



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

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National Association of Letter Carriers
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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS



BRANCH 34's CLAN

CELEBRATING 126 YEARS OF UNION PARTICIPATION AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS ★ 1890-2016

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesdays at 7:00 PM

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

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

November 15, 2016
at the
Boston Lodge of Elks #10
248 Spring Street
West Roxbury 02132

BRANCH 34 NALC
WISHES A HAPPY & SAFE
FOURTH OF JULY TO ALL!

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President's Report

Contract Negotiations and CCA Conversions

At the outset, I would like to wish you all a safe summer and hope you get to enjoy as much of your negotiated vacation time as possible. On the subject of negotiations, as you are no doubt aware, our contract with the USPS has expired and as this issue of *Branch 34's CLAN* goes to press, our national officers continue to work towards a negotiated settlement while at the same time, remain ready to proceed to arbitration if necessary. From all things I have heard and read, I remain cautiously optimistic that we can receive an agreement that will justly reward City Letter Carriers for our roles in the success story that the Postal Service currently finds themselves.

Specifically, the Postal Service's financial bottom line continues to improve with an announced operating revenue of \$17.7 billion for the second quarter of fiscal year 2016 (January 1, 2016 - March 31, 2016), an increase of \$788 million or 4.7 percent over the same period last year. The increase was primarily due to *an 11.4 percent increase in shipping and package volume.*

I am also pleased to have heard President **Fredric Rolando** state the NALC is prepared to show the distinct differences between the job of City Letter Carriers and that of the other crafts. Our jobs continue to evolve almost daily, and it is not getting any easier.

For one thing, the above cited influx of packages, many of which contain valuable items, has made the job more dangerous in many areas that we serve. Delivering after dark and the precarious places we are often required to park further contributes to the risk factors involved in our daily work. Not to mention the often frigid temperatures and treacherous walking conditions of winter or daily exposure to the sun and potential of heat exhaustion on those really oppressive stretches.

Suffice it to say that we deserve to be recognized for our effort of serving the American public seven days a week and here's hoping that Postal management or, if necessary, that the selected arbitrator agrees.



Turning to a different subject, as time races through another summer, the treacherous path

to career Full-Time status for our City Carrier Assistants (CCA) in Boston and our associate offices continues sputter along at a clearly slower pace. As all CCAs should be aware, conversions to career Full-Time Regular positions result from residual vacancies created primarily by retirements or establishment of new routes.

Yet since the conversion of 24 CCAs during the months of January and February, we have seen the retirements of approximately 18 Branch members and the creation of more than a dozen full-time parcel truck routes; yet only ten (10) Conversions to Full-Time Regular have transpired within the Boston Installation and those did not occur until late May. Fourteen (14) more CCA Conversions to Full-Time are slated to occur on Saturday, June 25th.

As we continue to work with local management to create additional full-time truck routes where necessary and, as more of our senior members move on to well deserved retirements, more urgency must be placed in identifying the resulting residual vacancies so that we have consistent conversions to career status.

Such expedience is necessary if only because it is becoming more evident to all involved that **every group of CCA Conversion classes is now more comparable to the reality-based "Survivor" series than ever.**

One need only recognize that the fourteen (14) former City Carrier Assistants that were converted to FTR on June 25th were the sole survivors of the approximate 70 men

and women hired during the months of October and November of 2014. In fact, of the 110 men and women hired by the Boston Installation from October through December of 2014, **only 25 remain on the rolls and working for the USPS, a stunning 23% retention rate.**

Whether it's due to separations or resigna-
(continued on page 8)



MICHAEL YERKES
President



NALC Branch 34 Boston was pleased to welcome our elder statesman 99-year-old Lawrence Burnett (seated) to this year's Retiree Luncheon at Florian Hall. See more photos from this annual event on page 9.



**NALC BRANCH 34 BOSTON
NITE AT FENWAY PARK!**



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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2016 ♦ 7:10 P.M.

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Postal Reform On the Horizon?

On June 15, the leaders of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee released a discussion draft of a potential postal reform bill. NALC officers are currently conducting a detailed review of its contents. The initial review has revealed a number of shortcomings and omissions and at least one provision that NALC cannot support. NALC has stated they will be involved in the process before it is sent to the full House of Representatives. The following is a synopsis of the draft bill. The Senate is working on a similar draft that has not been released yet.

The current House Bill would require postal retirees electing to receive federal health insurance to enroll in Medicare parts A and B as their primary care provider. The bill would phase out the Postal Service's share of retirees' Medicare premiums over four years. Most postal employees enrolled in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program would have to select a plan specific to USPS workers.

The Medicare portion of the bill was designed to help solve the issue of prefunding future retirees' health insurance that we all know about. The bill would also attempt to recalculate the money owed to the prefunding in order to prevent overpayment to the FERS account.

The bill calls for the Postal Service to cut its board of governors from nine to five. Currently the board of governors has one confirmed member. The draft calls for the Postmaster General and Deputy PMG to be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate to four year terms. One extremely dangerous element of the draft bill would call for converting door to door delivery to curbside delivery or cluster boxes. NALC will fight this provision of any bill.

The House draft would call for a one cent increase in the price of a stamp. The Senate is likely looking at a two cent increase. The bill would allow the Postal Rate Commission until 2018 to review how the pricing structure should be set in the future.

Another provision of the bill would help the Postal Service increase sources of revenue. It would provide authority to offer non postal products, possibly postal banking. Another portion of the bill that would benefit postal employees would require USPS to consider additional factors when deciding to close a postal facility. The house has a stated goal of pushing the bill to the house floor by July 15, prior to House recess.

In related news the House Appropriations Committee ap-

proved an amendment that would require the Postal Service to restore the mail delivery standards that were in place before January 5, 2015. This would require USPS to restore overnight mail delivery within metropolitan areas and towns and reestablish the two and three day delivery standard for first class mail.

The Appropriations Committee has also approved H.R. 5845. This measure preserves the long standing six-day delivery language that has been included each year since 1983.

As you can see, there are several issues Congress may be tackling in the near future; some good for letter carriers, some not so good. Now more than ever we must all prepare to act on these and any issues affecting letter carriers that may come up in the near future. The easiest method of staying informed on letter carrier issues is to become an E-Activist. Becoming an E-Activist is simple and costs nothing. Simply log on to the NALC website at www.nalc.org and follow the E-Activist link. You then will receive emails and alerts on ongoing issues affecting letter carriers.

Postal Reform issues are directly related to politics. Since Congress must pass legislation concerning the above issues, it is critical to help elect letter carrier friendly candidates to the House and Senate. The Letter Carrier Political Fund offers money to such candidates. Postal Reform legislation will eventually become law, whether it is the lame duck session of Congress this year or by the new Congress elected in November.

As a member of the NALC there are several ways to give to the Letter Carrier Political Fund. Active carriers can use PostalEase to set up an allotment deduction from your paycheck or have direct bank withdrawal electronically. Retired carriers can elect to give monthly via an automatic deduction from your monthly annuity. The NALC website has more information on the Letter Carrier Political Fund.

I urge all NALC members to be vigilante of upcoming postal issues coming up in Congress. And once again become an E-Activist and contribute to the LCPF. Now it is more important than ever.



KEVIN FLAHERTY
Executive Vice President

NALC Endorses Hillary Clinton for President of the United States

Fredric Rolando, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), released the following statement regarding the NALC Executive Council's endorsement of **Hillary Clinton** for president of the United States: *Following a tremendously hard-fought primary process, the NALC is proud to endorse former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to serve as the next president of the United States.*

Secretary Clinton has a long history of supporting the issues most important to letter carriers – a strong Postal Service, collective-bargaining rights for postal employees and decent pay and benefits for all American workers. She has been a friend of NALC since her first meeting with us in 1994.

Former Sen. Clinton was among the first in the Senate to support legislation to prohibit the contracting out of letter carrier jobs to low-wage private contractors, a bill that helped us stop the practice in 2006. She has defended six-day delivery, supported federal employees and was an original co-sponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act.

NALC is proud to once again stand with Hillary, just as it did when she ran for president in 2008.

This year, we had the good fortune of seeing two tremendous champions of letter carriers compete for the Democratic Party's nomination for president. In fact, both have been made honorary members of the NALC by delegates to our national conventions. As I informed our members in March, based on the issue surveys we sent to both parties' candidates and the polls we conducted among our 280,000 members and activists, both Secretary Clinton and Sen. **Bernie Sanders** earned our support. Out of respect for both candidates and the passionate supporters each has in our union, we decided not to endorse either until the primary process produced a nominee. *That has now happened.*

We commend Sen. Sanders – who also is a long-time friend and a fierce advocate for letter carriers in Congress – for running a fantastic campaign. The energy and passion that he brings to politics have ignited a national conversation and moved the needle in our national debates about inequality, wage stagnation and the power of corporate interests in our democracy. NALC intends to continue fighting alongside Sen. Sanders to strengthen our employer, our political system and our country.



Democratic nominee for U.S. President Hillary Clinton receives the endorsement of the National Association of Letter Carriers.

This endorsement was not a difficult one to make, given the two choices before us. Leaving aside his anti-worker record as an employer, his dishonesty and erratic temperament, and the bigotry and sexism he has demonstrated as a candidate, **Donald Trump** showed blatant disrespect to America's letter carriers. In our endorsement process, he not only failed to answer our candidate questionnaire, he would not even acknowledge receiving it. **Hillary Clinton**, on the other hand, has demonstrated her commitment to letter carriers and has dedicated her entire life to public service. Few candidates have ever been better prepared for the Oval Office.

There is a lot at stake on Tuesday, November 8th – for our country, our jobs and our families. Starting in the key battle ground states of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Florida, Wisconsin and Nevada, NALC and America's letter carriers are ready to unite behind **Hillary Clinton** to make this great country even greater.

Good Financial News Should Benefit Us

The Postal Service announced a \$576 million dollar operating profit for the second quarter of fiscal year 2016. In 2014 we had a \$261 million operating profit for the second quarter and last year it was \$313 million for the second quarter. Half way through this fiscal year we now have a \$1.8 billion operating profit which is more than we made all of last year.

This is more good news for the USPS and obviously us, the people who actually do the work. Our contract expired in May and while our nationally elected officials bargain on our next contract the continued positive financial news should help us secure a fair contract with a substantial and well deserved pay increase.

Overtime

Something many of us take for granted is the payment of overtime for all work over eight hours in a day and/or over 40 hours in a week. But for millions of Americans this is not the case. On May 18, 2016 the Department of Labor's final rule updating the overtime regulations was announced by President Barack Obama.

Which means, any salaried employee making less than \$47,476 a year would be paid overtime for all hours worked over 40 hour's. This final rule will go into effect December 1, 2016.

This is long overdue. 50 years ago OT was the norm for about 60 percent of salaried employees. Today only about 8 percent qualify. Salaried employees who make more than \$23,600 a year don't automatically qualify for OT pay.

This change should give Americans a well deserved raise. And if a company doesn't want to pay the OT they can hire more workers. This is a win for everyone. People will either make more money or get to spend more time with their families. Those looking for work should have an easier time finding it and when people make more money they spend more money, further stimulating the economy. Communities will see an increase in tax revenue for schools, services and infrastructure which should further benefit everyone.

Worker's Win

The IBEW and CWA ended their strike against Verizon after the parties reached a four year agreement. Their determination and courage should inspire every Union Brother and Sister reading this. By standing together they were able to achieve their objectives. Which include 10.9 percent raise over the four year term of their contract, signing bonuses in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, \$2,800 minimum in profit sharing, pension increases, and a first contract

for about 70 Verizon wireless retail store employees in Brooklyn, NY and our very own Everett, MA.

Thank you to those who helped our Brothers and Sisters by either joining a picket line or donating to their strike fund. United we can do great things.

MDA Update

Dorchester Center had another successful satchel drive on May 1, 2016. We raised \$676.50 in about three hours. I'd like to thank Alex Pinto and John Corrigan for taking the time out of their busy schedules to help raise money for those afflicted with muscle disease. Every time I ask for help with MDA those two Brothers always come through. Dorchester Center also raised \$300.00 in an office collection for MDA during the spring. I'd like to thank Michael Pierce for spearheading that effort.

I'd also like to thank Dorchester Center carrier John Costello, the Sunday host of "The Feast of Irish Music," on 950 AM WROL. I asked him to give us a shout out on the air on May 1, 2016 and he did. Please see his article on page 12 of this issue of Branch 34's CLAN.

Fort Point Steward and Branch 34 Sergeant at Arms Benny Faletra and Braintree Steward Rick Fraser helped raise

over \$500 for MDA by having a raffle in their offices with donated toys. It's simple to do and can help raise a lot of money for this worthy cause. George Adams, MDA Chairman has plenty of donated toys to raffle off so, if you're interested in doing a satchel drive or a raffle in your station give me a call at the Union office.



MICHAEL MURRAY
Secretary-Treasurer

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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, 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
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.

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Hard Work Done:

Saying Farewell to Bob Lind and J.T. McMahon

I would never be able to do these two Union activists justice with my words. Decades of letter carrier representation between them is the true measure of the hard work these two gentlemen of Branch 34 performed without fanfare, but with a tremendous amount of heart and soul. It was their leadership, and dedication over those many years that guided the next generation of union activists, me being one of them. I cannot mention the countless times I turned to them for ideas, information, or advice, and was always met with what I needed. They supplied many different ways to approach an issue, their vast knowledge of the contract, and when all the questions were answered, a good laugh usually followed.

But just as much as they dealt with me as a union brother, they also wanted to know about me, the person. Bobby would greet me with "Hi Handsome," ask about my wife, Miss Linda; he loves to call her that, and my daughters. J.T. was always concerned about how people were doing in my office, and how I was doing. And he wanted to know my thoughts about political candidates that would be running, because he knew I was following them.

When you get to their level of representation, spending years networking with our National Officers, union peers from across the country, and representing letter carriers for so long, there is no question; we as brothers and sisters of Branch 34, are all

truly at a loss.

Moving forward without them will be a challenge, but they gave of themselves to make our union, and its members stronger, and in a better place. Having worked with both of you has made me a better union person, and I thank you for that.

Good Luck and God Bless in your retirement Bobby & J.T.!



BOBBY DAMATIN
"Branch 34's CLAN" Editor

Despite Injuries While Volunteering at the Food Drive Weston's Mike Segal Receives Gold Card & 50-Year Pin

Long-time Branch 34 member and retiree from Weston, Mike Segal has volunteered at countless Branch 34 events. Mike was a dedicated volunteer at the Branch 34 MDA Labor Day Telethon as well as numerous food drives.

On Saturday, May 14, 2016, while volunteering at the Roslindale Station for this year's Food Drive, Mike was seriously injured. Mike stumbled and fell off the dock and suffered severe lacerations on his forehead. Thankfully Mike is doing well

today and healing.

Ironically, Mike was scheduled to attend the Branch 34 Retirement Luncheon the next day on May 15. Mike was looking forward to the luncheon as he was due to receive his Gold Card from NALC and 50-year pin. Mike was unable to attend the luncheon due to his retirement but nonetheless did receive his Gold Card and 50-year pin at home.

Below is a picture of Mike receiving his Gold Card from Branch 34 Executive Vice President Kevin Flaherty.



Give Workers a Voice

This Letter to the Editor recently appeared in the June 7th, 2016 edition of the Boston Herald, and currently appears in the Mass. AFL-CIO Facebook Timeline.

Big business is out of control in this country in the way it treats American workers ("NLRB alleges strong arm tactics in use," May 24). Making huge profits, paying CEOs astronomical sums of money, and low-balling workers when it comes to pay and benefits, has become the norm. Other businesses flee the country, taking good American jobs with them.

Companies like Verizon have amnesia when labor comes looking to share in the prosperity because of the pivotal role they played in their companies' successes. Instead they are met at contract time with

egregious demands for give backs, and threats of outsourcing work. Companies look to diminish, or eliminate, pensions, and the shareholders are the excuse to not reward its workers.

Americans need to wake up to the ever-expanding divide between the rich and the rest of us, and the sterile, mechanical way in which corporations treat their employees. If a company puts its profits over people, then consumers should look for companies with a conscience.

We have remained silent, complacent, and marginalized by those who profit from our hard work. If we don't continue to demand our fair share, then we can continue to expect more of the same.

— Bobby Damatin,
Dorchester, MA

BRANCH 34 NALC WISHES ALL MEMBERS A SAFE & FUN-FILLED SUMMER!



Baseball Fever Grips Letter Carriers

“NALC Branch 34 Boston Nite at Fenway Park”

NALC BRANCH 34 BOSTON NITE AT FENWAY PARK!

THE BRANCH HAS SECURED **150 TICKETS** FOR THE MEMBERSHIP TO ATTEND THE



VS.



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2016 ♦ 7:10 P.M.

TICKETS ARE ONLY \$25.00 EACH!

MAXIMUM OF **4 TICKETS** PER MEMBER ALLOWED!
TICKETS WILL BE SOLD ON A **FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED** BASIS!

Mail the completed form with your payment to:

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Make checks/money orders payable to: **NALC Branch 34**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Station: _____

Number of Tickets: _____

**ENJOY THE GAME!
GO NALC BRANCH 34! GO SOX!**

We all know how hard we work, the long hours every day, and yes, those Saturdays, and Sundays. Well, here's a chance to grab a hot dog, some peanuts, and Cracker Jacks at “America's Most Beloved Ballpark” – Fenway Park. The Branch has secured 150 tickets to the Monday, September 12, 2016, 7:10 PM match up featuring our Boston Red Sox and a very talented Baltimore Orioles team. Both teams are currently battling for the lead in the American League East, so this should be a pivotal game for the Red Sox in their quest to return to the postseason. It's a great opportunity to get together, away from the job, and enjoy what looks to be a very memorable night!

Tickets are \$25.00 each, and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. We will be seated in Grandstand Sections 8 & 9, which are Right Field Seats. Only payment from NALC Branch 34 members will be accepted, and the maximum amount of tickets that can be purchased per member is four. Please use the form to the left in this month's issue of “Branch 34's CLAN” to place your order. Additional information will be provided as we get closer to game night.

So talk to your coworkers, family, and friends so they can get in on a great deal, and a fun night out at the “Old Ball Game!” Hope to see you there!

– The Branch 34 Officers

West Roxbury Letter Carrier Saves Customer's Life

By Bobby Damatin

In early June, mail was not being collected at a customer's home as usual, which got Branch 34 member **Steve Murphy** thinking something was wrong. Some people are like clockwork, and this veteran letter carrier followed his gut instincts, and did something about it. Steve went to a close neighbor of the woman, and reported the mail accumulation. In turn the woman's son was called, whom he responded immediately. Entering the home, he found his mother had fallen on the floor the day before, and too weak to get up. The Boston Fire Department, and EMS were summoned, and she was stabilized, and transported by ambulance to the Faulkner Hospital in Jamaica Plain, MA. The woman remained there for a number of days to regain her strength, and has since recovered.

Had she not been found as soon as she was, the circumstances could have been life threatening. As was stated in a letter Steve recently received from the woman's neighbor, “had it not been for you, and your concern, the outcome would have been tragic”.

Steve Murphy shows all us that we are the eyes, and ears of the community, stop-



Branch 34 Boston is proud of Steve Murphy's quick thinking and gut instincts which prevented a potentially tragic incident recently in West Roxbury.

ping by each day to do our job at every door in America. And taking good care of our customers can sometimes even save a life.

Great Job Steve!

(Big Thanks to Branch 34 Union Steward Steve Tingloff of West Roxbury for bringing this story to the membership's attention.)

Where is Maureen Marinelli? Busy As Usual!

Maureen Marinelli retired in January 2014 after carrying mail for 31 years. For most of those years she was active with Branch 34, and loved representing carriers as an Area Steward, Editor of *Branch 34's CLAN*, and statewide as the Massachusetts State President. And she continues her good works in her new, retired life.

When she realized how tough it was to get a post-retirement job, Maureen became a year-round resident of Nalcrest,

our Letter Carrier Retirement Community in Central Florida. Shortly, after moving there, Maureen was elected as president of NALC Branch 1A. She enjoys keeping retired carriers informed both legislatively, and politically.

Her favorite activities there include playing Ladies' Nalcrest Softball and checking for alligators outside her front door! In the Lake Wales community, Maureen works for the Polk County Election Department as an



Maureen Marinelli still takes her hacks both at the plate as a member of the Nalcrest Ladies' softball team and as an active political activist in the heat of her newly adopted state, Florida. Beware of the gators!



Maureen Marinelli and her fiancé Bruce Hatfield. Please note: Maureen may be a Mets fan, but she will NEVER be a Yankee fan!

early voting manager, and precinct clerk during election cycles. She states Florida is **NOT** Massachusetts when it comes to voter suppression!

Maureen will have to miss this next election cycle – she is marrying retired letter carrier **Bruce Hatfield** on October 8th. Bruce is a Nalcrest snowbird who spends seven months at Nalcrest and five months in Big Flats, New York. He enticed Maureen to date when he bought her a motorcycle helmet! While in New York, Maureen tries to visit Boston as much as she can, even though it is seven hours

away! She also likes to attend Branch 21 Elmira, NY union meetings, but only as a guest!

Maureen would like to thank the Branch for hosting the Annual Retirement Dinner. She finally made it this year, and had a wonderful time seeing her brother and sister friends. She would like to extend a shout out to her Weston active letter carrier family, who she misses very much.

If you are attending the 2016 NALC Biennial Convention in Los Angeles in August, you will see Maureen there as a proud Branch 34 delegate.

The War on Unions

There is a class war going on in this country against unions, and the middle-class. Maybe you haven't heard about it yet, but it is very real. As I write this, letter carriers have been working without a contract since midnight of May 20th. The nurses of Brigham and Woman's Hospital have been working without a contract since September 2015. Verizon workers were on strike for 6 weeks, fighting for better jobs, and wages, and are now back to work.

There is a direct correlation in the decline of the middle-class, and union jobs and union membership. In 2013 the unionized workforce in America hit a 97 year low. From 1968 to 2013, union membership fell from 28.3% (1968) of all workers to 11.3% (2013). Over that same period, the size of the middle class shrank by more than 10 percentage points. The middle 60% of households earned 53.2% of the national income. That number has fallen to 45.7%. From 2002 to 2012 Union members ages 16 to 24 fell by 26%.

The war on organized labor started 70 years ago, with the passage of the Taft - Hartley Act of 1947. President Truman was unsuccessful in vetoing the law, as Congress overrode him, and it became law. Taft - Hartley permits states to prohibit union contracts, which allowed non-union members to get the benefits of unions. It outlaws that you must be in the union to get a job unless you were a longshoreman. It permits employees to file decertification. It prohibits unions from secondary boycotts. It permits the President to nullify a strike, if he felt it was a national emergency. It prohibits strikes by federal workers. Taft - Hartley has made it very difficult for Unions to organize and grow.

In 1978, labor unions tried to take a stand and introduced a bill that would promote union organization, and strengthen the NLRB by increasing penalties to violators who broke contracts. But big businesses came together, and out spent labor by 3 to 1. The bill passed in the house, but stalled in the Senate, and never returned. This was the beginning of amendment after amendment to hurt labor laws, Unions and their families.

In 1981, air traffic controllers went on strike nationwide, and a signal was sent by President Reagan, who fired more than 11,000 controllers, that union busting was O.K. When that took place corporations, politicians, and future Presidents began taking anti-union stances as they believed that being anti-union is not necessarily a liability to their interests. Corporations also poured billions of dollars into lobbying Congress for their primary goals of weakening Unions, and reducing labor costs. As major corporations have become less willing to negotiate wage increases or benefits, they have also taken to hiring SCABS in place of striking workers. There were 371 strikes in 1970 and only 11 in 2010. Big corporations such as Wal-Mart, Coca-Cola, Amway, Exxon, Verizon, and many more are exerting their money and influence everywhere we turn. They are collecting billions of dollars in profits and CEO's are being compensated with millions of dollars annually, all while crying poor mouth when it comes to paying workers, and negotiating fair contracts.

As thousands of men and women retire daily, the importance of Unions and organized labor is being lost on a younger generation who do not fully understand the history and importance of Unions. These generations don't understand why Unions exist, or how they came about in the first place. The labor movement in the U.S. grew out of a need to protect the common interests of workers.

Remind our newer employees of the U.S. Postal Strike of 1970. In March of that year some 210,000 postal workers went on

strike, to gain higher wages, better benefits, and safer working conditions. An immediate cause of the strike was when Congress approved themselves a 41% raise and postal employees received a measly 4%, (*seems not much has changed*). Employees were sick of working in what was described as dungeons, and due to stifling conditions in the summer and freezing cold in the winter. President Nixon ordered employees back to work, and brought in the National Guard to distribute the mail in New York. The strike wreaked havoc on the mail system, and stock market. After eight days the strike ended without a single worker being fired, and influenced the passage of the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, which led to full collective bargaining rights, the right to negotiate wages, benefits, and better working conditions.

Unions and organized labor are why we have breaks, lunch, annual/sick leave, FMLA, Title VII (Civil Rights Act), 8 hour work days, a 40 hour work week, overtime pay, holiday pay, OSHA, Workmen's Compensation, Pensions, Health Insurance, Collective Bargaining Agreement(CBA), Wrongful Termination laws, Age Discrimination Act, Americans With Disabilities Act, Veterans Employment and Training Services (VETS), Privacy Rights, Military Leave, Sexual Harassment Laws, Whistleblower protection laws, Social Security, Minimum wage, and the Equal Pay Acts of 1963 & 2011.

A little thing called "Deflategate" has been going on for over 500 days; a Circuit Court panel ruled in April that Roger Goodell was within the Rights of the NFL's CBA to suspend Brady for four games, in essence allowing Goodell to act as judge, jury, and executioner. Deflate-Gate is now being appealed to the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals by Brady and the NFLPA. Brady not only has the support of fans of the Pats, but the AFL-CIO who along with Arbitrator Kenneth R Feinberg have filed friend of the court briefs backing Tom Brady.

The AFL-CIO has significant interest in "Deflategate," because most of the employees in the AFL-CIO unions, including Letter Carriers, have arbitration in their agreements/contracts. They stated in their brief that "regardless of who hears appeals,

labor arbitration always must be fundamentally fair" and that Goodell acted as an employer "seeking to justify his own disciplinary decision."

Arbitrator Feinberg stated that this case has "major implications" for the role of arbitration in the United States. Feinberg's brief stated that Goodell "exceeded the scope of his authority. But more troubling, he used the vehicle of arbitration as a mechanism to rewrite the underlying bargaining between the parties, the sole advantage of his organization. If this type of bias of industrial justice is upheld, the public should, and will lose faith in the systems of arbitration and private dispute resolution. Feinberg also said, "This case is of exceptional importance to arbitrators in light of the issues it raises about the power of arbitrators to disregard relevant portions of the parties' arbitration agreement in issuing their judgments, and to rely on new grounds in affirming employer discipline."

While we all want Brady to win his appeal and be on the field for the first four games of the season that should not be the only reason you are rooting for Brady's appeal to be over-turned.

Labor Unions in general set the tone of the economy across the country, when labor unions prosper and grow, so does the rest of the U.S. economy. Unions are those people who fought before us, who fight for us now, and will continue the fight in the future!!!!

On a side note: I'd like to thank the retirees (some of whom went on strike in 1970), and who I got to meet and catch up with at the retiree luncheon. It was great to see the carriers from the Back Bay, and Fort Point stations. I hope to see you all again next spring, and continue to enjoy the retirement you worked so hard for, and richly deserve.

(Statistics on labor numbers and the middle-class are from Forbes and The Huffington Post. AFL-CIO and Arbitrator Feinberg quotes are from the publication, The Hill.)



LAURA FAHEY
Area Steward

Don't Be A SCAB!

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

Auburndale
ROBIN I. DEVITTO

Back Bay
RALPH E. DONOVAN
CHRISTOPHER A. DOUGLAS
ROBERT A. ROMIKITIS
RYAN C. SMITH.....CCA
SHANTAE C. WHITE.....CCA
DAVID P. WIDROW

Brookline
CHRISTINE M. BAILEY
SHOOPY DUTERVILLE.....CCA

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

Cambridge - Porter Square
BLANCA I. TEEBAGY

Chelsea Carrier Annex (IMC)
SANDRA GIORDANO
MICHAEL F. KING.....CCA

Dorchester Center
JAMES B. KERR

Fenway
BEVERLY A. SCANLON

Fields Corner
JOSEPH DILLON.....CCA
MOLLY LONG.....CCA

Fort Point
WAYNE J. CHIN

Hingham-Hull
MARK J. DION

Kenmore
KHEIM DIEUJUSTE

Malden
EILEEN M. FINN

J.F.K.
YMAHRI BROWN.....CCA

Lexington
SAMUEL M. GRAHAM JR.....CCA

Medfield
ELIZABETH I. RAY

Medford
GERALD M. LYLES
VICTOR WONGWAJARACHOT
.....Recently Converted

Milton
KEVIN FERNANDEZ.....CCA
CHARLES S. ROSEN

Needham
TAMI L. JOHNSON

Newtonville
EMAD GUIRGUIS

Roxbury
AARON APPIAH-KUBI.....CCA
GELET LUC.....CCA
DANIEL NAW.....CCA
KEVIN TANG.....CCA

Scituate
KAREN M. LYNCH

South Boston
ANDY LIANG.....CCA

Stoneham
TINA M. DOHERTY

Waban
SPENCER D. WRIGHT.....CCA

Waltham
DAVID BAHM
KELLY M. GREEN-GALLO
JEFFREY HOPKINS.....CCA
JOSEPH REGNA.....CCA

Wellesley Hills
JOSE LOPEZ.....CCA

West Roxbury
MATTHEW J. DONOVAN
LOUIS L. GUERRIER.....CCA

Weston
MATTHEW J. GENDRON.....CCA

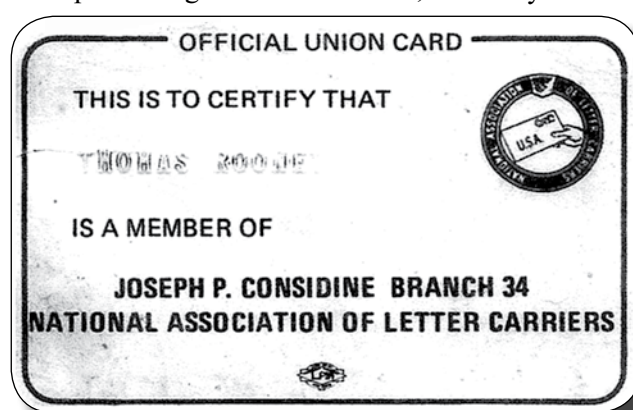
Woburn
KEVIN C. GANGI
CRAIG T. REXFORD

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!

Thank You Branch 34!

Some 30 years ago on March 29, 1986, I became a proud member of the Joseph P. Considine Branch 34 NALC letter carrier union. Back then, when you signed up, the union gave you your official union card certifying that you were a member in good standing. Still to this day I carry that card in my wallet (we should go back to this tradition).

On the day of the counting of the ballots, I had to rush my dad to the hospital. Unfortunately, he would never leave. One of the last conversations I had with him was about how I had just been elected to a union position in Branch 34. In true fashion, my dad replied "congratulations smart ass," but



remember only one thing "you work for the membership and only them." One of the things most members don't know is

that my dad was a union official in local 4350 Quincy Custodial Union for 22 years.

That statement by my dad is what I want every member of Branch 34 to know, for the next three years

"I work for you and only you!"

In the end, I would like to thank everyone who took part in this last election. Whether working on the election committee (*thank you, HARRY!*) or the members who took the time to cast their ballots all your support was greatly appreciated.

I'm truly honored to be allowed to represent Branch 34 for the next three years. Hopefully my dad's wisdom will stay with me, as I strongly believe all us Branch officers

"work for you and only you!"

Once again, Thank you to all Branch 34 members for your support!



TOM ROONEY
Area Steward

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Branch 34 Salutes Its Recent Retirees

Stoneham's Joe Caezza



Stoneham's Joe Caezza (center) receives retirement gifts from Shop Steward Larry Last and Branch 34 Executive Vice President Kevin Flaherty.



Stoneham Carriers wish Joe Caezza good luck on his well-deserved retirement.

Melrose's Vito Briatico



Melrose's Vito Briatico cuts his cake at his retirement party.



Melrose's Vito Briatico receives congratulations and his retirement jacket from Branch 34 President Mike Yerkes on a job well done.



Vito Briatico, Melrose Shop Steward Jason Siciliano and Branch 34 President Mike Yerkes pose during Vito's party.

Weston's John O'Connell



Weston's John O'Connell receives his retirement watch from Branch 34 President Mike Yerkes.



Milton Shop Steward Tim Schramm (left) and Branch 34 President Mike Yerkes (right) congratulate newly-retired member and Former Steward Mike Larkin.

Back Bay's William Mello & Andrew M. Barese

Back Bay's William Mello and Andrew M. Barese show off their retirement gifts at their recent party as co-workers look on.



In Memoriam

Gerald Carey
Retired Member – Jamaica Plain

William C. McGlinchy
Retired Member – Medford

Arthur R. McKinnon
Retired Member – Weston

* Gold Card Members

Rest in Peace

President's Report: *Contract Negotiations and CCA Conversions*

(continued from page 1)

tions, this casualty rate is unacceptable and unsustainable for both the NALC and the USPS. We know that the parties at the Headquarter level are aware of these attrition numbers, let's see if they can come up with a solution.

Having said all that, it is with great pleasure that I can now welcome the following Branch 34 Members to the category of career Full-Time Regular in the Boston Installation. Congratulations, you have all certainly proven to be more than up to the task.

May 21, 2016

Bavly W. Elias
Claudette Williams
Aleksandre Kvaitchadze
Markus M. Dumbrowski
Susan A. Blonder
Tyler M. Clarke
Tiffany Stephens
William J. Kilgoe, III
Jackie M. Perchard
Loudior Michel

June 25, 2016

Marilyn Carmona
Guy E. Ferrone, Jr.

Robert A. Shuris, Jr.
Kevin Guillaume
Thang Tran
Samuel Botchway
Kevin Mahabir
Michael Driscoll

Robert Brown
Pavitar Singh
Julia Fowler
James J. Brady, Jr.
Manuel Burgos

Congratulations Retirees

On 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:

Andrew M. Barese.....Back Bay
Vito A. BriaticoMelrose
Richard W. Feeley.....Auburndale
John J. KeohaneWeymouth Landing
Paul J. KodadWollaston
Francis A. Kriff, Jr.Cambridge
Michael E. Larkin.....Milton
Edward V. Menz, Jr...Weymouth Landing
John J. O'ConnellWeston
Sharon A. OsorioAuburndale
Constance M. Ramondelli.....Wellesley
Stephen F. Shaw.....Braintree

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(1-800-EAP-4-YOU) TTY: 1-877-492-7341
www.EAP4YOU.com



Branch 34 Retirees' Luncheon Is Always A Big Hit!



Negotiations Go Into Overtime

Midnight May 20th has come and gone. NALC and USPS negotiators met 24/7. While unlike negotiations from another era, the parties have concluded it is in their mutual best interests to continue to discuss a possible new tentative National Agreement for ratification by rank & file union letter carriers.

As in any round of negotiations, the wage package is of prime concern. No questions about it. I don't think I would be too far off the mark to say that USPS negotiators are fishing in other postal union ponds. They already have landed one catch.

While lead negotiators continue in their attempts to reach a mutually agreeable wage package, several other negotiation committees also continue in their efforts to identify areas of concern to both parties including Safety, Retirement, Article 8, Article 12, Workplace Climate and Article 41 items.

As long as the light at the end of the tunnel remains lit, the NALC will remain steadfast to reach an agreement that will reflect the hard work and dedication of this nations city letter carriers. National level arbitration is certainly not the end game here, but neither can it be entirely ruled out at this time.

In the interim, the terms of the current

collective bargaining agreement remain in effect.

Branch Local Negotiations

Again take this opportunity to remind branch presidents that the time is now to begin preparations for LMOU bargaining with the Postal Service. At minimum, branch negotiating committees should be in place.

Successful LMOU negotiations are the result of careful planning as far in advance as possible. Committees should be in process of gathering and researching any pertinent information for those negotiations. A careful review of past LMOU negotiations would serve the parties well.

It would likely be in the unions interests to closely scrutinize the Leave provisions of your branch LMOU. Can it be improved upon? Has it generated disputes with management? Bidding procedures also bear a careful review. Do you have expedited bidding? Is it working in the members interest? These and other concerns reflect a need to get started early.

Lastly, whatever method works for your branch, keep the membership informed and seek their guidance.

Impress Friends at Your Next Barbeque

Let's lighten up a little. It's summer in New England. No better place to be.

\$0 – American tax dollars USPS receives.

6,000 – number of letter carriers attacked by dogs annually.

47% – Percentage of entire planet's mail delivered by USPS.

1,400 – Number of murals and sculptures in post offices from President Roosevelt's New Deal program.

Pocahontas – First Native American on a postage stamp (1907).

Lubec, ME – Easternmost post office in United States.

Hinsdale, NH – Oldest post office in same building.

Castine, ME – Second oldest.

888 million – Number of elastic bands USPS ordered in 2015.

Undetermined – Who was buried in Grant's Tomb?

Enjoy your summer. You earned it.



JOHN J. CASCIANO
National Business Agent

"I gave my father \$100 and said "buy yourself something to make your life easier." He went out and bought my mother a present."

- Rita Rudner



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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

1. 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.
2. Click "I agree"
3. 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 to:
<https://ssp.usps.gov/ssp-web/einVerification.xhtml>
4. Under Payroll click "Allotments / Payroll Net To Bank"
5. Click "Continue"
6. Click "Allotments"
7. Enter the 9-digit Financial Institution Routing Number: 06400017
8. Enter your 17-digit Account Number _____ 0034952535
See instructions in step D at right
9. Enter Account type as "checking"
10. Enter amount of your Allotment: \$ _____
The maximum yearly amount is \$5,000
11. Click VALIDATE
12. Click SUBMIT
13. Print or write down your confirmation number for your records

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 below.



- D. To create your personal account number, insert the seven digits of your Postal Record Number to the spaces below:
_____ 0034952535

To get to Postal Ease through Lite Blue:

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

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)

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:



- D. To create your personal account number, insert the seven digits of your Postal Record Number to the spaces below:
_____ 0034952535

1. When prompted, select "1" for PostalEASE
2. Enter your 8-digit Employee ID Number and your USPS 4-digit PIN
3. Select "2" for payroll options
4. Select "1" for allotments
Disregard instruction to complete Allotment Worksheet and select "2" to continue.
5. Select "3" to ADD a new allotment
6. Enter the following Financial Institution Routing Number: 06400017
7. Select "1" to continue processing allotment
8. Select "1" to "enter the allotment now"
9. Enter your 17-digit Account Number (See step D at left)
10. Enter "1" for Checking
11. Enter amount of allotment: \$ _____ / pay period
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:

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.

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, _____ (your name) hereby authorize my bank to deduct from my checking account the monthly the sum of:

\$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): _____

Social Security Number: _____ OR Postal Record number: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

ATTACH A VOIDED CHECK HERE.

Please send this completed form and your voided check to:

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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

1. Go to www.serviceline.opm.gov
2. Enter your CSA number, beginning with the letter A and ending with a zero. SAMPLE: A22222220
3. Enter your PIN (Personal Identification Number). If you don't know it, click Using Services Online for help with one.
4. Once you've entered your CSA number and PIN, click Log In.
5. On the next page, click ALLOTMENTS TO ORGANIZATIONS.
6. Click START
7. Select the Letter Carrier Political Fund (Formerly COLCPE)
8. Enter the amount of your monthly contribution. (Maximum yearly amount is \$5,000)
9. Click SAVE
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

I, _____ (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 to that contributor.

Save Your Job! Use Your Voice!

Contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund!

Dorchester Center Letter Carrier Hosts Weekly Radio Show

By Mike Murray

Every Sunday, **John Costello** hosts "The Feast of Irish Music" on WROL 950 AM from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. I listen every Sunday, and I asked if he'd be interested in having an article written about him for *Branch 34's CLAN*. He agreed, and invited me and my seven-year old daughter, Jessica to come by the studio to see him at work.

Despite not having any formal broadcast training, John seamlessly works the board, takes requests and changes the CD's without missing a beat. He is joined by his two daughters, Eileen, 11, and Annie, 8, whom he calls "The Lovelies" on air. They are with him every Sunday, reading live commercials which, of course, are their favorite part of the show. And his son Aidan is a Corporal in the Marine Corps, who he's obviously very proud of.

His love of Irish music was passed down from his parents, who listened to the "Irish Hit Parade" every Saturday on WROL, which is still on. As everyone who listens to his show knows, he loves Irish history, and songs that celebrate Irish Republican heroes. To that end, he wraps up every show with, "The Role of Honor," which celebrates the 10 Hunger Strikers from 1981 who gave their lives for Irish Independence.



Dorchester Center Letter Carrier John Costello receives requests during his shift at WROL during the "Feast of Irish Music" he hosts every Sunday.

About four years ago, John got a job at the Irish Social Club in West Roxbury bartending, and booking bands. From there, he was recruited by WROL to fill in on the "Irish Hit Parade." They liked him so much; they created this show for him.

In that year, John has interviewed some great Irish musicians, like Brian Warfield of The Wolf Tones. But he said the highlight of his new career has been raising awareness and money for charity. In May, he helped raise over \$40,000 for "Lucy's Love Bus," which comforts kids with cancer. He's helped raise money for other charities such as Irish Hearts for Orphans, My Brother's Keeper and Fisher House of Boston.

John has always been a good friend, and co-worker, and that pretty much sums him up right there, a guy who's always willing to lend a helping hand, whether it's to one of his customers, a fellow carrier, or kids stricken with cancer. I wish him great success at his new job, and hopefully he'll be on the air for many years to come.

We have Letter Carriers in Branch 34 doing things that positively impact people, and their communities. If you have a special story about a brother or sister, please contact the hall so we can share it in an upcoming edition. Thanks!



Dorchester Center Letter Carrier John Costello poses with "The Lovelies," his daughters Annie (in front) and Eileen. They help him read announcements during the show.



Annie Costello reads an announcement during the "Feast of Irish Music" hosted by her father, John at WROL Sunday mornings.



Branch 34 Secretary-Treasurer Michael Murray hangs out with the host of the "Feast of Irish Music" and Dorchester Center Letter Carrier John Costello in the WROL studios.



Eileen (back) and Annie Costello (right) show Branch 34's Secretary-Treasurer Michael Murray's daughter Jessica (front, left) around the WROL studio.



Eileen Costello goes over copy with her dad, Dorchester Center Letter Carrier John Costello in the WROL studios.

