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

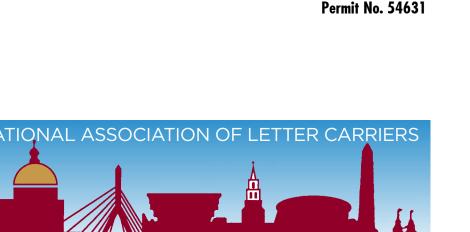
> Volume XLV, Number 1 April-May 2016

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

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BRANCH 34's CLA

Yerkes, Flaherty, Simpson & Murray Top the Branch 34 Election Results

Thanks to all who participated and voted in this election

at the **Boston Lodge of Elks** #10 248 Spring Street West Roxbury 02132

Tuesdays at 7:00 PM

June 14, 2016

NO MEETINGS IN **JULY & AUGUST**

September 13, 2016 at the Malden Moose Hall 582 Broadway (Rt. 99) **Malden 02148**

pcoming Meetii

October 11, 2016 at the Sons of Italy Hall **120 Quarry Street Quincy 02169**

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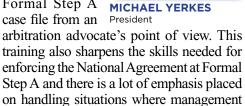
"Bowling for MDA" **Event a Huge Success** Pages 8 & 9

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

t the outset, I want to thank you for Athe privilege of serving as your Branch President for the next three-years. I promise to keep the best interests of all Branch Members foremost in my mind while representing you. I would also like to thank all who participated in this election; whether you stepped up and challenged for a position or simply exercised your right and responsibility to vote, you are what makes this Union great.

As we repeated throughout this recent campaign, holding local management accountable to their contractual obligations is what you the member deserves and the best way that I know to achieve that end is through increased and enhanced training for your representatives. To that end, with the assistance of NBA John Casciano, we have scheduled all four of our Area Stewards for the NALC's 'Advanced Formal A and Beyond' training program this fall.

The focus of this program is to teach participants to look at every Formal Step A



(continued on page 5)





| March 9, 2016 |
|---|
| PRESIDENT |
| ✓ Michael Yerkes671 |
| Keith Meredith630 |
| Gerald (Jerry) McCarthy609 |
| EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT |
| ✓ Kevin Flaherty1,128 |
| Michael Kidd666 |
| VICE PRESIDENT |
| Brian D. Manning 686 |
| John Fanning454 |
| ✓ Robert (Bob) Simpson737 |
| |
| SECRETARY-TREASURER |
| Steve Mahoney776 |
| ✓ Michael (Mike) Murray 1,005 |
| FINANCIAL SECRETARY |
| Michael (Mike) Gorham 803 |
| Ron Holt410 |
| Rich Galvin646 |
| |
| CLERK, NSBA-MBA |
| Ron French802 |
| ✓ Larry Last 923 |
| HEALTH BENEFITS OFFICER |
| ✓ Joseph (Joe) DeMambro904 |
| Michael Bertrand845 |
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Eastham, Wellfleet, Truro, Provincetown, Aquinnah, Goswold, Chilmark, West Tisbury, Tisbury, Oak Bluffs,

Edgartown, Nantucket

It's Time to Make Boston Branch 34 the Best Branch in the NALC!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Branch 34 members, active and retired, who elected me as Executive Vice President of Branch 34 for the next three years. I would like to thank all the candidates who sought office in Branch 34. Each candidate took the time and effort to try to make this Branch better. Congratulations to all who were elected to the Executive Board.

It is now time to work together to make Branch 34 the best branch in NALC. We have already met as an Executive Board to lay a plan for the future. President Mike Yerkes and I have promised to make training a key component of our plan. To that extent we have conducted preliminary discussions with our Area Stewards regarding the grievance process. We have also scheduled Area Stewards Tom Rooney and Tony Scriv**ano** for Advanced Formal A and Beyond training program conducted by NALC at the Maritime Institute outside Baltimore in September of this year. Area Stewards Bernadette Romans and Laura Fahey will attend the same in October.

Our hope that our Area Stewards will improve their grievance processing skills and pass that knowledge to Branch Stewards in the stations. We will soon be conducting training at the Branch office for our newly elected stewards in the Branch. We also will provide training to all our stewards at a time to be determined on various issues we face across the Branch. We hope to provide this once or twice per year. Our hope is that through training and knowledge gained through the training can help improve the grievance process throughout the Branch.

Branch 34 Constitutions and By-Laws states the Executive Vice President shall serve as Director of Education and Training. I hope to



be instrumental in the training we will provide to all members of Branch 34.

On a different subject, I would like to offer support to the nearly 40,000 Verizon employees represented by the Communications Workers of America (CWA) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) who have been on strike. Verizon workers have been working without a contract since last August. Verizon has made \$39 billion in profits over the last three years and are demanding sweeping health care and pension cuts, further outsourcing of jobs and an ability force service technicians to commute hours away from their homes, or even out of state for months.

Some of these issues should resonate with NALC members in a time when contract negotiations are under way with the Postal Service. I urge all to support the Verizon workers in their effort to gain a fair contract.

Once again thanks for your support and let's work together to make Branch 34 the best branch in NALC.

Spring is Upon Us!

S pring has finally sprung!!! And with the warm weather, tulips, and upcoming vacations, that we all have been patiently waiting for, it also brings Management's Spring/ Summer agendas. Every year it's the same old tired song

PIVOT, PIVOT, PIVOT! We all know it's one of management's favorites. While it is one of the funniest episodes of "Friends," it is not funny to us as letter carriers, who day in and day out hear "your route is under, you need to pivot". Remember despite what they tell you, YOU are the determinneeds assistance (Form 3996), or if it is an eight hour assignment. Management's new fall back

ing factor as to whether your route

plan when a carrier isn't falling into line regarding pivoting, auxiliary assistance, really anything they think we should be doing, even though we all know if it



LAURA FAHEY

makes sense then Management will do the complete opposite and that's why we are not doing it their way. We as carriers do actually have common sense!! They throw out their other tag line "Well you know I can pull your scanner report!!" So let them because we all do our jobs professionally and in a timely and efficient manner.

As there has been an uptick in MV accidents, that along with nice weather will bring more street observations. Street observations are annoying and somewhat irritating, because no one likes to be watched while doing their job no matter which they are, or what their job is. But since our wheels are curbed, emergency brake is on, vehicle is turned off with key out of ignition, and locked up securely, and it really should only be a blip on our radar screen.

I'd also like to take this time to thank each and every one of my Brother and Sister letter carriers for taking the time to vote in this past election. I look forward to meeting, speaking, and representing you and your interests in the future.

Thank You!

want to take this opportunity to sincerely Thank each and every member for your support in the recent election of Branch 34 Officers. I have been blessed to have met so many wonderful individuals and will cherish every smile, each chat, and all the support I was met

with along the way. I would also like to express a

Happy Spring!



heartfelt "THANK YOU" for BERNADETTE ROMANS

allowing me the opportunity to represent the Letter Carriers of Branch 34 as Area Steward.

Hey, this is not an authorized line of travel! GRRRRRR!

Thank You to Branch 34!

hank you to all the members who took L the time to vote in this past Branch 34 election. I'm eager to get to work in my new job representing you.

I'd like to take the time to publicly thank two men who have helped me throughout my career, **Bob Lind** and **JT McMahon**. I became a Steward back in 2002. It was during a difficult time in my station, Dorchester Center. Ten Carriers had been fired for allegedly throwing away Marriage Mail, and deliverable bulk mail. Two of those carriers were the station stewards. As the station malcontent, I decided it was time for me to either put up, or shut up. So I signed up to become the steward and won the station election. I began going to Union meetings, and any and all other Union events to learn as much as I could. The first thing I learned was it was a lot easier being the complainer than the solver. I relied on both Bob and JT to get me through some of those early rough patches. With their help, I did my best policing the contract, and trying to right as many wrongs as I saw on a daily basis.

In 2004, Bob Lind asked me to run on his ticket, and I agreed. I had never thought about seeking Branch office prior to this but I was excited to take on another challenge. I was successful in that election and Bob asked me to run with him three more times, in 2007, 2010 and 2013. In the 14 years I've known him, Bob has always taken the time to help me when I've needed it. He's sent me to Arbitration Advocacy School at the Meaney Center, the NALC Advanced Arbitration Advocacy School, and the NALC Leadership Academy. These opportunities would not have presented themselves without Bob's recommendation. And in some cases, his prodding me to go made me a better Unionist, and I'll always be grateful to him.

Back when my Union career began the Postal Service began aggressively inspecting letter carrier routes. JT recruited me, Mike Gorham and Steve Mahoney for the Union's route inspection team. We were tasked with, policing the route inspection papers for mistakes, sit with the carriers to go over their inspection paperwork, and file the appropriate grievances if need be. This was another learning experience. Rather than just knowing the contract, I had to read and learn the M-39, and M-41. Once again there was someone there to help guide me along, to help represent the carriers of Branch 34. We worked hard, but we also shared a lot of laughs.

Bob and JT retired from the Postal Service and on March 31, 2016; their Union careers ended. They've both left an indelible mark on me as well as the Branch.

So I'm sure I'm not alone when I say THANK YOU! Enjoy your retirement boys, you've earned it.

The King of Coal Sentenced

If you read my article in the last issue of "Branch 34's CLAN," you'll be pleased to know that **Don Blankenship**, the "King of Coal" was sentenced to a year in federal prison on April 6, 2016. That was the maximum amount of prison time allowed for his conviction of conspiracy to willfully violate mine safety rules. He was also fined the maximum amount of \$250,000, which for a millionaire like Don probably doesn't keep him up at night. Hopefully, the knowledge that he put his quest for money over the safety and wellbeing of his employees, which led to the Upper Big Branch mine explosion which killed 29 people, does.

I know I discussed the lack of justice in such a sentence in the last issue of the "Branch 34's CLAN," but watching outside the courtroom as **Tommy Davis**, who lost a son, brother and nephew in the explosion explains it really hits home "he's standing up there, and he's hugging them people. I don't hug nothing but a damn tombstone. I hold a picture; I don't get to hold no grandchildren."

It's time we hold our elected officials responsible for such small penalties for those who cause so much devastation. I know Tommy Davis would agree with that. Hopefully none of us or our families will have to experience such pain. Be safe

Support Verizon Workers

As I'm sure everyone is aware by now our brothers and sisters from CWA and IBEW are on strike. Obviously, don't shop at a Verizon store until they end their

strike. Verizon and their CEO,

Lowell C. Mc-Adam won't negotiate in good faith with our brothers and sisters; MICHAEL MURRAY therefore let's



Secretary-Treasurer

boycott Verizon! Let's make it hurt him in the only place he cares about; his wallet. If you want to receive updates and info on how you can help log onto standupto verizon.com.



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Founded May 1971

AWARDS International Labor **Communications Association GENERAL EXCELLENCE -LOCAL UNION PUBLICATIONS -**CIRCULATIONS of 2,500 to 9,999

National Association of Letter Carriers GENERAL EXCELLENCE LARGE BRANCH PUBLICATIONS -

> First Place, 2014 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

BEST STORY First Place, 1996 Third Place, 1990

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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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2016-2019 BRANCH 34 NALC

President

Vice President

Wanda Hamm Vigo Conte





Important Notice on Nalcrest Branch 34 will soon have to make an important decision regarding the Branch 34 apartment in Nalcrest, Florida. Nalcrest is a retirement community made of retired letter carriers in Central Florida. Branch 34 leases an apartment in order to rent to our members throughout the year.

The cost to Branch 34 is almost \$4,740 per year Over the years the occupancy rate has been shrinking. In 2016 it has been rented a total of ten weeks. The cost for a two week rental is \$420 plus cleaning fee. Branch 34 has received \$2,100 in fees.

The bottom line is we can't continue to sustain this net loss in finances. Branch 34 will be forced to raise the rental fee considerably or in the worst case scenario terminate our lease with Nalcrest.

At this time we would like suggestions on ways to continue our lease with Nalcrest and ease the financial burden on Branch 34.

The \$15.00 Question

he \$64 Question was an old game show **L** on radio, but for generations that title became a catchphrase meaning the most important question, or matter. Today, letter carriers are faced with such a question when it comes to this country's working class. That question is evoking a wide range of dialogue amongst Americans from all walks of life. When states like California, and New York, as well as the City of Boston are making the minimum wage \$15.00 an hour, it begs the question: What should the minimum wage of a City Carrier Assistant be?

And with what I am about to say, I do not mean to disparage anyone who flip burgers, sweep floors, or stock shelves. But collectively, we are by far in the top 5% of the hardest working people in America today, yet our starting pay is just north of \$16 00 an hour

And delivering for the USPS these days is an incredibly difficult business to be in on a daily basis. Accomplishing this work for five to six, sometimes seven days a week, (and I hear the P.O. is now lobbying Congress for the eighth day), and up to eight to ten hours, or more a day will take its toll on regulars, and CCA's alike. All the hours, and the ever expanding list of duties, services, and deliveries; make employment like this, not for the faint of heart.

This is not just a job, it's a numbers driven, electronically monitored, weight lifting, balancing act that is performed by Letter Carriers without blinking an eye. And this work takes place during some of the most challenging seasonal weather in which your body is expended while exposed to such conditions. Then there's the dogs, cyclists, speeding cars, traffic, broken stairs, broken mail boxes, darkness, extended work hours, pivoting, the ever present talking scanners with GPS, customer complaints, and package thieves. What I mentioned are some of the highlights, but as we all know there is still a long laundry list of work related responsibilities that are just too many to mention here. And after all of our efforts, more often than not, we're criticized and marginalized by the very people that run the business. But what is clear to all of the 185,000 or so active letter carriers in this country, that this is a highly skilled and physically demanding "Profession."

With all of that in mind, let us now answer our very important question. What should the minimum wage of a City Carrier Assistant be? And the only sensible answer is a hell of a lot more than \$15 an hour! With clear certainty, the \$16+ an hour starting pay for City Carrier Assistants will not stand. The position of Transitional Employee (TE's) was being paid upwards of \$20 to \$22 an hour, and retention of those employees was good. When the Das Arbitration decision dropped the pay by roughly \$6 an hour; this single act has culminated in our current woes in the hiring, and retaining of CCA's. This goes to prove, you get what you pay for!

At the Region 14 Rap Session in Providence, R1 hosted by National Business Agent John Casciano on April 17th, I asked NALC National President Fred Rolando about the minimum wage issue in regards to all Letter Carriers. I drew a comparison between mail delivery and some of the menial jobs garnering the \$15 an hour minimum wage. I also mentioned the recent negotiated contract of the rural carriers in which they agreed to a 3.7% wage increase through 2018. After jointly meeting with the NALC, and all the other unions regularly to forge a unified front, I wanted to know if he understood the

Rural's mindset in accepting such an inadequate increase. President Rolando said he could not speak to why they accepted this ne-

gotiated settlement, but they must have believed it to be in the best interest of their membership. He stated what the Rural Carriers accepted would not be acceptable to the NALC. President Rolando stated in the March 2016 Postal Record, "But it is important for the Service to understand that what goes on in your other negotiations, or interest arbitrations, with the other unions has very little relevance for the NALC and

BOBBY DAMATIN

its membership/' We all know that management will muddy the waters, cry poor mouth, and blame their blunders of running the Postal Service on labor costs. But this kind of rhetoric from our leadership during contract talks spells out the clear understanding from this bottom-up union that the profession of Letter Carrier commands a fair and decent wage.

Continuing a Tradition

hank you to the membership for this **L** opportunity to serve for the next three years as the Editor of "Branch 34's CLAN." I join a long and distinguished list of Brothers and Sisters who have done a great job on this award winning newsletter. I look forward to working for you, and with the other Branch Officers, to continue in the tradition of keeping Branch 34 Letter Carriers informed and up to date on issues that affect us all.

Branch 34 Salutes Its Recent Retirees

Weymouth Landing's Johnny "The Chief" Hicks



New Weymouth Landing Shop Steward Mario Venturelli and Branch 34 President Mike Yerkes congratulate former Shop Steward Johnny "The Chief" Hicks on his well-deserved retirement.

Branch 34 President Mike Yerkes presents former Weymouth Landing Shop Steward Johnny "The Chief" Hicks his retirement gifts from the Branch.





Branch 34 President Mike Yerkes presents Johnny "The Chief" Hicks his retirement watch.

Weymouth Landing Shop Steward Mario Venturelli offers stories about his predecessor Johnny "The Chief" Hicks. J

Weymouth Landing d Carriers offer their thanks for the many years of service from Johnny "The Chief" Hicks.



Milton's Jean Olsen



Branch 34 President Mike Yerkes presents Branch jacket to Milton's Jean Olsen as Shop Steward Tim Schramm looks on.



Branch 34 President Mike Yerkes presents watch to new Milton Retiree Jean Olsen.

Milton Shop Stewards Mike Larkin & Tim Schramm and

Milton Shop Stewards Mike Larkin & Tim Schramm and Branch 34 President Mike Yerkes thank Jean Olsen (second from left) for her many years of service to the Postal Service.

Back Bay's Sharon Romano



Sharon's retirement jacket on her last day at the Post Office.

Back Bay's Sharon Romano and Branch 34 President Mike Yerkes show off

The second secon

Brookline's Maryanne Tompkins



Brookline Carrier John Schneiderman and Brookline Shop Stewards Joe DeMambro and Maria Constantino congratulate Maryanne Tompkins (second from right) on her retirement.

Back Bay's William Mello

Back Bay's Sharon Romano's "last punch!"



Many of Back Bay's William Mello's co-workers show off his many retirement

Quincy's Diane Joyce



Branch 34 President Mike Yerkes and Quincy Shop Steward and Branch 34 Trustee Paul Roche share a laugh with recent retiree Diane Joyce (center) during her retirement party.

Stand Up to Verizon!

Since April 13, nearly 40,000 Verizon employees represented by the Communications Workers of America (CWA) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) across the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern United States have been on strike after the parties failed to reach a new joint collective-bargaining agreement to replace a three-year pact that expired last August.

"We've been bargaining with Verizon now for almost a year," CWA President Christopher Shelton said. "Nobody wants to go on strike. It's a hardship for our members and their families. It's a hardship for customers who face delay in scheduling repairs and getting service. It's tough on communities."

IBEW President Lonnie Stephenson agreed. "Verizon—this immensely profitable company—is putting the squeeze on hardworking men and women who just want to come to work, do their jobs and be treated fairly," he said.

Among the telecom giant's demands are sweeping health care and pension cuts, further outsourcing of jobs (to Mexico and the Philippines) and the unfettered ability to force service technicians to commute hours away from their homes—or even to work out of state for months at a time. Also, nearly 80,000 Verizon retirees would be affected if the company is successful in its attempts to force them to pay more for health care.

"Verizon made \$39 billion in profits over the last three years," AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka said, "but is unwilling to provide job security, better benefits and safe working conditions.

"This strike is about doing what is right for everyday working people—not corporate interests," Trumka said. "We call on Verizon to bargain in good faith and work with unions to create a fair and equal contract that stands up for working people rather than corporate greed."

If you are interested in connecting with local efforts to stand in solidarity with CWA and IBEW, visit standuptoverizon.com.

President's Report...

(continued from page 1)

fails to follow the grievance procedure as required by the National Agreement.

Additionally, the Branch continues to put together a much needed refresher training session for all Branch Station Stewards with an emphasis on getting properly requested information and Union grievance time without the usual nonsense, delay and total disregard from some supervisors. We envision this training to also address the usual contractual issues of overtime, leave and involuntary reassignment from hold-downs in addition to defending unwarranted disciplinary actions.

On another front, the USPS in the Boston Installation appears to finally recognize the deluge of parcels flowing into many of our stations and to that end; they appear willing to create dedicated full-time parcel routes where these need's arise.

Recently, the Branch has taken part in several cooperative truck route inspections which ultimately created three and four full-time truck routes in Jamaica Plain and Brighton respectively. Inspections at the Dorchester Center Post Office also showed the need for two additional routes which in turn created the need for an additional T-6 assignment. At press time, Brookline, South Boston and possibly Roslindale were beginning the process with additional assignments pending.

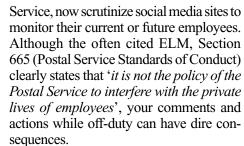
While working with management to create full time assignments may seem like a no-brainer, as in all things postal, there is an inherent need to do so cautiously with one hand on our wallets. But in all honesty, anything that will reduce mandatory overtime for our non-OTDL Carriers and provide some much deserved time off for CCA's over this coming choice vacation period is long overdue. We'll keep you informed.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not discuss two totally different subject matters that can literally destroy this decent paying middle class job if you value such, and you should.

These subjects are social media and the sanctity of the mail. While adverse actions as a result of these issues are few and far between, dealing with one is too many for me.

Let me start by saving the if you want to vent about your supervisor or the USPS in general, stay off the internet, Twitter, Facebook and any other social outlets that I don't have a clue about.

Many businesses, including the Postal



Threatening your employer or coworkers, even on social media, is grounds for termination as we recently were reminded in an arbitration in which a member lost his job.

Members should also recognize that posting cell-phone photos, especially any that may have originated at the station or on the clock, can also lead to unwanted scrutiny from management or postal inspectors. Be forewarned, think before you post.

The second concern should be self evident but apparently not. As Letter Carriers, we are entrusted with the mail that we receive on a daily basis and it is our responsibility to deliver such to its intended recipient or return it to the office and report it to a supervisor. It is essentially what separates us from other substandard carriers.

Unfortunately, I have handled far too many removal grievances for Branch Members accused with the willful delay and/or obstruction of mail.

Now I'm not talking about someone who steals money or valuables from our customers. Let be clear, the NALC does not condone nor defend, nor should we, individuals who steal from the mail.

I am referring to the infrequent Member who for an assortment of alleged reasons makes the grave mistake of mishandling

In Memoriam

John F. Cosgrove* Retired Member – Needham

Charles F. Hogan

Retired Member – Hyde Parl

George D. Nelson Retired Member – Lexington

John J. Ohrenberger Retired Member – Scituate

Anthony Ricci

Retired Member – Cambridge * 50-Year Member

Rest in Heace

or discarding deliverable mail, whether it is to the UBBM or someplace other than its intended destination.

We have seen seasoned Letter Carriers who sometimes feel that they are acting in the wishes of their customers on their routes, forgetting the undeniable fact that each piece of mail has two customers including the person who paid to have it delivered. Letter Carriers do not have the authority or permission to make any decisions to discard deliverable mail.

We have also seen some of our newer Members who often work under great time pressures because of unfamiliarity with some work assignments, make unwise choices to abandon or dispose of or even just delay mail in the apparent hope of delivering it later. Do not fall into this trap – you must take extreme care not to be involved in any action or practice that might appear to look like mistreatment of the mail.

Whether it's routine carelessness or a momentary lapse of judgment, discarding deliverable will eventually get you into serious trouble up to and including removal.

If you need extra time to complete a work assignment, inform your supervisor by submitting Form 3996 (Carriers Auxiliary Control) and ask for appropriate instructions. Management will no doubt whine, yell and occasionally stomp their feet, but following instructions will never lead to separation or loss of employment.

Congratulations Retirees

n behalf of President Yerkes, the Board of Officers and 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:

| Paul J. Andrews | J.F.K. |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Robert F. Bennett | Fields Corner |
| Dennis J. Crowe | South Boston |
| Raymond J. Deleidi | I.M.C. Chelsea |
| Kenneth R. Deluca | Wollaston |
| John R. Hicks | Weymouth Landing |
| Diane P. Joyce | Quincy |
| Albert C. Lam | Brighton |
| Kathleen Lucas | Fields Corner |
| William J. Mello | Back Bay |
| Jean M. Olsen | Milton |
| Sharon D. Romano | Back Bay |

Don't Be A SCAB!

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

Auburndale ROBIN I. DEVITTO

Back Bay SIMOHAMMED BENNIACCA RALPH E. DONOVAN CHRISTOPHER A. DOUGLAS ROBERT A. ROMIKITIS RYAN C. SMITHCCA DAVID P. WIDROW SHANTAE C. WHITE.....

CHRISTINE M. BAILEY SHOOPY DUTERVILLECCA

Cambridge - Central Square THOMAS K. DELEHANTY...... CCA

Cambridge - Porter Square **BLANCA I. TEEBAGY**

Chelsea Carrier Annex (IMC) SANDRA GIORDANO

Cohasset

JESSICA L. PASTERIS

Dorchester Center JAMES B. KERR

Fenway

BEVERLY A. SCANLON

Fields Corner MOLLY LONG......CCA

Fort Point WAYNE J. CHIN

CHRISTINA M. COLON......CCA

Hingham-Hull MARK J. DION

Kenmore KHEIM DIEUJUSTE

<u>Malden</u> EILEEN M. FINN

<u>Medfield</u> ELIZABETH I. RAY

Medford VICTOR WONGWAJARACHOT...... CCA

ILLIAS KALAITZIDIS.....CCA CHARLES S. ROSEN KEVIN FERNANDEZ

Needham

TAMI L. JOHNSON

Revere Carrier Annex

GERALD M. LYTES

Scituate KAREN M. LYNCH

South Boston ANDY L. LIANG.....

Stoneham TINA M. DOHERTY

SPENCER D. WRIGHTCCA

Waltham KELLY M. GREEN-GALLO JOSEPH REGNA.....CCA

MATTHEW J. DONOVAN LOUIS L. GUERRIERCCA

Woburn

KEVIN C. GANGI BRANDON M. MASTROPIETRO...... CCA CRAIG T. REXFORD

We apologize in advance if your name appears on this scab list in error. This information is forwarded to us from our National Headquarters and we do our best to ensure its accuracy. If you are still not in the Union, it's time to step up and pay your fair share. No excuses. Contact your Station Steward to join NOW!

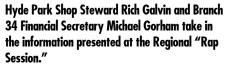
NBA Casciano's Regional 'Rap Session'

ranch 34 was well represented at our National Business Agent John Casciano's annual Rap Session held on Sunday, April 17th in Providence, RI. In addition to myself and full-time officers **Kevin Flaherty** and **Michael Murray**, in attendance were Area Stewards **Laura Fahey, Bernadette Romans, Tom Rooney** and **Tony Scrivano**, Branch Trustee **Wanda Hamm**, "Branch 34's CLAN" Editor **Bob Damatin** and Financial Secretary **Mike Gorham**.

Additionally, many Station Stewards and Branch Members made the worthwhile trip to Providence including **Brian Manning** (Newtonville), **Rich Galvin** (Hyde Park), **Sammie Smith** (Roxbury), **Rochon Butts** (Brighton), **Mike Bertrand** (Hingham), **Rich Farrell** (Waban), **Michael Kidd**, (South Boston) **Ross Murray** (Arlington), **Richard Trainito** and **Paul Correggio** (West Newton). Attendees were provided training on topics which included City Delivery, FMLA, Retirement in addition to an overview of an Advanced Formal Step A training program that NALC Headquarters has recently established.

Shortly after noon, the attendees were treated to a much anticipated discussion by National President **Fred Rolando** on a wide range of topics which included a pretty in-depth analysis of the current status of negotiations for our soon to expire national agreement, the current state of the Postal Service, what the NALC is looking to do on the legislative front as well as an opportunity for questions from the audience prior to conclusion of the session.

– Michael Yerkes, Branch 34 President





Branch 34 President Michael Yerkes participated in the "Rap Session."



Branch 34 Area Steward Laura Fahey, Trustee Wanda Hamm and Area Steward Bernadette Romans listen to one of the many speakers at the "Rap Session."





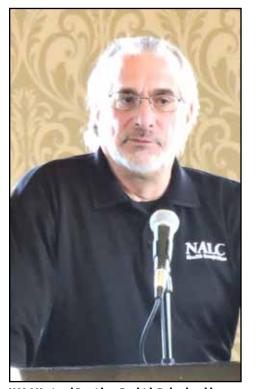
Roxbury Shop Steward Sammie Smith and Branch 34 Executive Vice President Kevin Flaherty find out new information from the various speakers at the "Rap Session."



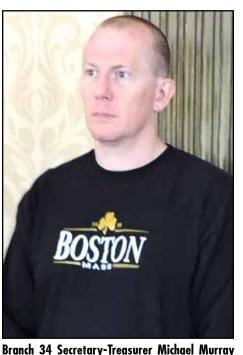
Shop Stewards Roshon Butts of Brighton and Michael Bertrand of Hingham/Hull take notes at the "Rap Session" in Providence.



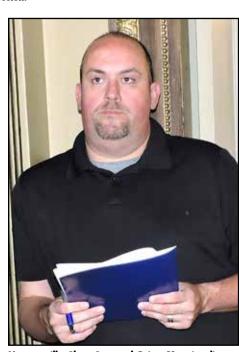
NALC Region 14 National Business Agent John Casciano outlines the many upcoming legislative items of extreme interest to letter carriers.



NALC National President Fredrick Rolando addresses the status of negotiations regarding the soon-toexpire National Agreement.



participates in the NBA's Regional "Rap Session" in Providence, RI.



Newtonville Shop Steward Brian Manning listens intently to NALC President Fredrick Rolando at the NBA's Regional "Rap Session" in Providence.



A large contingent from Branch 34, as well as many others throughout New England, attended the recent NBA "Rap Session" in Providence, Rhode Island.

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2016 United **Auto Workers Union-Built** Information

hese vehicles are made in the United States or Canada by members of the UAW and Canada's Unifor union, formerly the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW). Because of the integration of United States and

Canadian vehicle production, all the vehicles listed made in Canada include significant UAWmade 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, 1500 model crew-cab versions of the vehicles marked with a double asterisk (**) are manufactured in the United States and Mexico. 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 is built by union-represented workers. Vehicles not listed here, even if produced in the United States or Canada. are not union made.

UAW CARS:

Buick LaCrosse, Buick Verano, Cadillac ATS, Cadillac CTS, Cadillac CT6, Cadillac ELR (electric), Chevrolet Camaro, Chevrolet Corvette, Chevrolet Cruze, Chevrolet Cruze (diesel), Chevrolet Impala, Chevrolet Impala (police), Chevrolet Malibu, Chevrolet Sonic*, Chevrolet Volt, Chrysler 200, Dodge Dart, Dodge Viper, Ford C-Max (full hybrid/electric), Ford Focus, Ford Focus (electric), Ford Fusion* (gas-powered only), Ford Mustang, Ford Taurus, Lincoln MKS

UAW TRUCKS:

Chevrolet Colorado, Chevrolet Silverado**, Ford F Series, GMC Canyon, GMC Sierra, RAM 1500**

UAW SUVS/CUV:

Buick Enclave, Cadillac Escalade ESV, Cadillac Escalade Hybrid, Cadillac SRX (2016), Cadillac XT5 (2017), Chevrolet Equinox, Chevrolet Suburban, Chevrolet Tahoe, Chevrolet Tahoe (police), Chevrolet Tahoe (special service), Chevrolet Traverse, Dodge Durango, Ford Escape, Ford Expedition, Ford Explorer, GMC Acadia, GMC Yukon Hybrid, GMC Yukon XL, Jeep Cherokee, Jeep Compass, Jeep Grand Cherokee, Jeep Patriot, Jeep Wrangler, Lincoln MKC, Lincoln Navigator

UAW VANS:

Chevrolet Express, Ford Transit, GMC Savana

UAW SPECIALTY VEHICLES:

American General MV-1 (for disabled drivers)

UNIFOR CARS:

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

UNIFOR SUVS/CUVS:

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

UNIFOR VANS:

Chrysler Town & Country, Dodge Grand Caravan

Knocking Them Down for MDA!26th Annual Bowling Event a Big Success!

By Domenic Corsetti, Bowling for MDA Coordinator

B ranch members, family, and friends were out in force to support our annual Branch 34 "Bowling for MDA" event which was held at Lanes & Games on Route 2 on the Arlington/Cambridge line on March 13th, 2016. Both levels of the facility were filled with 118 Candlepin and 10 Pin bowlers using their skills to get those spares, and sometimes hard to come by strikes. Teams did their best to up their pin counts, but no matter how accurate they were everyone had a lot of laughs, and enjoyed coming together for this Muscular Dystrophy Association event! This annual event raised close to \$3,500, which just doesn't happen without the participation of our members, so thank you for your

continued support. And not enough can be said about the great prizes, donations, and collective efforts of my Bowl-A-Thon Volunteers who make this event the success it has become, year after year. If you couldn't make it this year, plan to be a part of the fun in 2017.

Thanks Again!

A special thanks to:

Branch 34 MDA Chairman George Adams Red Sox World Championship Plaque Donated by the Belmont Letter Carriers Gift Basket Donated by Dan O'Connor, Watertown Branch 25 Tewksbury, MA Branch 46 Springfield, MA Branch 55 Pawtucket, R1

Branch 32, Hartford, CT Lanes & Games, Cambridge, MA





BRANCH 34's **CLAN** APRIL-MAY 2016 **9**

Contract Clock Ticking

s most of us us are aware, the current National Agreement is set to expire this month on May 20th. The current collective bargaining agreement was the result of a national arbitration award issued on January 10, 2013. Many of us vividly remember that the financial condition of the Postal Service in 2011, when the previous collective bargaining agreement expired, was in poor condition.

The DAS Award, as the 2011-2016 National Agreement is referred to as, was reflective of the dismal financial shape of the Postal Service at that time. But, alas, thankfully times have changed for the better. Thanks in large part to the dramatic spike in package deliveries, the result of a marked rise in e-commerce by the American mailing public, the bottom line of USPS is much improved.

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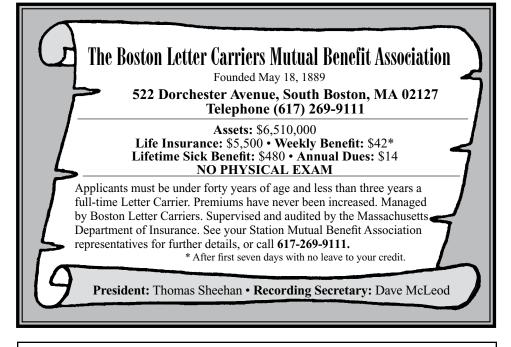
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This is certainly good news for NALC at negotiations. But, as in life, even good news has some concerns of note.

First, the price of a first class stamp has just gone down from 49 cents to 47 cents. That's a direct hit on a piece of the bottom line.

Second, the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) failed to reach agreement with USPS during their negotiations and are currently engaged in national arbitration. This may or may not be a positive for NALC, dependent of the final arbitration award. Many NALC members remember the impact the previous negotiated APWU agreement had on the outcome of the NALC arbitration.

Lastly, the Rural Letter Carriers Association (RLCA) members have just negotiated and ratified a new collective bargaining agreement. That 3 year agreements contract language calls for wage increases of 1.2%

For those who attended our RAP session in Providence, RI in April, you heard first hand from President Fredrick Rolando an extensive update on the NALC negotiations and expectations. For thos unable to attend, one message President Rolando expressed was that the work of the nation's city letter carriers is distinctly different from the good works and contributions of other postal craft

Please stay tuned.

Additional FSS Sites

The Postal Service has notified NALC Lat that it will be identifying additional delivery units nationwide, including the Northeast, to implement Flat Sequence Sorting (FSS).

I take this opportunity to remind that should



JOHN J. CASCIANO

USPS make route adjustments based on any alleged FSS savings, they are bound to abide contractually by the mutually agreed upon MOUs. Copies have been sent to every New England branch president. Any letter carrier whose assignment is subject to an FSS adjustment, should ensure their shop steward or branch president is timely apprised.

Food Drive

The NALC National Food Drive is Saturday, May 14, 2016. Forty-eight million Americans are in daily need of food, or will go to bed hungry that night. One in five, will be a child. Please do all you can to help make this year's Food Drive a success.

Local Memorandums

s a reminder, Branches should now be Areviewing their LMOUs for upcoming LMOU negotiations. Some provisions may be in need of updating. Other LMOU sections may require bargaining if there is a history of dispute with USPS. Please don't wait until the LMOU negotiating period is announced.

"If evolution really works, how come mother's only have two hands?"

-Milton Berle

ATTENTION RETIRED LETTER CARRIERS: Anyone who meets the 50 year requirement to receive a GOLD CARD, please contact the **Union Office at** 781-281-1133 to provide and receive more information.











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How to Contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (NALC's PAC)

Using

Postal EASE - ONLINE Enrollment

Through PostalEASE, active letter carriers can contribute directly from their USPS paychecks to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (NALC's PAC) by designating the Political Fund as one of the three payroll "allotments."

Online Enrollment

- Login to USPS's Postal Ease website at https://ewss.usps.gov
 You may also get to the Postal Ease website through the USPS
 LiteBlue website See the instructions below
- Click "I agree"
- Enter your Employee ID number and Password and click "Submit" If you have not yet set up a password click the link provided on the page or go to:
 - https://ssp.usps.gov/ssp-web/welcome.xhtml
 If you forgot your password click the link provided on the page or go
- https://ssp.usps.gov/ssp-web/ein/Verification.xhtml
 Under Payroll click "Allotments / Payroll Net To Bank"
- Click "Continue" Click "Allotments"
- Enter the 9-digit Financial Institution Routing Number: 0 6 4 0 0 0 0 1 7 Enter your 17-digit Account Number ____ 0 0 3 4 9 5 2 5 3 5 See instructions in step D at right
- Enter Account type as "checking
- 10. Enter amount of your Allotment: \$

 The maximum yearly amount is \$5,000
- 11. Click VALIDATE
- 13. Print or write down your confirmation number for your records

To get to Postal Ease through Lite Blue

- Got to www.liteblue.usps.gov Enter you employee ID and Password and click "Log On"
- Click "Employee Apps"
- Click "PostalEASE" Begin at step 1 above

BEFORE YOU START, YOU'LL NEED:

- A. Your 8-digit Employee ID Number (on
- your paystub)

 B. Your USPS password

 C. Your Postal Record Number (Located
- on the back cover of your Postal Record magazine, above your name. Or call 202.393.4695 to get your Postal Record Number). See the example

****** AUTO** 5- DIGIT 54321 XXXXXXX89 LC 9876 W 13 08 1234 Main Street Anywhere, US 54321-9999

D. To create your personal account number, insert the seven digits of your Postal Record Number to the spaces

0034952535

Using

Postal EASE - Enroll by PHONE

Through PostalEASE, active letter carriers can contribute directly from their USPS paychecks to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (NALC's PAC) by designating the Political Fund as one of the three payroll "allotments."

ENROLLMENT BY PHONE

Call PostalEASE toll-free at 1.877.4PS.EASE (1.877.477.3273)

- When prompted, select "1" for PostalEASE
- Enter your 8-digit Employee ID Number and your USPS 4-digit 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 0 1 7
- Select "1" to continue processing allotment Select "1" to "enter the allotment now"
- Enter your 17-digit Account Number (See step D at left)
- 10. Enter "1" for Checking
- 11. Enter amount of allotment: \$
- Maximum yearly amount is \$5,000 12. If amount is correct, select "1"

NOTE: If you already have three allotments, you must cancel one to contribute to the Political Fund through PostalEASE. To do so, follow the instructions above but instead of selecting "3" to add a new allotment, select "2" to cancel an allotment.

After completing your entry, stay on the phone for the following information:

Your allotment will become effective on: _

Your allotment will be reflected in paycheck dated: _ Keep this information for your records and future reference. BEFORE YOU START, YOU'LL NEED:

A. Your 8-digit Employee ID Number (on your paystub)

- B. Your USPS PIN
- C. Your Postal Record Number (Located on the back cover of your Postal Record magazine, above your name. **Or** call 202.393.4695 to get your Postal Record Number).

Your Postal Record Number is on the cover of NALC's monthly magazine:

****** AUTO** 5- DIGIT 54321 XXXXXXX89 LC 9876 W 13 08 Letter Carrier 1234 Main Stree Anywhere, US 54321-9999

D. To create your personal account number, insert the seven digits of your Postal Record Number to the spaces below:

_____0034952535

Using

ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER

Through a monthly Electronic Fund Transfer, NALC members can contribute directly from their bank account to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (NALC's PAC). On the 1st of every month, the Political Fund will automatically (and without a fee) deduct from your bank account the amount you choose to contribute.

Electronic Fund Transfer Authorization

Fill out and return this form with a voided check to the address below

| i, (you hame) i | nereby authorize my bank to deduct from my checking |
|--|---|
| account the monthly the sum of: | |
| □ \$25 □ \$20 □ \$15 □ \$10 □ \$5 □ Other: \$ (In amount to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (NALC's PAC). I male time by notifying the Letter Carrier Political Fund in writing. | |
| Signature: | Date: |
| Full Name (please print): | |
| Social Security Number: OR Postal Re | ecord number: |
| Address: | |
| City: | State: Zip Code: |
| ATTACH A VOIDED CHECK HERE | Your Postal Record Number (circled): |

Please send this completed form and your voided check to: The Letter Carrier Political Fund

100 Indiana Ave NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144 ** AUTO** 5- DIGIT 54321

Using

Your Retirement ANNUITY

Using your Annuity, retired NALC members can contribute directly from their CSRS or FERS annuities to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (NALC's PAC) on a monthly basis. This is a convenient way to make regular donations to the political action fund similar to the payroll system available to active carriers.

Enroll by Phone

Call the NALC Retirement Office at 202.662.2877 anytime or toll-free at 1.800.424.5186 Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon or 2 to 4 p.m. (ET). (Note: you will need your CSA retirement Claim number.)

Enroll Online

- Go to www.servicesonline.opm.gov
- Enter your CSA number, beginning with the letter A and ending with a zero. SAMPLE: A222222220
- Enter your PIN (Personal Identification Number). If you don't know it, click Using Services Online for help with one. Once you've entered your CSA number and PIN, click Log In. On the next page, click ALLOTMENTS TO ORGANIZATIONS.

- Select the Letter Carrier Political Fund (Formerly COLCPE)
- Enter the amount of your monthly contribution. (Maximum yearly amount is \$5,000)
- 10. On the next page click YES (if correct), then print the next page for your records

Enroll by Mail

Complete this form and send to:

NALC Retirement Department, Attention: Letter Carrier Political Fund, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144 (your name) wish to contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund. I authorize the Office of Personnel Management to withhold the amount below from my monthly annuity payments: □ \$25 □ \$20 □ \$15 □ \$10 □ \$5 □ Other: \$__ _ (Maximum amount per year is \$5,000) and forward that amount to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (NALC's PAC). I make this authorization voluntarily and may revoke it at any

| time by notifying the Letter Carrier Political Fund in writing. | |
|---|---------|
| Signature: | Date: |
| Full Name (please print): | Branch: |
| CSA or Social Security Number: | Phone: |
| | |

By making a contribution to the Letter Carrier Political Fund, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your contribution is not a condition of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers or of employment by the Postal Service, nor is it part of union dues. You have a right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal. The Letter Carrier Political Fund 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. Contributions to the Letter Carrier Political Fund are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the Letter Carrier Political Fund from soliciting contributions from individuals who are not NALC members, executive and administrative staff or their families. Any contribution received from such an individual will be refunded

Save Your Job! Use Your Voice!

Contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund!

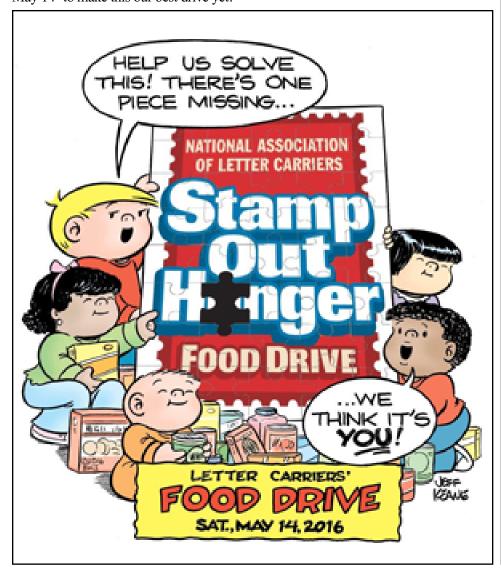
The 24th Annual Letter Carriers' "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive Scheduled for May 14, 2016

by Dominic Corsetti, **Branch 34 Food Drive Chairman**

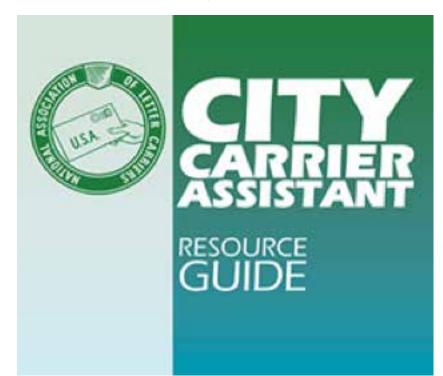
s Letter Carriers, we are blessed with a dependable job that enables us to provide for ourselves, and our loved ones. So when the opportunity to give back to our customers who are struggling to put food on their table, The Letter Carrier Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive does a lot of good. Since it began in 1992, the annual event has collected roughly 1.4 billion pounds of food nationwide.

For 24 years, Boston Letter Carriers have volunteered their time, and efforts in collecting these donations for this worthy cause. Daily visibility, and our ability to network in the communities we serve seven days a week has made this annual event the success

Please thank your local food drive coordinators who stepped forward, and helped in laying the groundwork for Food Drive Day. And let's all join together in solidarity on May 14th to make this our best drive yet!



NALC City Carrier Assistant Resource Guide now available online



The NALC City Carrier Assistant Resource Guide is now available on-line at *nalc*. org. This guide was created to assist both new CCAs and experienced CCAs alike. It thoroughly covers the letter carrier job and the rights and benefits afforded to CCAs. The guide also provides information and guidance for CCAs during the process of conversion to full-time career status.



