



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 130 YEARS OF UNION PARTICIPATION AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS ★ 1890-2020

Upcoming Meetings

Please check out the dates, times and locations for all upcoming Membership Meetings on the **BRANCH 34 WEBSITE** at nalcbranch34.com



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

New 24/7 Branch 34 Emergency Number
781-420-0950

Link to Branch 34 Website



President's Report

Not Out of the Woods Yet!

Let's start out with some good news! All route inspections have been cancelled for the month of September and there is a good possibility that the entire Fall schedule could follow. COVID-19 is not beneficial to route inspections. I'm really hoping that we return to a sense of normalcy soon and one event to help put this back on track is the Retiree Luncheon has been rescheduled for May 16th, 2021.

As of the writing of this Article we have had 248 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Boston District, and this is up from 187 on June 9th, 2020. Management is currently in a holding pattern with their dealings with this deadly disease. The major complaint out of the offices that have had positive(s) is the cleaning of these sites or the lack thereof. When the Coronavirus first invaded the Boston District the first positive was in Braintree. Braintree received a deep cleaning under the supervision and active participation of Postmaster Leroy Middleton. Let's use JFK as an example: During the week of August 24th, the JFK Station had three positives and an additional two employees were quarantined. The remaining employees were deeply concerned to say the least. There was no additional deep cleaning done after this outbreak.

One of JFK's employees decided to take some action to attempt to lower the stress, anxiety and fear of just coming in to do your job. Letter Carrier **Phil Tammaro** followed up with a company that totally disinfects buildings using the newer technology that is being used in schools and airplane cleaning. This cleaning kills all pathogens in less than one minute and in an updated article on Yahoo news, in some cases the area is still pathogen free a week later. The cost of this technology is the same or less than what the Postal Service is doing if they bring in a cleaning crew on a Sunday. After this disinfectant cleaning is done, general maintenance will keep these pathogens at bay. The other benefit of this cleaning is the psychological side, employees will be more willing to return to work knowing that the USPS is doing all they can to safeguard their employees. Managements plan is to begin attendance reviews and deal with Non-COVID related absences with corrective action. Discipline is not the vaccine we need.

Management has definitely become lax on their preventative measures to stop the spread of the Coronavirus. CCAs are still being sent from station to station when management deems it necessary to move the mail that they have been responsible for delaying in the first place. Information that was being sent to the unions is being delayed by Management concerning positives and

corrective measures being taken after a positive in a particular station.

Management has the opportunity to get a jump on this Crisis, but they are not taking the appropriate actions. After five people are put out in a station as a result of the Coronavirus it is too late for those employees, but you can prevent the future contamination to the remaining employees working in that station. Where have staggered start times gone? Staggered start times, rotating week to week was a great idea, but this only can work if the latest start time is 8 AM. Management has caved in due to political pressure and changed start times again to coincide with the all up bell in each individual station. Machines to sort the mail have been dismantled or shut down. These same machines only a decade ago were going to save the Postal Service allowing for more efficiency and reduce the number of employees needed to move the mail. The Postal Service has shown all through the Month of August that they have no issues with delaying the mail, so let's have an all up bell every day at the same time.

Any mail sorted after this time is the next days mail and sell any late priority packages for overtime or a CCA with a late start of say 10 AM. Carriers working till 9 or 10 PM has to stop. This is not brain surgery so let's not make it that way. How is working till 9 PM going to work in January or February when it is 8 degrees outside? Carriers are exhausted from these current working conditions and then after a week or two they themselves have to take a sick day to heal up and charge the batteries. Your Branch officers will continue to field these issues and follow up with every Steward till this crisis passes.

As I'm typing up this article I am watching the 9/11 ceremony on the news. It has been 19 years since that faithful day and everyone still remembers exactly what they were doing and where they were. My thoughts and prayers go out to all the Victims and their Families both then and now.



GERALD (Jerry) MCCARTHY
President

Branch 34 Rallies in Malden and Cambridge to Save the U.S. Postal Service



Branch 34 President Jerry McCarthy with Area Steward Laura Wood Fahey and Malden residents. See more rally photos on page 9.



BRANCH 34 STATION STEWARDS

Allston.....	Gerardo Rosario
Arlington.....	Anthony Falco Sean Mullett
Auburndale.....	Thomas Keirstead
Back Bay.....	Lucy Warren John DiBlasi
Belmont.....	Salvatore Celeste David D'Agostino
Braintree DMU.....	Richard Fraser Robert O'Donnell
Brighton.....	Roshon Butts
Brookline.....	Joseph DeMambro Dean Gonatas
Cambridge - Central Sq.....	William Wilkins Robert Liberatore
Cambridge - Porter Sq.....	William Cresitelli John Dickenson
Cohasset.....	Judi Aronson
Chestnut Hill.....	Thomas Conville
Dorchester Center.....	Marc Babin
East Weymouth.....	Artie Matthews
Fenway.....	Tony Cinelli
Fields Corner.....	James Hudson
Fort Point.....	Benny Faletta Christopher Thompson
Hingham/Hull.....	Michael Bertrand
Hyde Park.....	Joseph DeBerardinis
IMC - Chelsea.....	William Lang
IMC - East Boston.....	Emelio Leone
IMC - Winthrop.....	John Fanning
IMC - Everett.....	Tom Ciulla
IMC - Charlestown.....	Vacant
IMC - Somerville.....	John Fucile
Jamaica Plain.....	Robert Damatin Charles Zimmerman
J.F.K. Station.....	Robert Amirault Alex Taylor
Kenmore.....	Dan Abellard
Lexington.....	Tony Scrivano John Lucey
Malden.....	Laura Fahey Chris Dineen
Mattapan.....	Fuming Chen
Medfield.....	Christopher Pacitti
Medford.....	Jon Holmberg Stephen White
Milton.....	Robert Leighton
Needham.....	Diane Butera Brian Senior
Newton Centre.....	David Ward
Newton Highlands.....	Shawn Tierney
Newtonville.....	Thomas Duff (A) Heidi White
North Quincy.....	Cathy Cooper
North Weymouth.....	Mike Davis
Quincy.....	Amy Baker Brendan Finn
Revere DMU.....	David O'Connor
Melrose.....	Vacant
Roslindale.....	Adam Difazio
Roxbury.....	John Galvin Keith Meredith
Grove Hall.....	Samie Smith
Scituate.....	Justin Vo
South Boston.....	Michael O'Connor
So. Weymouth.....	Rusty Craven
Stoneham.....	Joseph Mangano
Waban.....	Rich Farrell
Waltham.....	Edward Walsh Rick Nourse
Watertown.....	William Huber
Wellesley Square.....	Charles Iantosca
Wellesley Hills.....	Kevin McMahon
Weston.....	David Demarco
West Newton.....	Vacant
West Roxbury.....	Michael Walter Sandino Blaise
Weymouth Landing.....	Mario Venturelli
Woburn.....	Vigo Conte Richard Bucci
Wollaston.....	Thomas Rooney, Jr.

Know Your Rights!

Let me start off by saying, I hope you are all doing well and you continue to be safe, considering the uncertain times still in front of us. Please remember as easy as it may be, DO NOT let your guards down, we still need to protect ourselves from COVID-19. Each day remember to take all necessary steps to ensure your safety by washing your hands as often as possible and keeping facial coverings on when unable to social distance. It is up to you to put yourself first, because the Postal Service will not. They **DO NOT** care about you that's why it's important for **YOU** to keep yourself safe. Management will have you believing everything is back to business as usual---Just ask them. Stay safe Sisters and Brothers.

Weingarten Rights

Prior to employees being disciplined by management, generally they will be given a pre-disciplinary interview (PDI) or an investigatory interview (II) by management. If you are given one of these interviews, there is no doubt your supervisor or manager is looking for information to use against you so they can issue you discipline. All letter carriers, including CCAs (regardless of how long they have been employed) have Weingarten Rights, which means you have the right to have a union steward present during a meeting in which management asks you questions that could lead to discipline. Stewards can assist you in any investigation by management and help ensure you get your "day in court." If called to a meeting with management, U.S. postal inspectors, or an Office of Inspector General (OIG) agent, read the following statement to the person you are meeting with before the meeting starts: "If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or affect my personal working conditions, I respectfully request that my union representative, officer, or steward be present at this meeting. Without my Union representation present, I respectfully choose not to answer any questions or participate in this discussion." U.S. postal inspectors are federal law enforce-

ment officers who carry firearms, make arrests, execute federal search warrants, and serve subpoenas. Inspectors work with U.S. Attorneys' Office, other law enforcement, and local prosecutors to investigate cases and prepare them for court. Inspectors throughout the country enforce roughly 200 federal laws related to crimes that adversely affect or entail fraudulent use of the U.S. Mail, the postal system, postal employees, and customers. Office of Inspector General (OIG) agents are utilized by the Postal Service to investigate internal crimes and frauds against the Postal Service. These agents conduct investigations in areas such as: • Contract Fraud • Financial Fraud • Healthcare Fraud • Internal Mail Theft • Official Misconduct • Technical Investigations • Special Inquiries • Whistleblower/Reprisals OIG agents also investigate bribery, kickbacks, extortion, conflicts of interest, and allegations against Postal Service executives. In addition, the Office of Investigations combats fraud and theft through the Countermeasures Directorate's crime prevention efforts. Weingarten Rights have been afforded to employees because of federal labor law which was created in the U.S. Supreme Court ruling *NLRB v. Weingarten, INC.*, 420 U.S. 251 (1975). After that ruling from 1975, it created what is known as the Weingarten rule, giving each employee the right to representation during any investigatory interview which he or she reasonably believes may lead to discipline. This rule applies during any investigatory interview - whether management is searching for facts and trying to determine the employee's guilt or deciding whether or not to impose discipline. These questions could be posed during a closed door meeting, through text messaging, a phone conversation or through an informal conversation at the supervisor's desk. In any situation, if the employee reasonably believes that discipline could result, they have Weingarten representation rights. Whether or not an employee's belief is "reasonable" depends on the circumstances of each case. Some cases are obvious, such as when a supervisor asks an employee whether he

discarded deliverable mail. Generally, if you are asked a question concerning something you allegedly did wrong, you should reasonably believe that discipline could result and you should request a steward. The steward cannot exercise Weingarten Rights on the employee's behalf. And unlike "Miranda Rights" which involve criminal investigations, the employer is not required to inform the employee of the Weingarten right to representation. You must ask for representation. You can ask at any point during an interview, even if you didn't ask for it in the beginning. No matter how smart you think you are, no matter how innocent you are, you should never under any circumstances participate in an investigative interview without a steward present. Employees also have the right under Weingarten to a pre-interview consultation with a steward or other union representative. Federal courts have extended this right to pre-meeting consultations to cover Inspection Service interrogations as well. No matter who is questioning you, if you believe the questioning could lead to discipline, then you have the right to have union representation present during the line of questioning. In a Weingarten interview the employee has the right to a steward's assistance, not just a silent presence. The employer would violate an employee's Weingarten Rights if it refused to allow the representative to speak or tried to restrict the steward to the role of a passive observer. Although postal employees are required to cooperate with postal investigations, the carrier still has the right under Weingarten to have a steward present before answering questions. In the event a steward is not made readily available or if a steward is not present after you have asked for one, you may respond that you will be happy to cooperate in any investigation, but you will only answer questions once a steward is provided. All of the above information can be found in the Joint Contract Administration Manual.



BERNADETTE ROMANS
Vice President

Taking the "DeJoy" Out of the Postal Service

You can say a lot of things about the new postmaster **Louis DeJoy**, but boring is not one of them. At no time in the history of this organization we call the United States Postal Service has one individual captured the attention of an entire nation, (or at least not since Benjamin Franklin). This bull in a china shop has hit the ground running in the midst of a global pandemic that has contributed to paralyzing the world's economy. Calling for the closure of Post Offices, being accused of removing thousands of ballot boxes, (I mean blue mailboxes), ordering the dismantling of hundreds of millions of dollars of automated machinery, eliminating tons and tons of wing cases from carrier units, and in a matter of three months has amassed more frequent flyer miles to the nation's capital than anyone else in the country! And if that's not enough, he owns stock in companies that do business with us, and is now being accused of political corruption at his company where he was CEO. Wow, now that's a calling card!

And as bad as this may look with the irreparable damage that he could inflict on this agency, not since the Great Strike of 1970 have postal unions been presented a once in a generation platform to spell out to the American public the problems with this organization, emphasize our value and importance to America, and its economy.

Most of us, on a daily basis, have been

fielding questions from family, friends, and customers asking us what is going on with the USPS. Will you keep your job? Are you going to be laid off? Is the election process going to be corrupted by delayed ballots? Is the Postal Service going to close down?

De Joy has many controversial affiliations that taint the position he now holds. And his ownership and investments are in direct conflict with being postmaster of this agency. He still retains \$30 to \$75 million dollar equity of his company, XPO Logistics, which is also a contractor to the USPS. He has been a huge donor to the current President, and was recently the Republican National Committee's money man in North Carolina. He divested himself of stock in United Parcel Service in June, but then turned around and bought stock in Amazon. And they both use and compete with the Postal Service. He's also being accused of instructing his former employees to make political donations, then enriching them by over reimbursing them. And shockingly, it turns out to be illegal to do that!

Another conflict is his elimination of infrastructure within the Postal Service. He has dismantled mechanization that moves the mail, as well as eliminating wing cases which are used to organize and prepare the mail for delivery in thousands of offices across the country. This lends to the conspiracy that DeJoy is try-

ing to slow down the processing of the mail, which in turn will impact the delivery and eventual collecting of voter ballots. It also casts a shadow, and puts into question the necessity and viability of what we do, and our reputation as the most trusted government agency. He's also been accused of trying to cripple the post office from within, and bringing about our demise. We have billions and billions of dollars in land holdings across the nation, which could potentially be sold off to the highest bidders.

With the fox taking up residence in the hen house, the majority of the USPS Board of Governors seemingly in the pocket of the President, and the future of this institution in question, how could anything positive be salvaged from this position we all find ourselves in?

Incredibly, the eyes of the nation nowadays are upon us daily. At no time in the last 40+ years has an opportunity such as this been presented to the unions of the United States Postal Service. On social and print media, blogs, and broadcast, and everywhere in between, we're in the top five news stories every day. And many



BOBBY DAMATIN
Financial Secretary

(continued on page 10)

I Didn't Know That?

In every issue of *Branch 34's CLAN*, I try to share some knowledge with my brothers and sisters on various topics that may interest them. Whether it's how to deliver parcels, file a CA-1 for a traumatic injury, Q & A on hold-downs or retirement information my goal is always to inform the membership of our rights. Well, in this issue instead of focusing on one or two bits of information I'm going to introduce to you several different things you may find interesting and useful.

Any Letter Carrier who has delivered to an apartment building, a triple decker or any multi-family dwelling has wondered "shouldn't these customers have an apartment number on their mail?" The answer is a simple yes, they should. The Postal Operations Manual (POM) addresses this issue in chapter six and it reads in part:

631.54 Apartment Houses 631.541 General

Delivery of mail to individual boxes in a residential building containing apartments or units occupied by different addressees is contingent upon USPS concluding the following requirements are met:

- a. The building contains three or more units (above, below, or behind — not side by side) with:
 - (1) A common building entrance such as a door, a passageway, or stairs; and
 - (2) A common street address (some part of the address is shared) approved by local or municipal authorities.
- b. The installation and maintenance of mail receptacles are approved by the Postal Service.
- c. Each apartment is provided one box, including that of any resident manager or janitor, unless the management has arranged for mail to be delivered at the office or desk for distribution by its employees.
- d. The grouping of the boxes for the building is at a single point readily accessible to the carrier. **Note: The tenant's correct mailing address is the address of the entrance at which the mail receptacles are located, and should include the apartment number or designated mailbox number.** (Emphasis Added)

Who hasn't been assigned a route and when you go to get the arrow keys there's other keys attached to the keychain? Usually it's a route with a lot of apartment buildings and the keys are to gain access to the mail receptacles. This is improper. No carrier should accept any keys to access a customer's mailbox. It's the responsibility of the property owner to provide an electromechanical door lock system or a key keeper box for the carrier to gain access to the mailboxes. This is also addressed in the POM and it reads in part:

632.2 Keys to Customer's Private Mail Receptacle

632.21 General

Carriers are prohibited from accepting keys for locks on private mail receptacles, buildings, or offices, except where an electromechanical door lock system or a key keeper box located within convenient reach of the door is used. Both devices must incorporate an Arrow lock to access the key or device needed to gain entry to the building. If customers place locks on their receptacles, the receptacles must have slots large enough to accommodate their normal daily mail volume so that delivery may be made by the carrier without using a key. (Emphasis Added)

Everyone at one time or another has been contacted by management off the

clock to resolve some operational issue like how do you pull down a certain route? Or to find out if you had a package for this house or that house? If that's something they regularly do to you then they're going to start owing you some money. In the F-21 Handbook you'll find this gem:

223 PDC-Teletime/Guarantee Teletime/Guarantee Tele Overtime

223.1 Definition

223.11 Bargaining unit employees who are called via telephone or paged by management to assist in resolving operational problems while in an off-duty status will be entitled to pay for the duration of the call(s) or 1 hour of pay, whichever is greater, that occurs during each 24-hour period starting at the end of the employee's scheduled tour. (Emphasis Added)

223.12 "Teletime" is paid to employees for the actual duration of the call(s) that occur during each 24-hour period starting at the end of the employee's scheduled tour.

223.13 "Guarantee Teletime" is paid to employees Grade 19 and above in an amount to equal 1 hour when combined with "Teletime" of less than 1 hour in a 24-hour period starting at the end of the employee's scheduled tour.

223.14 "Guarantee Tele Overtime" is paid to employees Grade 18 and below in an amount to equal 1 hour when combined with "Teletime" of less than 1 hour in a 24-hour period starting at the end of the employee's scheduled tour.

It's clearly a little old as they refer to being "paged." Well no one's been paged in decades but we're certainly getting texts from management. Obviously, in the context and spirit of this provision "paged" and "texted" would mean the same thing. As the intent of the parties is to pay employees for being contacted by management outside of work.

If you start filing grievances for this they'll either stop contacting you outside of work or you'll start making a little extra cash, either way it's a win. And before you get too excited this **does not** include being called for OT as described below in section 223.22 of the POM.

223.2 Eligibility

223.21 PDC bargaining unit employees are the only employees eligible to receive PDC Teletime/Guarantee Teletime/Guarantee Tele Overtime.

223.22 Employees who are called solely for the purpose of being "called-in" to work outside of their regular work

schedule are not entitled to PDC Teletime for that telephone call. (Emphasis Added)



MICHAEL MURRAY
Secretary-Treasurer

Recently in one of our downtown office's management came up with the bright idea of withdrawing the delivery of accountable mail to the individual offices. This will come as no surprise to anyone paying attention, but management failed to investigate to see if this was something they had the right to do. Alas, they don't. The POM addresses this issue as well and in section 617 it reads:

617 Other Delivery Procedures

617.1 Delivery in Multiple-Floor Buildings

Accountable mailpieces and/or items that do not fit into the mailbox or parcel locker are attempted in person to the addressee or authorized agent, without regard to the floor on which his or her office or apartment is located. (Emphasis Added)

Exception: If there is no working elevator in buildings with more than three (3) floors, delivery of accountable mailpieces and/or items that do not fit into the mailbox or parcel locker (if available) will be delivered to one (1) authorized, designated location on the first floor, or PS Form 3849 will be completed and left in the customer's mailbox.

Cooperation of customers is requested, however, in making arrangements for mail to be delivered on the first floor.

Yes, brothers and sisters, that includes parcels that don't fit in the mail receptacle or parcel locker in both office buildings and apartment complexes.

If you've ever wondered if there are special instructions on delivering mail to Postal Officials, there is. The POM has so much info that it even has instructions on how to deliver mail to a supervisor or any member of Postal Management. It doesn't identify them as "Postal Management" but we can all read between the lines. That scenario is addressed as follows:

612.3 Mail Addressed to Incompetents

If a person is legally declared incompetent, that person's mail may be delivered under the order of his or her guardian or conservator. Where there is no legal representative, the mail is delivered as addressed.

Hopefully, this was enlightening and if you should ever have any questions on anything don't hesitate to call the Union Hall.

Election Notice for Branch 34 Delegates to the 2021 MSLCA Biennial State Convention

The election of delegates to the Massachusetts State Letter Carriers Association (MSLCA) will be held at the December Branch 34 meeting.

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

If necessary, the election will take place at the December meeting. All delegates must be elected by a plurality vote. The vote shall be counted and tabulated at that time.

Delegates to the MSLCA Convention will not receive financial assistance unless they attend 16 to 24 meetings in the prior two years. Alternates will not be entitled to financial assistance, unless they become delegates. The Sergeant-At-Arms will validate proof of attendance with the regular monthly meeting signature book.

— Michael Murray,
Secretary-Treasurer,
Branch 34 Boston

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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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It's Not Over Yet!

By Ross Murray,
"Branch 34's CLAN" Editor

Hi everyone! Let me just start by saying that I hope you all had a safe and wonderful summer. I hope that even in this crisis, you were able to find some time to relax and enjoy some well-earned Annual Leave.

Some of you remember in the May-June issue of "Branch 34's CLAN," I wrote an article expressing the importance of wearing face coverings and even documented the proper and improper ways of wearing these items. The article was so well received that it even caused a Supervisor to have a brief moment of mental clarity and post a copy of that article next to a timeclock. Since then, I have seen a sharp spike in mask usage amongst carriers and I thank each and every one of you!

However, recently I have noticed a disappointing new trend on the workroom floor of Supervisors, Clerks, and even some of our fellow Carriers have started wearing their masks improperly or not at all!

Now look, I don't like wearing a mask as much as the next guy. It doesn't play well with my facial hair, fogs up my glasses, and is just flat out uncomfortable!

But I still wear it.

I wear it because for all I know I could have the disease but be Asymptomatic. In layman's terms, be sick with no symptoms but still able to spread it.

Don't Be A SCAB!

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

Back Bay

THOMAS N. CONCANNON
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Braintree

MOLLY LONG

Brookline

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GERALD M. LYTES

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!

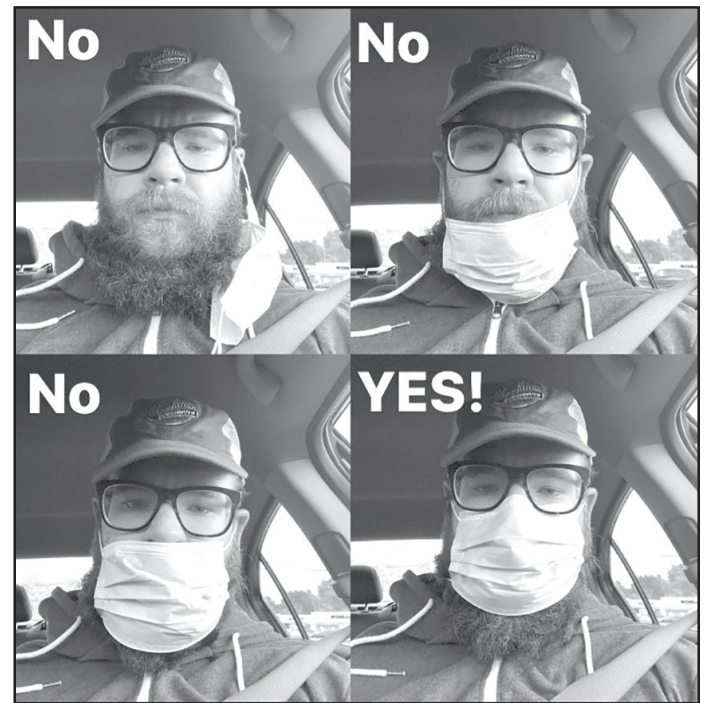
I wear it because for all I know, there could be someone in the building who has a pre-existing condition that could be seriously exasperated by COVID-19. There could also be someone who LIVES with someone who has a pre-existing medical condition.

I wear it because I know that while most people have a good chance of surviving this disease, and some may have mild symptoms, there are those that aren't so lucky. Even if you survive COVID-19 you could still suffer symptoms for weeks or MONTHS after getting sick. Additionally, this disease can cause permanent respiratory damage, as what unfortunately happened to a carrier out of the IMC.

But most importantly, I wear it because I understand that wearing a mask (and wearing a mask PROPERLY) plays a key part in slowing down the spread of a serious disease that has the potential

to devastate communities.

Now, I'm not necessarily asking you to wear it for the entirety of your shift, only when you are not able to socially distance. Think, workroom floor when you leave your case to sweep mail, use the restroom, or get your accountables. Or with staggered shifts when the second tour of carriers comes in whilst you're still in the office. When you're on the street, make sure you wear it when you deliver to a



business or inside an apartment building or walking on a crowded sidewalk. I know it's not fun but it's the right thing to do!

I have included another guide on the right and wrong ways to wear a mask. Remember, surgical masks and reusable two layer masks are the most effective.

Be safe and carry on!

The American Dream

The late George Carlin had a famous comedy routine called The American Dream, if you haven't seen it, google it, because it is more fitting today than when he said it 15 years ago!!

"You know what they want? They want more for themselves and less for everybody else. I'll tell you what they don't want. They don't want a population of citizens capable of critical thinking-well-informed, well educated people capable of critical thinking. That doesn't help them. That's against their interest. They want obedient workers, people who are just smart enough to run the machines and do the paperwork and just dumb enough to passively accept all these increasing shit jobs with the lower pay, the longer hours, the reduced benefits, the end of overtime, and the vanishing pension that disappears as soon as you come to collect it."

And now they're coming for your Social Security money. They want it back so they can give it to their criminal friends on Wall Street, and you know what, they'll get it. You know why? It's a big club, and you ain't in it. You and I ain't in the big club. They don't care about you at all, you know, and nobody seems to notice, nobody seems to care."

—George Carlin

I have reached out to HR and was told that this will not affect us as we did not fall under the executive order, and that the **PO WILL NOT DEFER YOUR PAYROLL TAXES**, but it's coming from HR so I'm going to warn you anyway, to watch your check!!!!

I hope all of you know by now, that as on August 8, 2020 there was an executive order instituted that will defer payroll taxes from September 1, 2020 – the end of the year!!!!

Sounds great you'll have a couple of extra bucks in your pocket, well the theory sounds good but in actuality you and anyone in your family who is working, may very well be completely f#\$ed come the first paycheck of 2021!!!! (Have your family members check with their employers!!!!)

The first big problem with this, is no one knows exactly what it means, and the Administration did not give any guidance until the day before it was supposed to start, and that guidance is to say the least is, not helpful.

So every two weeks if you are a FERS employee, when you get paid you pay 6.2% of what you make to Social Security, so when you retire you can collect Social Security, if you are a CSRS employee you do not pay into Social Security, unless you have another job outside of the Post office. Also as a FERS employee

you pay 1.45% into Medicare, honestly if your CSRS, I'm not sure if you pay Medicare or not (I apologize), but if you do it still applies just on a smaller scale. So in total if you are a FERS employee you pay 7.65% to these payroll taxes and the PO matches them.

This new executive order is going to give you back that 7.65% every two weeks, but I remind you this is not a tax cut, it is a tax deferral, there is a big difference.

The difference is if it's deferred and not at tax cut or forgiven then you will have to pay it back at some point in time!!!!

As I have poured over numerous articles, all of which seem to have the same general tone, you will pay either the federal government at tax time or your employer back, it is unclear who you would pay back as it seems like each employer and payroll department gets to figure it out on their own.

And here's the issue with that, just because you're not paying the payroll taxes right now does not mean the PO is off the hook, for what you would have owed. So even though you haven't paid your 1/2 of the payroll taxes the PO still has to pay the full freight for our 1/2 and their 1/2. Again at some point the Post Office will want the money back, and the way it has been floated around is that that most employers will recoup that money from you is by doubling the amount you owe come the 1st pay check of 2021!!!!

I advise you whole heartedly to pay attention to your pay check!!!! Until, there is clarity on this issue, put 7.6% of your pay every two weeks away, so that if HR made a mistake, you won't be caught off guard!!!!

Fingers crossed HR was right and your pay check has not been effected, but if they were wrong, then you are ahead of the game because you're paying attention to your paycheck!!!!

And don't forget that if we all stop paying into Social Security for any extended period of time beyond this so called deferral, then you will not get Social Security when you go to retire, all that money you have so diligently paid into it will **POOF, BE GONE!!!!!!**

I hope that you all had a great summer and Labor Day!!! And to all the parents of kids who are currently "remote learning" don't forget to utilize the CARES ACT FMLA, if you and your family need to do so!!!!!!



LAURA WOOD FAHEY
Area Steward

NALCREST

**Apartment Bids:
Two-Week Intervals-
Sign Up NOW!!!**

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

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

The weeks start on Monday and runs through Sunday. A random lottery will determine the selection if more than one request is submitted for the same weeks. You can submit multiple choices, but the apartment is only available for two week intervals. **For the weeks beginning December 21, 2020 – January 3, 2021 have your bids in by Saturday, November 14, 2020 and I will begin awarding the bids that day.** After that it's first come first served.

October 12 – October 25, 2020

October 26 – November 8, 2020

November 9 – November 22, 2020

November 23 – December 6, 2020

December 7 – December 20, 2020

December 21, 2020 – January 3, 2021

January 4 – January 17, 2021

January 18 – January 31, 2021

February 1 – February 14, 2021

February 15 – February 28, 2021

March 1 – March 14, 2021

March 15 – March 28, 2021

March 29 – April 11, 2021

April 12 – April 25, 2021

April 26 – May 9, 2021

May 10 – May 23, 2021

May 24 – June 6, 2021

June 7 – June 20, 2021

June 21 – July 4, 2021

July 5 – July 18, 2021

July 19 – August 1, 2021

August 2 – August 15, 2021

August 16 – August 29, 2021

August 30 – September 12, 2021

—Michael Murray,

Branch 34 Secretary-Treasurer, Boston

When the Postal Service Was the Bomb!

I hope everyone had a safe and good summer, a customer of mine left me out this article. I thought everyone would get a good laugh reading it.

★★★★★★★★

By Bob Greene

The Postmaster General was in a pickle.

He had fooled with mail delivery in a way that had infuriated the public, put members of Congress in the hot seat with their constituents, and backed the president into a political corner. He was looking for a way to re-elevate his national stature.

So he commandeered a missile with the capability of carrying a nuclear warhead. As comically bizarre as this may sound – like a plot that even a demented B-movie producer would reject – it happened. In 1957, the U.S. Postmaster General **Arthur E. Summerfield** attempted to deal with a budgetary shortfall by doing what, to him made sense. He decided to cut back on delivery days by getting rid of the Saturday mail.

The idea backfired. The public was enraged when, on Saturday, April 13, no mail was delivered. Elected officials knew they had to fix things, and fast. Within three days, Congress had passed an emergency appropriation and President **Dwight D. Eisenhower** had signed off on it. The next Saturday, the mail was back.

Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield had an explosive idea to win the public's trust.

Stung by the bad publicity, Summerfield looked for a way to show his commitment to providing swift and reliable mail service. Within two years, he had worked out a plan.

Operating in secrecy with the U.S. Navy, he arranged for the use of the submarine U.S.S. Barbero, which was engineered to launch nuclear missiles. Then he requested, and was granted, access to a five-ton Regulus I missile.

Summerfield's plan was to remove the part of the missile that held the warhead, and re place it with a container full of mail.

Then, from out at sea, the Navy would launch the missile toward a distant target. When it got there, Summerfield would retrieve the letters and have them delivered to their addressees, thus providing a preview of the speed of future mail.

On a spring morning in 1959, from 100 miles out in the Atlantic Ocean, the crew of the Barbero launched the missile in the direction of Mayport Auxiliary Naval Air Station, near Jacksonville, FL. Twenty-two minutes later, the remotely controlled missile, equipped with landing gear, arrived with its payload intact. Waiting for it was the Postmaster General himself.

He helped to unload the approxi-

mately 3,000 letters, all of which had been written and signed by him. Each envelope bound for a U.S. destination bore a four-cent first-class stamp. The letters were addressed to various government officials and dignitaries.

An ebullient Summerfield believed this advanced his theory: "Before man reaches the moon, mail will be delivered within hours from New York to California, to England, to India or Australia by guided missiles." Postal workers at the Naval base hustled the letters onto trucks, enroute to their final destinations.

There would never be another missile delivery of U.S. Mail. Summerfield's enthusiasm aside, no one in government wanted to pursue it. In ensuing decades, electronic advances made the delivery of written information instantaneous. Next time you're walking down the street checking email on your phone, be grateful you don't have to instead scan the sky for screaming squadrons of incoming postal rockets.

★★★★★★★★

Bob Greene's books include "Chevrolet Summers, Dairy Queen Nights."



DAN O'CONNOR
Trustee

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

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

First Congressional District
The Honorable Richard E. Neal
Rayburn House Office Bldg., Rm. 341
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
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-6101 Fax: 202-225-5759
mcgovern.house.gov

Third Congressional District
The Honorable Lori Trahan
Longworth House Office Bldg., Rm. 1616
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3411 Fax: 202-226-0771
trahan.house.gov

Fourth Congressional District
The Honorable Joseph P. Kennedy III
Cannon House Office Bldg., Rm. 304
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-5931 Fax: 202-225-0182
kennedy.house.gov

Represented Communities: Brookline, Newton, Needham, Wellesley, Dover, Medfield, Millis, Medway, Milford, Hopkinton, Hopedale, Bellingham, Franklin, Norfolk, Wrentham, Plainville, Foxboro, Sharon, Attleboro, North Attleborough, Mansfield, Norton, Easton, Seekonk, Rehoboth, Taunton, Raynham, Dighton, Berkley, Lakeville, Freetown, Somerset, Swansea

Fifth Congressional District
The Honorable Katherine Clark
Rayburn House Office Bldg., Rm. 2448
Washington, D.C. 20515
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
The Honorable Seth Moulton
Longworth House Office Bldg., Rm. 1127
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-8020 Fax: 202-225-5915
moulton.house.gov

Seventh Congressional District
The Honorable Ayanna Pressley
Longworth House Office Bldg., Rm. 1108
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-5111 Fax: 202-225-9322
pressley.house.gov
Represented Communities: Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Milton, Randolph, Somerville

Eighth Congressional District
The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch
Rayburn House Office Bldg., Rm. 2109
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-8273 Fax: 202-225-3984
lynch.house.gov
Represented Communities: Abington, Avon, Boston, Braintree, Bridgewater, Brockton, Canton, Cohasset, Dedham, East Bridgewater, Hingham, Holbrook, Hull, Milton, Norwood, Quincy, Raynham, Scituate, Stoughton, Walpole, Weymouth, West Bridgewater, Westwood, Whitman

Ninth Congressional District
The Honorable William Keating
Rayburn House Office Bldg., Rm. 2351
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3111 Fax: 202-225-5658
keating.house.gov
Represented Communities: Norwell, Rockland, Hanover, Hanson, Pembroke, Duxbury, Halifax, Plympton, Kingston, Middleborough, Carver, Plymouth, Fall River, Westport, Dartmouth, New Bedford, Acushnet, Fairhaven, Rochester, Mattapoisett, Marion, Wareham, Bourne, Sandwich, Falmouth, Sandwich, Mashpee, Barnstable, Hyannis, Yarmouth, Dennis, Brewster, Harwich, Orleans, Chatham, Eastham, Wellfleet, Truro, Provincetown, Aquinnah, Goswold, Chilmark, West Tisbury, Tisbury, Oak Bluffs, Edgartown, Nantucket

Motorizing Kenmore?

Postal management in their infinite wisdom has decided to mount the Kenmore station. For those who don't know, the Kenmore station moved to the GMF about a year ago after they lost their lease. They gave the regular foot carriers a vehicle to get to and from their route but they continued to have combination truck routes deliver relays and parcel post.

The PO recently decided to motorize the station and as a result they abolished most of the combination truck routes. They did this without doing anything that they were supposed to do. When the PO is considering motorizing a station they have to do a number of different things. The M-39 is managements handbook; just like the M-41 is our handbook the M-39 is theirs. The following language can be found in the M-39 handbook on how motorizing a station is to be handled:

15 City Delivery Service Motorization

151 Surveys

Two types of operational surveys are to be conducted to determine feasibility of motorization, as follows:

a. The first study will be an operational review of each delivery unit having foot routes to see if it is practical and feasible to install vehicles. Consider:

- (1) Area and type of delivery serviced by each delivery unit.
- (2) Availability of parking facilities, docking, and maneuvering area.
- (3) Street, road parking, and traffic conditions.
- (4) Distance, travel time, and type of transportation necessary to transport the foot carriers.
- (5) Night time security for the vehicles while parked at de-

livery unit or parking area.

(6) Fuel conservation.

- b. Following the first survey, a second survey will be conducted by local management. Initiate and complete PS Form 4315, Evaluation of Routes for Motorization, in original and two copies, to reflect present and proposed costs only for those letter routes being considered for motorization. A separate PS Form 4315 must be completed for each delivery unit. Before actual conversion, the unit manager must evaluate and adjust routes as necessary. Use the formula dealing with Route Adjustment Without Special Inspection. (See 141.1.)

We had a meeting with management to discuss these changes and none of this had been done. That's right, they decided to do something without doing any analysis first. If anyone's ever been to Kenmore Sq. they know it's a congested area of downtown Boston that's not conducive to being motorized. Where are these vehicles going to park? Obviously, management didn't do any survey to figure that out.

Since they didn't do any of the work they're required to do before making their decision it should come as no surprise that they didn't implement it correctly either. The M-39 goes on to discuss how that is to be done as follows:

153 Preparation for Conversion

After District approval to proceed with motorization and before the vehicles are assigned, the delivery unit manager shall:

- a. Notify the craft organization representative as promptly as possible of the date changes will be made.

b. Issue 30-day cancellation notices on drive-out agreements.

- c. Assure that all carriers are qualified to drive the vehicles that will be assigned to them and hold a valid state driver's license.
- d. Relabel the case to conform to new delivery pattern.
- e. Make adjustments at the time of implementation.
- f. Revise remaining parcel post, relay, and collection schedules.
- g. Make arrangements for removal of relay boxes declared surplus.

154 Route Inspections

Inspect routes 30 days after start of motorization except for vehicles assigned during accounting periods 3-9-10-11-12. Schedule inspections within 15 days after these abnormal periods. Make final route adjustments and complete the after cost section of PS Form 4315 as a result of count and inspection. Further attention must be given if actual after cost per delivery is greater than proposed cost per delivery shown on PS Form 4315.

Since then we've had a meeting with the carriers of Kenmore, we gathered their concerns and had another meeting with management. We discussed the lack of steps completed by management and the lack of any valuable data at this time due to the Coronavirus. We were successful in convincing management to put off any adjustments. And all inspections have been postponed for the month of September. The Branch will keep the members informed as more information becomes available.



RICH GALVIN
Clerk, NBA/NSBA

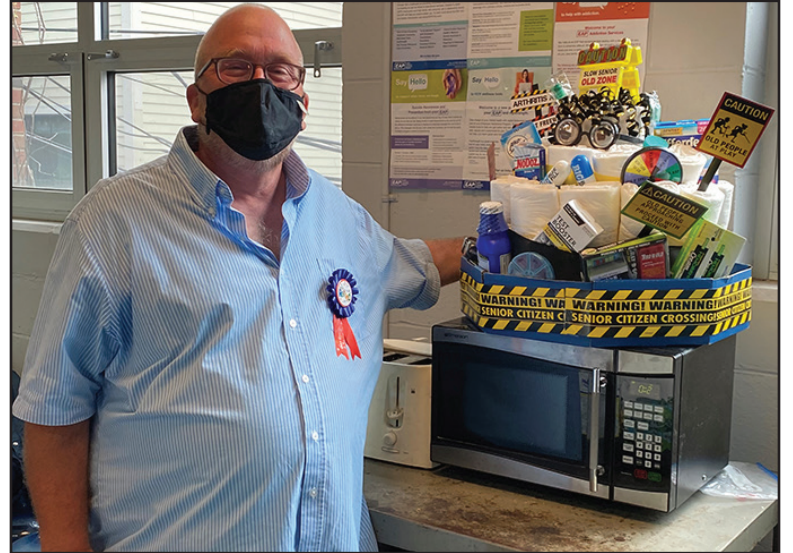
Branch 34 Salutes Its Retirees

South Boston's Michael Kidd



Branch 34 Vice President Bernadette Romans presents South Boston's Michael Kidd with his Retirement Jacket.

South Boston Letter Carriers give Michael Kidd a Grand exit with a Cake and other fun surprises.



South Boston's Michael Kidd makes his last swipe.





Billy loving his Retirement Jacket and Watch.



Billy loving his Retirement.

Brookline's Billy Moroney



Captain Billy Moroney, Braintree Shop Steward Rick Fraser and their friend Steve celebrates 1st place win in a Fishing Tournament.

Woburn's Tommy Butera



Woburn Shop Stewards Richard Bucci and Vigo Conte celebrating with Tom Butera.



Branch 34 President Jerry McCarthy presented Woburn Retiree Tom Butera with his Jacket and Watch.



West Roxbury's Dave McQuire

West Roxbury's Dave McQuire makes his last swipe.



Branch 34 President Jerry McCarthy along with West Roxbury Shop Steward Mike Walter and Retiree Dave McQuire.

Brookline's Ronald "Ron" Richardson



Brookline retiree Ronald "Ron" Richardson makes his final swipe.

Brookline Shop Stewards Joe Demambro and Dean Gonatas along with Branch 34 President Jerry McCarthy celebrate Ron's retirement. Wishing you a Happy Retirement, Ron!



More Branch 34 Retirees Saluted

Wellesley Square's Kevin Pinkham

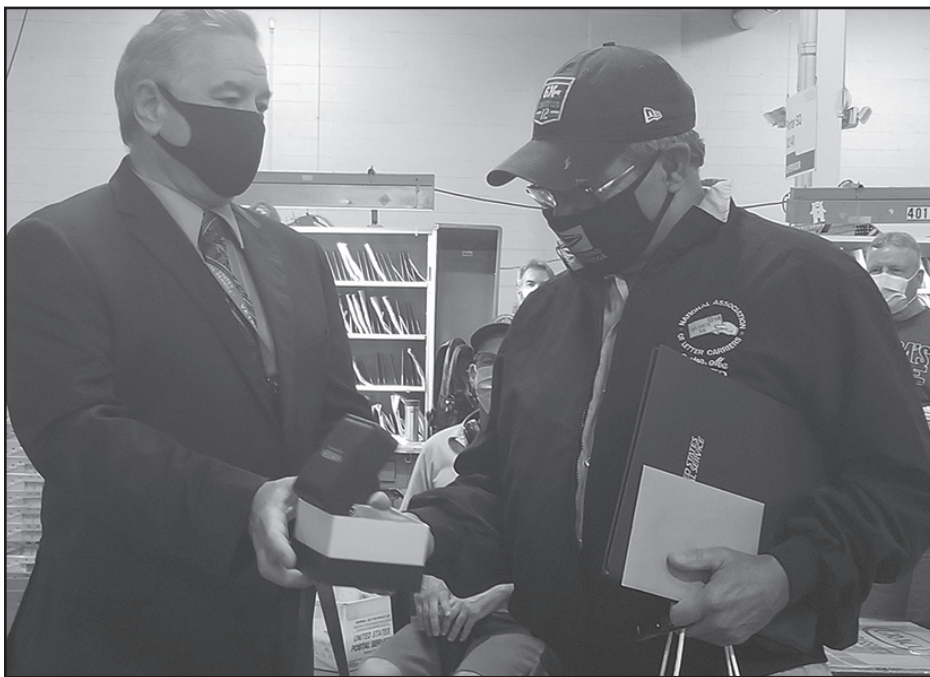


Wellesley Square Letter Carriers wish Retiree Kevin Pinkham a Happy Retirement.



Wellesley Square retiree Kevin Pinkham with Shop Steward Charles Iantosca and Branch 34 President Jerry McCarthy.

Cambridge-Porter Square's James Robbins



James Robbins from Cambridge-Porter Square retires. Branch 34 President Jerry McCarthy presents him with his Retirement Jacket and watch.



Cambridge-Porter Square Letter Carriers help celebrate James's last day.

South Weymouth's Rusty Craven & Andy Pelley



South Weymouth Shop Steward Rusty Craven and Letter Carrier Andy Pelley Retire. To help celebrate the wonderful occasion is Branch 34 President Jerry McCarthy.



Branch 34 President Jerry McCarthy presents Retiree Rusty Craven and Andy Pelley with their retirement jackets and watches.

CCAs and Your 4-Hour Guarantee?

There has been a lot of questions, concerns, and confusion regarding the scheduling of CCAs.

There has been a mixed batch of issues from:

- "I was scheduled to report to work, and I received a call from management prior to leaving my residence instructing me not to report."
- "I was scheduled to report to work, and as I was traveling in, I received a call from Management instructing me not to report."
- "I was scheduled to report to work, and I reported, but I was told by Management that they had over-staffed and they no longer needed me."
- "I was scheduled to report to work, and I reported, but management overstaffed and they were looking for volunteers to go home, so I volunteered."
- "I was scheduled to report to work, and I reported and worked less than 4 Hours!

The only scenario above that does not apply to the 4-Hour Guarantee is if Management calls you prior to you leaving your residence and instructs you not to report. All the other scenarios listed do apply to the 4Hour Guarantee...**YOU ARE GUARANTEED 4 HOURS OF PAY!**

If you are not sure if your scenario applies or not sure if you were properly paid, please see your Shop Steward, or call the Union Hall for guidance. The CCA work

hour guarantee is addressed by the parties in the Joint Questions and Answers 2011 USPS/NALC

National Agreement, Joint Contract Administration Manual (JCam) dated July 2014. The complete Joint Q & A's are found on JCAM pages 7-20 through 7-30. See the guarantee language below:

Question #23. Do CCAs have a work hour Guarantee?

Answer #23. Yes, CCAs employed in Post Offices and facilities with 200 or more work years of employment have a four-hour work guarantee and CCAs employed in all other post offices have a two-hour guarantee.

All Letter Carriers should be aware of what your RIGHTS are!



BERNADETTE ROMANS
Vice President

In Memoriam

Bruce McCormack*
Retired Member – South Weymouth

Shelton Tutin*
Retired Member – Mattapan

James Wu
ACTIVE Member – Newton Centre

* Denotes Gold Card Member

Rest in Peace



Branch 34 President Jerry McCarthy long with Cambridge Letter Carriers Bobby Tremarche and Enzo DeMello.

Branch 34 Letter Carriers Rally in Cambridge & Malden



Branch 34 Area Steward Laura Wood Fahey along with Cambridge Letter Carriers.



Branch 34 Area Steward Laura Wood Fahey with a Malden Resident.

Retirement Information

Whether you're eligible to retire now 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. 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 34 years of service your annuity would be \$1,803 a month.

For those who started their career later in life you need to have 5 years of creditable service and be at least 62 years of age to be eligible for an immediate retirement with unreduced benefits. Depending on when you were born you can retire anywhere from age 55 to 57 with at least 30 years of service. 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, with at least 30 years of service, 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:

- 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 \$1,890 at 62 and I would have to work 34 years to reach my MRA. So, I divided 34 by 40 (.85) and multiplied that by \$1,890 which equaled \$1,606.50. 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 starting in October of 2020 the PO will automatically contribute 5% of your basic pay to the TSP. From there 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 the PO will match it and it'll be equal to 10% of your basic pay. And you can invest it however you'd like.

According to my most recent TSP projected annuity estimate at 62, I'm due \$2,314 a month. This is not a guarantee and they used an annuity interest index of 3.250%. That interest index changes based on the funds you're invested in.

So, crunch those numbers brothers and sisters you may have more coming to you in retirement than you think. Based on my numbers if I were 57 I'd be getting about \$65,000 a year **for not coming to work.**

Retirement benefits are like any of the other benefits we enjoy today brothers and sisters. They weren't given to us, they were fought for and won. The Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) took over 100 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 a hundred years since we won retirement benefits and there are still plenty of people looking to strip them away from us.

How many of us have heard the narrative they push on the American worker: "I don't have it, so why should you?" Rather than: "you have it, why don't I?" Don't let their narrative go unchallenged. Only through vigilance and political engagement can we protect retirement benefits for ourselves and the next generation of letter carriers.



MICHAEL MURRAY
Secretary-Treasurer

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!

Thank You from Branch 34 Scholarship Recipients



Colin S. Graham

I'd like to extend my gratitude to the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 34 for awarding me this generous scholarship. I will be attending the University of New Haven and studying Criminal Justice with a concentration in Investigative Services in the fall.

My interest in studying the criminal justice system stems from my early teenage years, where I took interest in television programs involving law enforcement. Cops and Live PD were among them. My interest expanded to government and civics as I advanced in my high school career. I was offered the opportunity to take AP U.S. History and AP U.S. Government and Politics, as well as Street Law. I thoroughly enjoyed those classes. Through this exploration of U.S. history, U.S. politics, and the civil and criminal legal system, my interest in criminal justice was further strengthened.

I was afforded the opportunity to attend the 75th Annual Massachusetts Boys State program in 2019 through the

Kelly Joyce

I want to sincerely thank you for awarding me this generous scholarship.

During my time in high school, I played volleyball, basketball, soft ball and outdoor track. I also enjoyed leading clubs such as, the Rotary, PALS, UNICEF, Peer Mentoring and serving on the Red Devils Athletic Leadership Team. I plan to study

Madeline Rufo

My name is Madeline Rufo and I'm so grateful to have received this scholarship.

In my free time I enjoy running, biking, and spending time with family and friends. In the fall, I will attend UMass Dartmouth's Honors College and major

nomination of the history department. This program develops leaders and promotes the democratic system by modeling the levels of American government. During my week at Boys State, I was appointed by the Board of Selectmen as the Police Chief, ensuring the safety of all citizens of our town, "Two Jima." Through this experience, I was able to critically think through difficult situations that arose in our town and state government. I believe this skill will help me in my career in law enforcement.

Following receiving a degree in criminal justice, I intend to start my career in law enforcement. At this time, I am unsure on which level of government I will serve, whether that be on the federal, state, or local level, but I will put forth my best effort in achieving that goal. Once again, I'd like to thank the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 34 in assisting me to work toward my degree.

Psychology next year at UMass Amherst with the hopes of being a Clinical Psychologist. After more schooling, I hope to continue being involved at UMass by playing Club Volleyball.

The scholarship will be extremely helpful in assisting me to achieve my educational goals.

in nursing. I will also be a part of their Cross Country and Track teams, which I am really excited about! My biggest academic goal is to become a pediatric nurse! Again, I am sincerely thankful that you have extended your generosity to help me fulfill this goal!



James Wu with his girlfriend, Rachel.



Newton Centre Letter Carrier Passes Away While Delivering His Own Route

NALC is deeply saddened to learn that 54-year old letter carrier and Branch 34 member **James Wu** passed away August 18, 2020, while delivering his route. Brother Wu worked at the Newton Center Post Office in Boston, where he was also an on-the-job instructor. On the day of his death he was training a new employee when he suffered a cardiac event, became unresponsive, and unfortunately was unable to be resuscitated.

"On behalf of the NALC, we mourn the loss of Brother Wu," NALC President **Fredric Rolando** said. "Earlier this year, James celebrated 14 years of service with USPS and he dedicated many of those years to training new employees how to be professional letter carriers. He served them, as well his customers, very well. We send our thoughts and prayers to Brother Wu's family, friends, coworkers, and loved ones."

Taking the "DeJoy" Out of the Postal Service...

(continued from page 2)

times right on the front page of those mediums! Louis DeJoy is a wanted man, and Congress has subpoenaed him to appear before their committees to answer for his recent transgressions. At no time in our collective past have we meant so much to so many people, and we cannot afford to tactfully, and strategically miss the boat in explaining to all interested parties the impact of the current administration on our operation, but just as importantly, show them the road map to a stronger and more vital Postal Service. We must explain this is what happens when labor doesn't assist in piloting an agency that exists exclusively for the American Public. DeJoy has no business leading the USPS, and should've never been appointed in the first place. The doors of Congress must be knocked, and the

phones to those offices must be rung. All of us can play a crucial role in delivering the Postal Service from its current dilemma. Whether speaking with friends, family, or neighbors, calling, writing, or tweeting our congressmen, women and senators, we all need to be at the ready, and on message about what's going on, and the need for Union – guided change. Americans want a viable postal service, but they need to know the facts, and aligning themselves with us will only strengthen that cause! At no time in our history do we need them fighting by our sides like we do right now. So it is imperative that the message we send brings them into the fold, and spells out to all Americans the necessity for our future existence. And first things being first: Show Louis DeJoy the door!

MDA Corner

Our fundraising efforts have taken a big hit due to the Coronavirus. But we do have at least one bright spot to report. North Quincy Steward, **Cathy Cooper** had a number of bars, restaurants, clubs, posts and other businesses in the city of Quincy sell MDA Shamrocks. Even though the lockdown happened before St Patrick's Day, these businesses came through. They raised a total of **\$994.00 for the MDA!!!**

If you should ever find yourself in Quincy and are looking for a place to eat or have a cocktail, please consider one of these places:

- Manet Lounge
- Nickerson Post
- Squantum Cutters
- Ehrlich Pest Control
- Maggie's Lounge

- The Hancock Tavern
- Quincy Yacht Club
- Pete's Bar & Grille
- Coop's Bar & Grille
- Cagney's Pub
- Rags Tavern
- Morrisette Post
- Malachy's Saloon
- The Irish Pub
- QCA
- Fowler House
- Early American
- Sly Fox Tavern
- Quincy Elks

Thank you to **Cathy Cooper!** It's people like her that help make this world a little brighter.

*Fraternally,
George Adams,
Branch 34 MDA Chairman*

Congratulations Retirees!

On behalf of President McCarthy, 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:

- Lawrence Atkinson IMC Chelsea
- Tommy Butera Woburn
- Rusty Craven..... South Weymouth
- Charles "Chuck" Hanegan.....Brookline

- John Keegan..... Cambridge A
- Michael KiddSouth Boston
- Dave McQuire West Roxbury
- William "Billy" MoroneyBrookline
- Andy Pelley..... South Weymouth
- Kevin Pinkham Wellesley Square
- John "Jay" Princiotta, Jr.Fort Point
- Ronald "Ron" RichardsonBrookline
- James RobbinsCambridge-Porter Sq.



SIGN ME UP!

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

Using Postal EASE - ONLINE Enrollment

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

Online Enrollment

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: 0 6 4 0 0 0 1 7
8. Enter your 17-digit Account Number _____ 0 0 3 4 9 5 2 5 3 5
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:
_____ 0 0 3 4 9 5 2 5 3 5

To get to Postal Ease through Lite Blue:

- Got to www.liteblue.usps.gov
- Enter you employee ID and Password and click "Log On"
- Click "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)

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: 0 6 4 0 0 0 1 7
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.

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:
_____ 0 0 3 4 9 5 2 5 3 5

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:

The Letter Carrier Political Fund
100 Indiana Ave NW,
Washington, DC 20001-2144

Your Postal Record Number (circled):



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.servicesonline.opm.gov
2. Enter your CSA number, beginning with the letter A and ending with a zero. SAMPLE: A222222220
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!



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IMPORTANT!!

ALL LETTER CARRIERS

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