



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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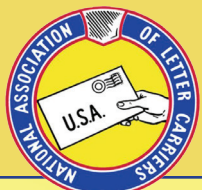
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

# BRANCH 34's CLAN

CELEBRATING 129 YEARS OF UNION PARTICIPATION AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS ★ 1890-2019

Upcoming Meetings

Please check out the dates, times and locations for all upcoming Membership Meetings on the **BRANCH 34 WEBSITE** at [nalcbranch34.com](http://nalcbranch34.com)



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## President's Report

### No April Fool's Joke!

I have my first few weeks completed and I'm getting acclimated to the job. I have had meetings with both the National Business Agent **Rick DiCecca** and the Postmaster **Nick Francescucci**. I asked the B.A. to please expedite the IMC-TACS deletion case as it has been delayed due to the Arbitrator being ill. That case should be heard during the Summer as the Arbitrator has a June return date. I have scheduled as much training as allowed for your Branch Officers and other qualified Branch Members. This training will include, but not limited to: OWCP, Formal A, Arbitration and Route Examinations. My plan is to eventually have every Branch Officer fully trained in at least two of these areas. All this will be completed to provide better representation to the Membership in a more expedited fashion. I also have asked the Postmaster to check into the conversions of CCAs in reference to the vacant positions in the district, as 26 or 27 months is way too long to be converted.

And now for the bad news. USPS Management at the National level has decided

that because the Postal Service is bleeding out in revenue losses from the poor decisions they have made over the past few years, with slight decreases in mail volumes and Amazon taking their packages away, (except the real heavy ones), that it is time to step up route inspections. Branch 34 has never been in the business of giving away routes and that will not change on my watch. Certain stations have made so called, "co-op deals," in the past only to be faced with another route inspection a year or 18 months later. In these circumstances, I have asked for multiple years before a return and the answer was "NO" to that request. All that route inspections do at this point in time is provide job security to management and eliminate Letter Carrier positions with a tainted picture of the routes in the station under scrutiny. The majority of all routes are now one hour in the office and seven hours in the street. This has increased the long- and short-term injuries suffered in the performance of the Letter Carrier job. Mostly all Letter Carriers who have over

20 years on this job are suffering with some kind of knee, hip or back pain. Longer routes are not the answer to this ever-increasing injury list.

So now you ask what can I do to remedy this or slow down the process? Nothing that you didn't already know. Right after you punch on in the morning grab a 3996 and fill it out if you think you have excessive volume for this day. Management's standard for casing mail is about 17 minutes a foot of mail. Most routes have a 30 to 35-minute fixed office time which includes your vehicle check, red cage trip, sweeps and other office duties assigned to your route. Most routes hover around an hour of office time, so now if you deduct the 30 to 35 minutes fixed office time you only have 20 to 30 minutes of office time to case your mail for an eight-hour day. That comes out to less than two feet of casing residual mail or any other type of

*(continued on page 2)*



**JERRY MCCARTHY**  
President

## Newly-Elected Branch 34 Officers Get Sworn-In!







## BRANCH 34 STATION STEWARDS

Allston.....	<b>Jack Gomes</b>
Arlington .....	<b>Gerald McCarthy</b> <b>Sean Mullet</b>
Auburndale .....	<b>Thomas Kierstead</b>
Back Bay .....	<b>Lucy Warren</b> <b>Mike McCormack</b>
Belmont.....	<b>Salvatore Celeste</b> <b>David D'Agostino</b>
Braintree DMU.....	<b>Richard Fraser</b> <b>Robert O'Donnell</b>
Brighton.....	<b>Roshon Butts</b>
Brookline .....	<b>Joseph DeMambro</b> <b>Dean Gonatas</b>
Cambridge - Central Sq.....	<b>William Wilkins</b> <b>Christopher Nolett</b>
Cambridge - Porter Sq.....	<b>William Cresitelli</b>
Cohasset.....	<b>Judi Aronson</b>
Chestnut Hill .....	<b>Thomas Conville</b>
Dorchester .....	Vacant
East Weymouth.....	<b>Artie Matthews</b>
Fenway.....	<b>Tony Cinelli</b>
Fields Corner.....	<b>James Hudson</b>
Fort Point.....	<b>Benny Faletta</b> <b>Thor Hellestedt</b>
Hingham/Hull.....	<b>Michael Bertrand</b>
Hyde Park .....	<b>Joseph DeBerardinis</b>
IMC - Chelsea.....	<b>William Lang</b>
IMC - East Boston.....	<b>Emelio Leone</b>
IMC - Winthrop.....	<b>John Fanning</b>
IMC - Everett.....	<b>Tom Ciulla</b>
IMC - Charlestown.....	Vacant
IMC - Somerville.....	<b>John Fucile</b>
Jamaica Plain .....	<b>Bernadette Romans</b> <b>Robert Damatin</b>
J.F.K. Station.....	<b>Robert Amirault</b> <b>Alex Taylor</b>
Kenmore.....	<b>Dan Abellard</b>
Lexington.....	<b>Tony Scrivano</b> <b>John Lucey</b>
Malden.....	<b>Laura Fahey</b> <b>Chris Dineen</b>
Mattapan.....	Vacant
Medfield.....	<b>Christopher Pacitti</b>
Medford.....	<b>Jon Holmberg</b> <b>Stephen White</b>
Milton.....	<b>Robert Leighton</b>
Needham.....	<b>Diane Butera</b> <b>Brian Senior</b>
Newton Centre.....	<b>David Ward</b>
Newton Highlands.....	Vacant
Newtonville .....	<b>Thomas Duff</b> <b>(A) Heidi White</b>
North Quincy.....	<b>Taylor Brooks</b>
North Weymouth.....	<b>Mike Davis</b>
Quincy.....	<b>John Ainsley</b> <b>Michael O'Connor</b>
Revere DMU.....	<b>David O'Connor</b>
Melrose.....	<b>Corrado Pani</b>
Roslindale.....	<b>Adam Difazio</b>
Roxbury .....	<b>John Galvin</b> <b>Keith Meredith</b> <b>Samie Smith</b>
Scituate.....	<b>Phyllis Monahan</b>
South Boston .....	<b>Michael Kidd</b>
So. Weymouth.....	<b>Rusty Craven</b>
Stoneham.....	<b>Joseph Mangano</b> <b>Rich Farrell</b>
Waban.....	<b>Edward Walsh</b> <b>Colive Heaven</b>
Waltham.....	<b>William Huber</b>
Watertown.....	<b>Mark Lester</b>
Wellesley .....	<b>Kevin McMahon</b>
Wellesley Hills .....	<b>David Demarco</b>
West Newton .....	Vacant
West Roxbury .....	<b>Michael Walter</b> <b>Sandino Blaise</b>
Weymouth Landing.....	<b>Mario Venturelli</b>
Woburn.....	<b>Vigo Conte</b> <b>Fred Casey</b>
Wollaston.....	<b>Thomas Rooney, Jr.</b>

# Safety is What You Make of It!

As your Safety Representative for the Boston District I have had an opportunity over the last few months to visit some offices that have been having major issues with safety. Both Newtonville, and Brookline are offices where circumstances that are created by management impact the morale, and participation in the safety process. You can see the frustration on peoples faces, the negativity that stops people from wanting to have anything to do with making it a priority. We all know that management tries to avoid anything to do with safety when they deem it a waste of time. And the time we are talking about is them having to supply you with time for safety meetings, entering activities and actions in the safety tool kit, and having to train you to enter the activities and actions into said tool kit, peer observations, etc. All of these activities cost the Postal Service time in performing duties for postal operations, so it is easier to make it harder on you to participate in safety, and discourage the activities that are more important then the mail itself.

For these reasons alone it should be abundantly clear to all of us that it is once again our job as Letter Carriers to demand that safety be ever present in every office in Branch 34. Management is looking for the easy way out, and if they can get you and your coworkers to disavow safety, all they have to do is inform the fourth floor no one wants to participate, and that's why we don't have safety in that office.

As you move along in your career you will hear one phrase time and again that makes management successful in their endeavors to get things the way they want them, and that is, "we are our own worst enemy."

Why do you think they make it so hard sometimes to have safety, and it's simply this: to discourage you from asking for time. That is why we have to see beyond the frustration, negativity, and the roadblocks that they put in place, and insist on making the place that we work, the safest it can be.

And believe me, I feel your frustration, but if I don't know about it, I can't help your office. Most of the

time I stumble across somebody at a union meeting just having a conversation, or another Officer is visiting an office for an entirely different reason, and it's mentioned in passing. I wanted to reach out in this article to let people know that your safety, and the safety of those in your office is the priority of every Branch Officer in this union. We work too hard to have safety conditions in our offices, on the street, or in postal vehicles be anything less than safe.

If you're having problems starting a safety team, not receiving time for your safety team to function, or you are running into a management team that does everything to avoid providing time for safety, and all the activities that come with it, you need to act. If your Union Steward in your office is unaware of the situation, make it a point to let them know, and ask them to address the situation with management. If the problems persists, your Union Steward, or yourself can call the Union Hall, and let us know what you're facing out there. If an Officer comes into your office, take them aside for a minute and let them know what's going on, and what you're running up against. By networking in this way we can apply the necessary pressure on management to get them to comply with your safety needs.

Safety in your office is unconditional, should be a common every day occurrence, from safety talks, safety meetings, and all the other activities that are essential to create a safe work environment for all of us. If not, let's work together to get your office on the right track for safety.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the membership for giving me the opportunity to serve as your new Financial Secretary for the next three years. It was my pleasure to be your Editor of "Branch 34's CLAN," and I will continue to work hard to serve all our Brothers and Sisters.



**BOBBY DAMATIN**  
Financial Secretary

## President's Report...

(continued from page 1)

caseable mail. If you are or have thrown mail off the clock, now is the time to stop. All that work does not show up anywhere on the route data. The big question I have is why would anyone want to do this job for free? If you are requesting overtime for excessive parcels they are not fully counted on Management's data until they are all up being thrown, and the data is updated by Management. If Management gives you the backtalk of, "I will see you in the street," the perfect answer to that remark is, "Where else would I be?"

Losing routes affects so much more than just your daily work load. It affects the allowances for annual leave or carriers allowed off per week. It affects the conversion of CCAs, as there are less positions for them to be converted into. I am

in the process of getting another Route Inspection Team trained and hopefully that will be completed by the fall. **Mike Gorham** and **Richie Galvin** do a great job, but they cannot be in two places at the same time. I can imagine the grievance activity will increase in reference to route inspections, and how they are conducted. As I stated earlier in this article, I am preparing for this with additional training of your Branch Officers and numerous others. I will use what ever means I have at my disposal to fight back this attack on our jobs.

In closing, I would like to thank all the members of Branch 34 for electing me to represent you for the next three years. It will be my honor to do so, and you will get my best every day in return.

## Massachusetts Congressional Delegation

### U.S. SENATE

**The Honorable Elizabeth Warren**  
Hart Senate Office Bldg., Rm. 317  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
202-224-4543 Fax: 202-224-2417  
www.warren.senate.gov

**The Honorable Edward J. Markey**  
Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Rm. 218  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
202-224-2742 Fax: 202-224-8525  
www.markey.senate.gov

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**The Honorable Richard E. Neal**  
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Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-5601 Fax: 202-225-8112  
neal.house.gov

#### Second Congressional District

**The Honorable James P. McGovern**  
Cannon House Office Bldg., Rm. 408  
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202-225-6101 Fax: 202-225-5759  
mcgovern.house.gov

#### Third Congressional District

**The Honorable Lori Trahan**  
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trahan.house.gov

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kennedy.house.gov

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#### Fifth Congressional District

**The Honorable Katherine Clark**  
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202-225-2836 Fax: 202-226-0092  
katherineclark.house.gov

Represented Communities: Arlington, Belmont, Framingham, Lexington, Lincoln, Malden, Medford, Natick, Revere, Stoneham, Waltham, Watertown, Wayland, Weston, Winchester, Winthrop, Woburn

#### Sixth Congressional District

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202-225-8020 Fax: 202-225-5915  
moulton.house.gov

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**The Honorable Ayanna Pressley**  
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202-225-5111 Fax: 202-225-9322  
pressley.house.gov

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keating.house.gov

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# Retirement Information

Whether you're eligible to retire or years away from retirement here's a few things you should know about the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS):

FERS covers every employee hired after January 1, 1984. Prior to that the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) covered federal employees. Most of our brothers and sisters covered by the CSRS have already retired, so I'll focus on the FERS. There are three components to the FERS:

- **Basic Benefit Plan**  
(+ Special Annuity Supplement)
- **Social Security**
- **Thrift Savings Plan**  
(up to 5% matching)

The **Basic Benefit Plan** is a defined amount you'll receive every month. The amount depends on how long you work. Annuitants receive 1% for every year they work (1.1% if you're 62 or older and have at least 20 years of service). That 1% is based off of your high three years of salary (sorry it doesn't include OT). So, if you

retired today as a Grade 1 carrier with 35 years of service your high three average would be \$61,874 and your annuity would be \$1,805 a month.

Depending on when you were born you can retire anywhere from age 55 to 57. Obviously, you can work as long as you'd like but if you're looking for early parole that's your minimum retirement age (MRA). For everyone born after 1969 your MRA is 57. I know what you're thinking "I won't be able to afford early parole on that amount."

But there's more; for those who retire voluntarily at their MRA but prior to turning 62 the FERS has a supplemental annuity. Which is essentially a bridge to get you from your MRA to age 62 when you'll be able to collect your Social Security. You don't have to collect your Social Security at age 62 but the supplemental annuity ends at 62 regardless of what you decide to do. I know what you're thinking "how much will I get?"

Unfortunately, It's a formula that's not uniform so I can't give you an exact amount. That formula is:

## Knowledge Is Power, Misinformation Is Toxic!

Hello! My name is **Ross Murray** and I am honored to be your new *Branch 34's CLAN* Editor! I have been a carrier in the Boston District for over five years now. My career began the same way as many new carriers have started recently, as a CCA.

During my early days, I remember being bombarded with an extreme workload, and being sent to numerous stations. I remember being given instructions by management that didn't seem to be contractually correct but I didn't know where to turn to in order to get the right information.

Turns out, many carriers have this problem. Many of them wind up going through improper avenues in order to obtain information that may not be entirely accurate or just plain false. Whether it be

from other co-workers, social media websites, or even Management, all of whom can wind up easily leading you astray.

One example of this was a manager who went around saying that CCAs were not permitted to put in for opts/hold-downs on vacant routes. Nonsense! This is plainly written in the contract, yet it did not stop this rumor from being spread.

Want to know the right way to get information? Get it from your Shop Steward or Branch Officers! Read the J-CAM and know your rights. And most of all, stay tuned to this award-winning paper.



**ROSS MURRAY**  
"Branch 34's CLAN" Editor

### MDA Corner

## Bowl-A-Thon Raises \$3,410

Branch 34's Annual Bowl-A-Thon was held on March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Woburn Bowladrome and it was a huge success. 113 bowlers raised \$3,410 for MDA!

We'd like to give a special thank you to all of our lane sponsors:

Shapiro Associates	\$200
UOE Local #4	\$200
NALC Branch 55, Lincoln, RI	\$100
NALC Branch 46, Springfield, MA	\$100
George Adams, Branch 34	\$50
Ronald Gordon, Branch 34	\$50
NALC Branch 19, New Haven, CT	\$50
NALC Branch 25	\$100

Also, I'd like to thank the following for donating raffle prizes:

Boston Bruins Alumni Association	Poster
Casey's, Somerville	Gift Certificate
Roxbury PO	Gift Package & Scrub a Dub Gift Certificate
Woburn Bowladrome	Two Gift Certificates
Malden PO	Gift Basket
Hingham/Hull	Two Gift Certificates
Belmont PO	Gift Basket
Fort Point	Gift Certificate

The Gangi family, who owns the Woburn Bowladrome, were great! They took good care of us and some of their family works for the PO so we were made to feel right at home. And many thanks to all the bowlers who showed up and to everyone who volunteered.

Fraternally,  
George Adams  
Branch 34 MDA Chairman  
Dominic Corsetti  
Branch 34 MDA Bowlathon Chairman

See Branch 34 Bowl-A-Thon for MDA photos on page 5.



**MICHAEL MURRAY**  
Secretary-Treasurer

Get Social Security estimate of projected age-62 benefit

Multiply by years of FERS coverage (rounded to nearest whole number)

DO NOT INCLUDE BANKED SICK LEAVE, MILITARY, ETC.

Divide by 40

The NALC gives the following example, if the employee's estimated full career Social Security benefit would be \$1,000 and he or she worked 30 years under FERS, OPM would divide 30 by 40 (.75) and multiply (\$1,000 x .75 = \$750).

You can get your Social Security estimate by logging onto the Social Security website at <https://www.ssa.gov/>. I just did my estimate and at 62 it was considerably higher than \$1,000. My estimate was \$1,827 at 62 and I would have to work 34 years to reach my MRA. So divide 34 by 40 (.85) and multiply that by \$1,827 = \$1,552.95. And early parole is within sight!

**Social Security** is the second part of the FERS benefit package. You can log onto the website above or wait for your statement in the mail to see how much your estimate is.

The third part of our FERS benefit is the **Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)**. Which is kind of like a 401(k). The amount an annuitant will receive from the TSP depends on a number of factors, such as: how much the employee contributes, what funds they invest in and the performance of those funds in the stock market.

No one has to participate in the TSP, it's completely voluntarily. But even if you don't choose to participate the PO will contribute 1% of your basic pay to the TSP. If you do decide to contribute, the PO will match 100 percent of the first 3% of basic pay you contribute. And match you 50% for the next two percent you contribute. To make that easy, if you contribute 5% of your basic pay it'll be equal to 10% of your basic pay. And you can invest it however you'd like.

There is a common misperception concerning the TSP and the penalty for withdrawing money before you are 59 1/2. That was addressed at the seminar:

*If you receive a TSP withdrawal payment before you reach age 59 1/2, in addition to the regular income tax, you may have to pay an early withdrawal penalty tax equal to 10% of any taxable portion of the payment that is not transferred or rolled over.*

*However, if you separate from service during or after the year you reach age 55... then the 10% early withdrawal penalty tax does not apply.*

Retirement benefits are like any of the other benefits we enjoy today brothers and sisters. They weren't given to you they were fought for and won. The Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) took 150 years to get signed into law in 1920. And the day after it got signed into law I'm sure there was someone working on trying to take it away. It's been almost a hundred years since we won retirement benefits and there are plenty of very rich and powerful people looking to strip us of them. Only through vigilance and political engagement can we protect them for ourselves and the next generation of letter carriers.

On a personal note, thank you to all of the brothers and sisters who took the time to vote this past election. I appreciate all of the support the membership has given me in the past and I promise to keep representing you to the best of my ability.

BOSTON, MA  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

## BRANCH 34's CLAN

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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**

**BEST ORGANIZED - LARGE BRANCH**  
First Place, 2018  
First Place (tie), 2014

**GENERAL EXCELLENCE - LARGE BRANCH PUBLICATIONS - MORE THAN 1,500 MEMBERS**  
First Place, 2018  
First Place, 2016  
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 EDITORIAL OR COLUMN**  
Honorable Mention, 2016

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

**BEST CARTOON OR PHOTO**  
First Place, 2006

**PROMOTING UNIONISM**  
First Place, 2018  
Third Place, 2018  
Third Place, 1992  
Judges' Commendation, 1988

**BEST WEBSITE**  
First Place, 2018

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**Ross Murray, Editor**  
**Jerry McCarthy, Associate Editor**  
**Bob Simpson, Associate Editor**

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# Branch 34 Salutes Its Retirees

## Wellesley Square's Bruce Williams



The Wellesley Square crew says farewell to Bruce Williams.



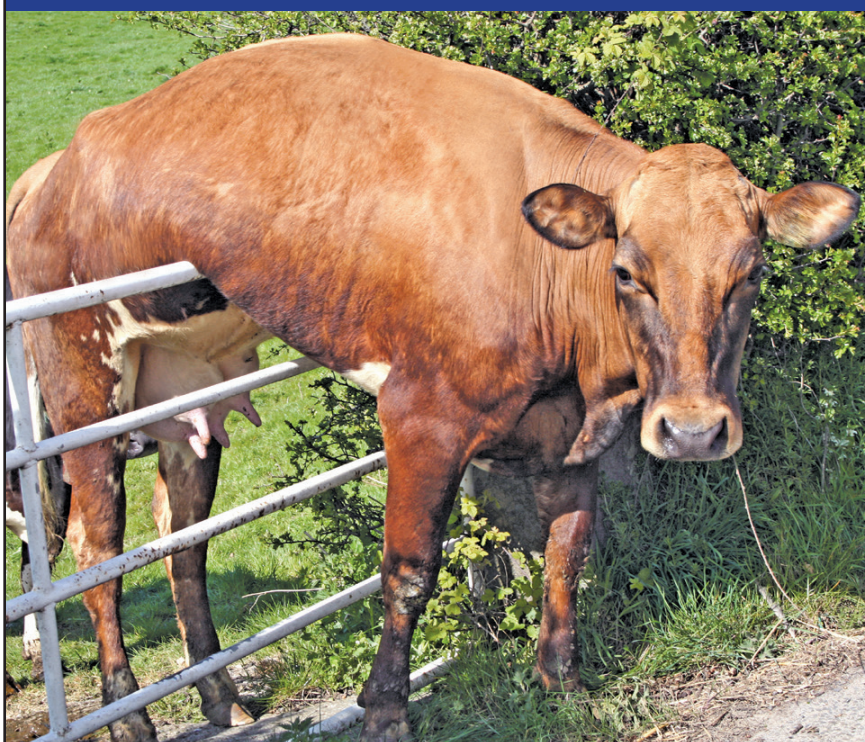
Wellesley Square Shop Steward Mark Lester and Branch 34 President Jerry McCarthy congratulates Bruce Williams on his well-deserved retirement.

## JFK's Tony Tran and Bobby Hickey



The JFK Station says goodbye to Tony Tran and Bobby Hickey.

THINKING ABOUT  
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# Branch 34's Bowl-A-Thon Raises Funds for MDA



Let me start off by thanking everyone who participated in the 2019 Bowling for MDA. The response was tremendous. Bowling raised over \$3,500 and we are well on our way to surpass last year's donation to the MDA for the year. Lots of ideas came forth for next year's event. We will see what happens over the next few months. Again, we want to thank everyone who bowled, donated prizes, time and anything else. We've missed too many people to remember!

Thanks again!

—Domenic Corsetti and George Adams  
Branch 34 MDA Bowling Coordinators



# Greetings From the Birthplace of American Liberty – Lexington, MA

First off, I'd like to thank all of you who voted for me. It's an honor and a privilege to be selected by a group of my peers to represent them. Thank You!

Secondly, I urge everyone to read the contract (or the J-CAM). The J-CAM is basically the contract with layman's terms in subtext and in many cases, it is pertinent rulings that apply. There is no excuse! It's literally at your fingertips. Go to [NALC.org](http://NALC.org) and from the homepage click on [workplace resources](#) and it's right there. **START IT TODAY!**

With that said...Sir Francis Bacon

wrote in 1597, "*IPSA SCIENTIA POTESTAS EST*," which translated from Latin is: *Knowledge is Power*. I firmly believe knowledgeable letter carriers can be a powerful force. You can either sit on your hands or raise them!!!

Third...I urge everyone to begin attending Union meetings. They are currently being held at the James P. McKeon AMVETS Post 146, 4 Hilltop St., Dorchester Center 02124. I remember going to meetings years ago in Charlestown and there were 200 carriers there. Now we struggle to reach 50. This needs to

change. I know what you're thinking. It's in downtown Boston and the traffic sucks, but think of it this way – it's only once a month! You'll have firsthand knowledge of the issues that currently face us. You'll put some faces to those names and you'll meet some amazing people! I know I did. Some of them asked me to run on their team! In order to make the meetings I suggest each of you put in for an hour (or so) of annual or submit a PS Form 3189 Temporary Change of Schedule Form (so you are not forced). There's free pizza and soda and free parking across the street.

In closing... Whether you like it or not (*like me*) you are a letter carrier and you have the power to make a change!!!

I leave you with this:  
*And these children that you spit on....  
 As they try to change their worlds....  
 Are immune to your consultations....  
 They're quite aware of what they're going through.....*

– David Bowie...Changes



**JOHN LUCEY**  
Area Steward

## What Does Safety Mean to Management in the Boston District?

First and foremost, I would personally like to thank the membership of NALC Branch 34 on electing me for the position of Area Steward. I take great pride in being a union steward and I will always give every case I handle my best effort for the brothers and sisters of Branch 34. Now to the topic of this article

on what does safety mean to management and more importantly, what does it mean for letter carriers.

Management continuously preaches to letter carriers **SAFETY FIRST**. They have no issue giving Letter Carriers 14-day suspensions for safety related incidents without any prior discipline on

file. I have seen these 14-day suspensions numerous times in my career being a union steward.

What does **SAFETY** mean to management in the Boston District regarding providing letter carriers the proper training? My response would be nothing. Management would rather save overtime costs than provide the workforce with proper training. In addition to being caught manipulating employees work hours, guess what? Management has been caught manipulating employees' records, **SAFETY** records to boot, not just in our installation but, throughout the Boston District.

Letter Carriers were required to partake in a thirty-minute computer course on Identifying and Handling **HAZARDOUS** Materials by 1/31/19. I received an email on 4/4/19 with an Excel spreadsheet. I investigated my office, IMC in Chelsea. The spreadsheet states that approximately 160 Letter Carriers completed the course on 2/11/19 at 7:30 a.m. This is not only comical but impossible as well because the start time for letter carriers at the IMC is 8:00am. With assistance from the other stewards in my office, **John Fanning** and **Emilio Leone**, we began to question carriers on the issue. Did they take the computer training and if they were at work on 2/11/19? One carrier informed us that he was enjoying a vacation in Punta Cana on 2/11/19. Another carrier, who is not on the overtime desired list, was NS. He was at home making breakfast for his children at that time. Management continuously expels verbal lies and forges electronic documents about safety training. Blatant lies on their part. This places not only letter carriers in danger, but the customers we provide daily service to as well. Failure to do so places letter carriers and the community in danger.

What must happen for management to **STOP** manipulating employees' records? Serious injuries or even death? Unfortunately, this has not been the case. No tragic accident that has occurred or unforeseeable circumstance will alter the mindset of management. Required safety training is imperative for letter carriers

and the customers we serve.

Management Instruction EL-810-2006-3 provides:

**Postal Service Definition**  
**Hazardous**

material is any article or substance designated by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) as being capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety, and property during transportation. In international commerce, hazardous materials are known as "dangerous goods."

– *Domestic Mail Manual*

Management has failed to provide the proper training on Identifying and Handling Hazardous Materials to numerous letter carriers in the Branch 34 installation and the Boston District. If any letter carrier has not participated in the thirty-minute computer course on Identifying and Handling Hazardous Materials, please contact your steward **OR** call the union hall immediately. A grievance can and will be filed. Your **SAFETY** matters to me.



**JOHN FUCILE**  
Area Steward

## Congratulations to Woburn's Wayne McCue on Being Inducted to Sugarbush's Wall of Fame!

I personally, would like to thank all my fellow carriers who took the time to come out and supported me during this election process. I would especially like to thank **Jerry McCarthy, Bob Simpson, Bernadette Romans, and Bobby Damatin** for their help and support along the way. I am both humbled and honored that you have placed your confidence and support in electing me as area steward. Thank you very much!

I would like to congratulate fellow 40+ year carrier **Wayne McCue** on being inducted to Sugarbush's first Wall of Fame! Growing up in Woburn, as

a young boy Wayne found the love of skiing at a young age. Wayne was gifted enough to have a ski lift his parents built in his very own backyard. He has been skiing Sugarbush since 1974! McCue was given the name "Castle Rock" for being the only person to have skied in every castle rock extreme in Sugarbush since 1997.



**DAVE O'CONNOR**  
Area Steward



Wayne McCue of Woburn was one of the first honorees onto the Sugarbush Resort "Wall of Fame!"

## Thanks and Take Care!

I would like to thank the membership for electing me to a fourth term as trustee. The warm weather is coming so remember to use sunscreen and stay hydrated. Take Care.



**DAN O'CONNOR**  
Trustee

## Thanks and I'm Honored to Serve

Hello Branch 34 members. I want to thank all members of Branch 34 who voted in this past election.

I want to congratulate all the newly-elected officials and I am proudly honored to represent all members as their newly elected (Sergeant-At-Arms) official in this Branch in a positive professional way. Thanks again.



**DAN KELLY**  
Sergeant-at-Arms

### 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.

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

**NALC BRANCH 34  
 SUPPORTS YOU!**



# A Message From Your NBA Rick DiCecca

I would like to first take this opportunity to congratulate the newly-elected board of officers. The NBA's office is committed to assisting the members and officers of Branch 34 in every way possible. We will continue to offer contract, workers compensation and advocacy training when requested.

On April 11<sup>th</sup> I visited with President **Jerry McCarthy** in the Branch 34's office, Woburn, to discuss our commitment to working together in order to making a difference in every letter carriers daily struggles.

I want to thank the exiting officers for their support and friendship over the years. I know they will continue to stay involved as it is almost impossible to walk

away from doing what one loves to do.

On a final note I would like to welcome **Kevin Flaherty** to the NBA's office. Although Kevin will be working directly for President **Fred Rolando** in his new position, (RGA) Regional Grievance Assistant, he will be working from his office at the NBA's office in West Roxbury. Congratulations Kevin.



**RICHARD J. "RICK" DICECCA**  
National Business Agent

*In True Unionism,  
Rick DiCecca*

## In Memoriam

**Timur Amirkhanov**  
Active Member – Jamaica Plain

**Tom Kelly**  
Retired Member – South Boston

\* Denotes Gold Card Member

Rest in Peace

# Apply NOW for the 2019 Boston Branch 34 Letter Carriers Scholarship Program

The National Association of Letter Carriers has always sought in every way possible to foster the well-being of its Members. To that end, your Joseph P. Considine Branch 34 has established a scholarship program to help qualified students among the children of our Members – active, retired or deceased.

Each year, six (6) one-year college scholarships carrying stipends of \$1,000 each will be awarded by a committee of Boston area educators to the highest ranking candidates. Academic and personal promise will be their only criteria. No Member of the National Association of Letter Carriers will be involved in the decisions in any manner.

Winners of a Branch 34 Letter Carriers Scholarship must attend an accredited two- or four-year college or university offering a course of instruction leading to bachelor's degree. The scholarship award will be sent in the student's name, payable to the college at which he/she is enrolled. The stipend will be credited to the recipient's account and used in accordance with the scholarship policy of the college.

### MAIL TO:

Bernard Pekala  
Chairman, Scholarship Selection Committee  
44 Old Stage Coach Road  
Bedford, MA 01730-1247

### Application for 2019 Branch 34 Letter Carrier Scholarship

Please print or type all entries except for signature

National Association of Letter Carriers  
Joseph P. Considine Branch No. 34, AFL-CIO

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Secondary School attended: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Secondary School: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Scholastic Aptitude Test Scores (if already taken)

Critical Reading: \_\_\_\_\_ Math: \_\_\_\_\_ Written: \_\_\_\_\_

Scholastic Aptitude Test Date(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent who is a Member or Deceased Member of Branch #34: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Thank You! Thank You!

First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to **THANK** all the members of Branch 34, for entrusting me and electing me as an Area Steward to represent **YOU** and **YOUR INTERESTS**. I am truly humbled, and I promise that I will continue to represent you with the respect, dignity and professionalism each one of you deserves!!!

I would like to take the time to give two Carriers in the Malden P.O. a round of applause, as both **Ken Mayo** and **Billy Zampitella** helped to get medical attention for elderly customers on their routes. In the first case the mail was piling up and the Management company was summoned to help and in the other case cries for help received a call to 9-1-1 and the woman was comforted while waiting until the EMT's arrived!!!

With that I would also like to applaud and Thank all the Letter Carriers of Branch 34, who on a daily basis make a difference in their communities even if when no credit is given, and no one knows of these good deeds!!! We have helped the elderly carry heavy bags, helped a child across the street, or held a door for the parent with a stroller!!! We have helped by calling the Police when we see something out of place, a crime taking place, or notify

the Fire Department when we smell smoke!!! The thing is we really don't want credit for any of it because as Letter Carriers, it's kind of just part of what we do.



**LAURA WOOD FAHEY**  
Area Steward

Also, Thank you, to all those Brothers and Sisters, who once home, continue to be part of the community as Coaches, CCD teachers, mentors for kids, and so many other unsung contributions!!

And let us not forget all the Letter Carriers of Branch 34 participating in the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Food Drive, which is nothing less than amazing!!! Again, **THANK YOU** for being part of the community. Your efforts to collect non-perishable items, while delivering mail helps feed countless families in need!! The generosity and compassion of Letter Carriers is something to be extremely proud of and is second to none!!!

Thank you **ALL**, and **ALL** you do!!!

## Don't Be A **SCAB!**

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

### Back Bay

THOMAS N. CONCANNON  
CHRISTOPHER A. DOUGLAS  
ROBERT A. ROMIKITIS

### Braintree

MOLLY LONG

### Brookline

CHRISTINE M. BAILEY  
LINDA M. HAZELL  
JINTAEK LEE..... CCA

### Cambridge - Porter Square

BLANCA I. TEEBAGY

### Chestnut Hill

DAVID L. BROWN..... CCA

### Chelsea Carrier Annex (IMC)

SANDRA GIORDANO

### Fenway

BEVERLY A. SCANLON

### Fort Point

WAYNE J. CHIN

### Hingham-Hull

MARK J. DION

### Malden

EILEEN M. FINN

### Medford

GERALD M. LYLES

### Milton

CHARLES S. ROSEN

### Needham

TAMI L. JOHNSON

### Newton Highlands

SIMON CHAN..... CCA  
ROBIN I. DEVITTO

### Scituate

KAREN M. LYNCH

### Stoneham

TINA M. DOHERTY

### Waltham

DAVID BAHM  
JOSEPH REGNA..... CCA

**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!**





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