

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- 1. New Collective Bargaining Agreement:** Formal contract negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement opened on February 22. New National President Brian Renfro opening statement to PGM DeJoy was "In this round of collective bargaining, letter carriers have the chance to be recognized and rewarded, for being the backbone of this beloved American institution. Letter carriers are the face of the Postal Service. We are the ones customers see delivering to their homes and business. They know us and rely on us for dependable, consistent service. We are indispensable and directly carry out the Postal Service mission".

That was a well written and powerful statement from our new national president. Hopefully the Postal Service will recognize all the hard work and sacrifice letter carriers make every day and reward us with fair and monetary rewarding contract.

- 2. LEGISLATION:** I would like to thank Marc and Jim for coming out tonight with the hopes of growing our Letter Carrier political fund. **Guys,** I cannot stress how important it is to contribute to your NALC PAC. Whether you believe it or not every person in this room is affected by decisions congress makes related to the PO. **Congress has the ability with a swipe of a pen to change the way we do our jobs and most importantly how our pensions are handled. Last year, with only 10% contributing, the fund generated 6.5 million. I heard a stat if all carriers across the country contribute 5 bucks a pay period the fund would generate 35 million dollars a year. With that kind of money, we would control congress. So, please if you haven't sign up yet go over to Jim or Marc and do so. This is probably the best job security insurance you can buy. And its only 5 bucks.**

- 3. Health insurance:** Hopefully I'll get this right. Over the weekend at the committee of presidents in Detroit, President Renfro explain our transfer to Medicare. Medicare parts A-B. Effective 2025 every retired or active letter carrier will have to sign up for Medicare parts A-B. This plan will be rolled out

in two groups. Group 1: If you are an active or retired letter carrier and are 64 years of age or older you will be required to sign up for Medicare by January 1 ,2025. Normally if you have not signed up for Medicare by age 65 you incur a 10% penalty every year until you do so. As an incentive the Postal Service has agreed to pay the penalty for anyone in group 1 for the rest of their or their spouses' lives.

Group 2: All other active letter carriers will be required to sign up for Medicare when they turn 65. Once an active carrier signs up for Medicare, they will then be required to switch their health coverage to a postal health insurance plan. The specific details of these plans have yet to be finalized. Every letter carrier will be notified by our national union as to what group and what action they will be required to take.

On a side note: If this is not an incentive to donate to the Letter carrier political fund. (NALC-PAC). Keep in mind Medicare is controlled by congress. That should scare everyone.

4. **Locally PTF's:** As I stated last month, the Boston district had 43 PTF's. AS of this morning that number has grown to 96. Still well short of the 190 the MOU calls for. Last week I received an email from the NBA office stating they enter into an agreement to allow PTF's from deferent parts of the state to work in our stations. The first place was Revere. I talked to Rick. The idea is to try to cool down the excessive number of hours the carriers are working. If this is happening in your office, please let the hall know. I want to monitor to make sure Mgmt. isn't getting overzealous by trying to reduce the amount of overtime branch 34 members get.

5. **CONVERSIONS:**

There was only 1 PTF Conversion to full-time Unassigned Regular status so far in the month of March.

6. **AUX Routes:** As I stated at the February meeting, I've noticed a lot of so-called aux routes that are over eight hours. As it stands right now we are in the final stages of developing a grievance to revert theses routes to fulltime biddable positions. If we are successful, we'll be going to every station to see if their auxiliary routes qualify to made full time assignments. I'll keep you guys posted on that.

- 7. Truck route inspections:** What a disaster! This week should be the last week mgmt. is doing this. Right now, no one knows what the Postal Service is trying to accomplish. These inspections are taking place all over the country not just Boston. If your station has already done truck inspections, please request any and all information from Mgmt. relate to them.
- 8. Cleaning Buildings:** If any station is still having problems getting there building cleaned regularly, please let us know so we contact the right people to fix the situation.
- 9. Heat stress recognition and prevention training:** The Postal Service has developed a 20-minute video training that every carrier will be required to watch. It has come to my attention some manager or supervisor are recording that carriers have received this training when in fact they have not. Again, every carrier is required to review this video. If your station has not complied with this MOU, please call us for guidance.
- 10. Retirement Seminar.** We will be conducting a retirement seminar for all active letter carriers and their spouses on March 26, 2023. The time is 9-1 at the Florian Hall in Dorchester MA. The last one had roughly 200 people in attendance, so if you're within 3 years of retirement I strongly suggest attending. There's a lot to learn before you hit the button to go.
- 11. RAP Session:** The NBA office has scheduled a Region 14 Rap session for April 15-17 at the Doubletree hotel in Manchester, New Hampshire. If anyone's interested let me know.
- 12. State convention:** The Massachusetts State Convention is scheduled for May 19-21. For all delegates that have signed up I will be holding a mandatory meeting to get the number of people who are going to attend.

13.Corn-hole tournament: We have a tentative date of June 4 for the 2nd annual corn-hole. Even though last year tourney was a success, this year will be greater. Get your teams ready. I'll keep you guys posted on times and locations.

14.Branch 34 Scholarships: I'll be sending out a bulletin with an application for the annual branch 34 college scholarships. Just to let you know the Branch gives out 5 -1000 dollars scholarships per year. Application must be returned by April 21. The winners will be announced on June 10. I've put some applications over at the Sargent-at Arms table if anyone needs them.

New Business