC FOOD DRIVE
MAY 12: MOTHER'S DAY
MAY 27: MEMORIAL DAY

JUNE 2013

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

JUNE 14: FLAG DAY
JUNE 16: FATHER'S DAY

JULY 2013

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

JULY 4: INDEPENDENCE DAY

AUGUST 2013

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

SEPTEMBER 2013

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

SEPTEMBER 1: MDA LABOR DAY SHOW OF STRENGTH
SEPTEMBER 2: LABOR DAY
SEPTEMBER 6: ROSH HASHANAH BEGINS
SEPTEMBER 14: YOM KIPPUR BEGINS

NO BRANCH MEETINGS IN JULY & AUGUST

SEPTEMBER 22: LAST DAY FOR FALL 2013 NON-CHOICE VACATION

OCTOBER 2013

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

OCTOBER 14: COLUMBUS DAY
OCTOBER 31: HALLOWEEN

NOVEMBER 2013

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

NOVEMBER 5: ELECTION DAY
NOVEMBER 11: VETERANS' DAY
NOVEMBER 28: THANKSGIVING DAY

DECEMBER 2013

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

DECEMBER 5: HANUKKAH BEGINS
DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 25: CHRISTMAS DAY
DECEMBER 26: KWANZAA BEGINS
DECEMBER 31: NEW YEAR'S EVE