INTERNAL MEASUREMENT
OR IS THE FOX
WATCHING THE HEN HOUSE

PRESIDENT’S ARTICLE ... BY BILL LISTER

The USPS, for as long as I can remember, has employed Price Waterhouse or IBM to measure how well we do delivering the mail. These companies would employ agents that would drop mail at different locations and at specific times. Then they would wait to see how long it took us to process and deliver that particular mail piece. The scores generated from these tests, resulted in what was known as EXFC scores. When one of these test bundles was not picked up when it was supposed to then it was a zero bundle, and that my friends would result in someone being disciplined, demoted or thrown from the roof of 1720 Market Street.

Our scores, in the Gateway District at least, were always very good and very few folks ever lost their jobs over a zero bundle anyway. The importance of these scores, therefore, goes without saying. The USPS and all companies that have deadlines in place, have some system or process that they use to ensure they are meeting or exceeding their delivery mandates. For us, first class mail was either overnight or two days to either coast. Express and standard mail had their own delivery goals and all were tested with fairly good results, until a couple years ago when the USPS began closing processing centers and post offices. That’s when our scores began to drop and the service was forced to attack the problem or live with all F’s on their report card.

BRANCH 343 CARDINALS TICKETS
ON SALE APRIL 14, 2016
Immediately Following the Regular Branch Meeting
See Schedule Inside This Issue

Raffle and Drawing for Opening Day Tickets at March Branch Meeting
At that time PMG Donahoe came up with a brilliant plan to not only increase our test scores, but also to close more processing centers and offices at the same time. All we had to do was to implement our own measurement system that we would control and perform with our own letter carriers. So in January of 2015 he lowered all the service standards, ended our commitment with the company that was measuring our ability to deliver on time, and laid out a new plan called SPM (Service Performance Measurement). This new plan would now measure our performance through our own employees, by scanning specific pieces at offices, collection boxes and at the point of pick up and delivery. SPM is now fully implemented and our future scores will be dependant on following the request of that voice on your scanner that instructs you to scan two pieces at the next address you are delivering to. Of course it will also tell you to scan when you are driving by that same address and sometimes tell you to scan four pieces when there are only two pieces for delivery. All carriers must receive a stand-up talk explaining what to do in these situations which is hit escape to delay the scan and to select number two on the prompt (No more to scan) if there are no additional pieces to scan. Anyone who has not received training should see your shop steward immediately and have them call the Hall.

The obvious problem with any internal testing program, is that the company must be trusted to have a program that is accurate enough to rely on the data. If that data is gained by eliminating any descending factors that may count against the final score, then none of the data can be trusted. Imagine if you will, that the largest polluters in this country were not monitored by the EPA. Or the meat packing industry internally grading themselves rather than the FDA. Pollution would certainly increase and our meat products, even if tainted, would be sent out for mass consumption. You simply can’t have the fox watching the hen house and with the USPS, unfortunately, I believe the same thing will occur.

Until such time that this issue is addressed by the Postal Regulatory Commission which is mandated by law, Congress or the new PMG Megan Brennan, we will be tasked with making these additional scans along with the MSP scans and all the other scans we currently perform. MSP scans are useless and while two years or more too late, will eventually cease, allowing us more time to make legitimate scans for tracking packages and mail for our customers. The MSP and now the SPM scans, however, either serve a venal self interest or no point at all. That being said, we are paid to make as many scans each day as the company wants us to, so make every scan that you are supposed to. Eventually, you will spend so much of your day making scans that the service will have to give you a route cut. Until then, we don’t know if discipline will be given for missing any of these measurement scans, however, if they follow the same pattern as they did with the zero bundles, it would be a good bet.

Another new program called Geo Pivoting is coming out and being implemented now as well. This program will allow the service to track our customers’ packages in real time on the Internet. It depends, however, on letter carriers working their assignments and/or any pivots at the exact time management tells us to. Our assignments must be delivered exactly as our edit books say, and pivots must be delivered exactly when we are told to deliver them, which will be at the very beginning or end of your route. This one will be further explained in a future article. For now, watch out for that sly little postal fox. More! Later!
## St. Louis Installation CCA Seniority

### NEW CAREER CONVERSIONS IN ST. LOUIS AS OF FEBRUARY 6, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OFFICE</th>
<th>LAST</th>
<th>FIRST</th>
<th>SEN DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STL-SAPPPINGTON BR</td>
<td>HOBBS JR</td>
<td>DEMOND</td>
<td>2/8/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STL-MACKENZIE POINTE</td>
<td>WASHINGTON SR</td>
<td>TERRELL</td>
<td>2/8/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STL-CLAYTON BR</td>
<td>BAILEY JR</td>
<td>EDWARD</td>
<td>2/8/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STL-UNIVERSITY CITY B</td>
<td>FREDICK</td>
<td>JAMOND</td>
<td>2/8/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STL-GRAVOIS STA</td>
<td>BUCKNER</td>
<td>CHRISTOPHER</td>
<td>2/8/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STL-JENNINGS BR</td>
<td>HAMILTON</td>
<td>ALKA</td>
<td>2/8/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STL-CLAYTON BR</td>
<td>HORTON III</td>
<td>WILLIAM</td>
<td>2/8/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STL-KIRKWOOD DELIVERY</td>
<td>WILKINS</td>
<td>SHARONDA</td>
<td>2/8/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STL-NORMANDY BR</td>
<td>GRIFFIN</td>
<td>KENDRICK</td>
<td>2/8/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STL-SOUTH COUNTY BR</td>
<td>FANNON</td>
<td>NICHOLAS</td>
<td>2/8/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STL-WHEELER STA</td>
<td>LANCASTER I</td>
<td>LANCE</td>
<td>2/8/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STL-MACKENZIE POINTE</td>
<td>COTTON</td>
<td>COREY</td>
<td>2/8/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STL-SAPPPINGTON BR</td>
<td>MILLER</td>
<td>BRANDY</td>
<td>2/8/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STL-SOUTH COUNTY BR</td>
<td>HOWARD</td>
<td>CHAKA</td>
<td>2/8/14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TOP 50 CCAs IN ST. LOUIS AS OF FEBRUARY 6, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OFFICE</th>
<th>LAST</th>
<th>FIRST</th>
<th>SEN DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 STL-SOUTH COUNTY BR</td>
<td>CHISM</td>
<td>ERIC</td>
<td>7/23/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 STL-UNIVERSITY CITY B</td>
<td>GIBSON</td>
<td>NOAH</td>
<td>7/23/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 STL-MACKENZIE POINTE</td>
<td>WRIGHT</td>
<td>BRYAN</td>
<td>7/26/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 STL-UNIVERSITY CITY B</td>
<td>HILL</td>
<td>LESTER</td>
<td>7/26/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 STL-MARYVILLE GARDENS</td>
<td>FIELDS III</td>
<td>RAYMOND</td>
<td>7/22/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 STL-CLAYTON BR</td>
<td>FAVORS</td>
<td>MICADEZ</td>
<td>6/28/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 STL-KIRKWOOD DELIVERY</td>
<td>HOGAN</td>
<td>JAHBAR</td>
<td>7/12/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 STL-WEATHERS STA</td>
<td>IVORY</td>
<td>SANDRA</td>
<td>7/23/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 STL-CHOUTEAU STA</td>
<td>KING</td>
<td>KRISTAL</td>
<td>7/26/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 STL-OLIVETTE BR</td>
<td>LIKE</td>
<td>SHAWN</td>
<td>7/26/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 STL-SOUTH COUNTY BR</td>
<td>ALEXANDER</td>
<td>ARIEL</td>
<td>7/26/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 STL-AFTON BR</td>
<td>AGOSTO-ORTIZ</td>
<td>LUIS</td>
<td>7/26/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 STL-CHOUTEAU STA</td>
<td>DUPREE</td>
<td>ODESSA</td>
<td>7/26/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 STL-FERGUSON BR</td>
<td>JONES</td>
<td>CHAPRISSE</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>BROOKS JR</td>
<td>LORENZO</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 STL-GRAVOIS STA</td>
<td>OHLENDORF</td>
<td>TRISTA</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 STL-WHEELER STA</td>
<td>NEWBERN</td>
<td>JARRICKA</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 STL-JENNINGS BR</td>
<td>HILL</td>
<td>TREY</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 STL-WEST COUNTY BR</td>
<td>WILSON</td>
<td>BRITTNEY</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 STL-NORMANDY BR</td>
<td>JONES</td>
<td>QUINTIN</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 STL-NORTH COUNTY BR</td>
<td>TUCKER</td>
<td>TREJAY</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 STL-CHOUTEAU STA</td>
<td>WILLIAMS</td>
<td>SARITA</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 STL-OLIVETTE BR</td>
<td>HOLLOWAY</td>
<td>SARITA</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 STL-NORTH COUNTY BR</td>
<td>BASS</td>
<td>ROBBIE</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 STL-JENNINGS BR</td>
<td>JOHNSON</td>
<td>DELISA</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 STL-UNIVERSITY CITY B</td>
<td>QUINN</td>
<td>DEANGELA</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 STL-NORMANDY BR</td>
<td>MATKINS</td>
<td>ELIZABETH</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 STL-MARYVILLE GARDENS</td>
<td>SHIPP</td>
<td>DE ADRIAN</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 STL-OLIVETTE BR</td>
<td>BROWN</td>
<td>DARTRAIL</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 STL-CREVE COEUR BR</td>
<td>WILSON</td>
<td>D AMBARA</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 STL-OLDHAM STA</td>
<td>JENNINGS</td>
<td>TAYASIA</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 STL-MARYVILLE GARDENS</td>
<td>LANG</td>
<td>KAYLA</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33 STL-GRAYWOOD STA</td>
<td>HAYWOOD</td>
<td>CHEVETTE</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34 STL-NORMANDY BR</td>
<td>WEAVER</td>
<td>TIPHANIE</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 STL-CLAYTON BR</td>
<td>COX</td>
<td>CRYSTAL</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 STL-CLAYTON BR</td>
<td>RAGLAND</td>
<td>TUJUANA</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37 STL-GAFFNEY BR</td>
<td>YOUNG II</td>
<td>EARL</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38 STL-DES PERES BR</td>
<td>BRUNO JR</td>
<td>KIRBY</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39 STL-JENNINGS BR</td>
<td>GAVWINER</td>
<td>CHELSY</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 STL-KIRKWOOD DELIVERY</td>
<td>HARRIS</td>
<td>AKIL</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41 STL-WEATHERS STA</td>
<td>OWENS</td>
<td>CHRISTOPHER</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42 STL-KIRKWOOD DELIVERY</td>
<td>EVANS</td>
<td>SHAUNICE</td>
<td>10/14/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43 STL-NORTH COUNTY BR</td>
<td>CONWAY</td>
<td>CIARA</td>
<td>10/18/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44 STL-WEST COUNTY BR</td>
<td>SWIFT</td>
<td>MAURICE</td>
<td>10/18/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 STL-JENNINGS BR</td>
<td>ALEXANDER SR</td>
<td>BRIAN</td>
<td>10/18/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46 STL-WEATHERS STA</td>
<td>GOODRUM JR</td>
<td>WILLIE</td>
<td>10/18/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47 STL-CLAYTON BR</td>
<td>LEWIS</td>
<td>KIMBERLY</td>
<td>10/18/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48 STL-CLAYTON BR</td>
<td>COLEMAN</td>
<td>MARVIN</td>
<td>10/18/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49 STL-SAPPPINGTON BR</td>
<td>SHIPP</td>
<td>KAYLA</td>
<td>10/18/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 STL-WEATHERS STA</td>
<td>EDDINS</td>
<td>CALVIN</td>
<td>10/18/14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
March 2016 greetings to all of the brothers and sisters of NALC Branch 343. I wrote last month about Rams football team owner Stan Kroenke and his Walmart connections. I will try to explain the many reasons I am not a fan of Walmart or its affiliated Sams Club.

**JUST SAY NO TO WALMART SHOPPING.**

Walmart is our nation’s largest retailer, second largest corporation, largest private employer with 1.3 million workers, and it reported a net income of $11 billion last year. Yet despite those lofty numbers, Walmart is constantly cited for wage law violations, inadequate health care, worker exploitation, and their harsh anti-union stance. Bad working conditions are so prevalent that there are 5,000 lawsuits filed against Walmart each year. There has even been a documentary released entitled “Walmart: The High Cost of Low Price.” Walmart routinely threatens reprisal against employees seeking to unionize and when employees do vote to unionize, Walmart simply closes their department or store for quote “economic reasons.”

The Walmart corporate way also involves management encouraging their employees to apply for Medicaid and other government aid programs, effectively shifting the burden of their employees’ benefits onto the taxpayers who fund those programs. I personally find this practice to be the most sickening aspect, no pun intended, of Walmart’s many egregious practices. Again, I do realize that some rural areas have few choices, but if there is an alternative, no respectable union shopper goes to Walmart or Sams Club.

**NEWLY CONVERTED CAREER PROBATIONARY PERIOD**

Back in the good ole days, we all served a single 90-working-day (120-calendar-day) probationary period when we were initially hired as letter carriers. However, we were considered “career” employees when hired as part-time flexible carriers and as such did not have to serve another probationary period when converted to full-time regular carrier. Today’s city carrier assistant is not categorized as a “career” position. This means that when your lucky day comes to be converted to full-time regular carrier, you must also serve a second probationary period because you are considered a new “career” employee. I personally don’t think that’s fair since you already served a probationary period as a CCA.

I do have some good news about this though. Contrary to what management has been telling our newly converted full-time regulars, not all of them are required to serve another probationary period. Per the MOU M-01857 titled Sunday Delivery - City Carrier Assistant Staffing, “City carrier assistants converted to full-time career status during the term of this agreement will not serve a probationary period when hired for a career appointment provided the employee successfully served a cumulative 360 days as a city carrier assistant directly before conversion to full-time career status.” The agreement was signed on April 1, 2015, and is in effect until May 20, 2016. It may be further extended by the parties at that time.

So if you have served a full term (360 days) as a CCA, you do not have to serve another probationary period. Our CCAs here in the St. Louis installation are being converted in just over a year’s time and if that pace continues they are covered by the MOU language. We just had 14 CCAs converted and the senior CCA now is Eric Chism, with a CCA hiring date of February 22, 2014. Any CCAs fortunate enough to be converted to career in less than a year, will unfortunately have to serve a new probationary period of 90 working/120 calendar days. The positive side of this is they are not learning a new position and they can begin bidding on vacant assignments.

Congratulations to all of our new full-time regular carriers and enjoy your new career benefits. Refer to your new Form 50 - Notice of Personnel Action for information and call the Union Hall if you have any questions, especially if management says you are being required to serve another 90/120 day probationary period.
FOOD DRIVE

Our 24th annual, nationwide Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is quickly approaching. This year it will take place on May 14 which is not the day before Mother’s Day. Nationally, the NALC has its eyes set on breaking the record of 77 million pounds collected in one day and I am hoping we will break our own record this year. There are not enough thanks that can go around to say thanks for everything that you do preparing for the Food Drive. I have already been visiting some stations in our branch since mid-February. Early on the list this year were some associate and rural offices like Park Hills, Fredericktown, Warrenton and Wright City and the feedback and enthusiasm has been very high. We are trying our best to get sponsors for bags. This is a very large branch that is widely spread throughout Missouri and it is a challenge to find local supermarket sponsors in some areas but at the same time, last year the great carriers in those associate offices were able to find local stores willing to donate bags and it was quite successful. We hope to obtain more bag sponsors in the coming months. Locally, here in St. Louis, Branch 343 and the Foodbank have sent letters to Dierbergs as they graciously donated 60,000 bags last year and hopefully will again this year. The Foodbank has offered to buy bags from Dierbergs at cost for the remainder of bags that they would not donate but will be needed. We are working real hard on trying to find different ways to get some volunteers to assist the carriers on the street the day of the collection; I do realize how hard it is to deliver mail, parcels and collect food at the same time. What we do for our communities and those less fortunate on this day is remarkable and you do make a big difference in many people’s lives and for that it is deeply appreciated.

By the time you read this article the prepaid orders for the pink shirts would have ended. There is no deadline for the nice chocolate colored shirts that will be worn this year. In addition, I have ordered 36 made-in-the-USA shirts from another company. The artwork is multicolored just like you see on the NALC website and in The Postal Record magazine. Our company in town does not have the machinery to print these shirts. I will be bringing them around when I visit the stations and they will be sold on a first-come, first-paid basis. The shirts are $9 each and come in medium, large and extra large; the colors are navy blue, royal blue, red and gray based with very colorful artwork. I am curious to the feedback on these shirts.

NALC - USPS

A few months ago, Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced that an open season will be held from September 1 to September 30, 2016. The last open season was in 2004. During this open season, letter carriers may enroll or increase their coverage in the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) without waiting for a qualifying life event. You can reduce or cancel your coverage at any time without waiting for an open season. As postal employees, we are already covered completely by the USPS for basic insurance. The basic insurance amount is equal to the greater of your annual rate of pay plus $2,000. Since we have many new members, those under the age of 45 get the extra benefit which doubles the amount of your basic insurance if you die when you are 35 or younger. That benefit decreases 10 percent each year until there is no extra benefit left. There are three different options of term life insurance and they are paid through payroll deductions and the rates are based on your age. There are choices to include spouse and family coverage. Look for more discussion this year in future issues of our national publication The Postal Record.

We recently received notice that our grievances relating to CCA conversions were all settled at the national level and we were successful in all of them. I have discussed these grievances in the past and basically they dealt with management not following the proper guidelines in converting CCAs to regulars and we continued to file grievances. In those decisions, 34 recently converted regular carriers will have their seniority date changed to earlier times. The seniority dates will range from four weeks to as long as 12 weeks. These carriers will also be paid for any missed holidays, the pay difference between CCA pay and full-time regular pay and be credited for lost annual leave and sick leave. According to my calculations, these awards came to approximately $32,000 without counting any pay difference for any overtime worked. This is what we do as a union when a non-member has the nerve to ask what does the union do for us.
Gateway District management is allowed to use abusive and threatening language toward their employees without fear of discipline. One of the most recent instances was when a manager left a threatening message on the carrier’s cell phone. It was investigated and to no surprise the manager did violate the violence in the workplace agreement. This manager is still employed by the Postal Service. Another example comes to mind, a manager threatens a carrier on the workroom floor with physical violence in front of everyone then orders the carrier and shop steward into the manager’s office and continues to make threats of physical violence. This manager was found guilty of violence in the workplace. This manager is still working for the Postal Service. The manager was moved, but no discipline or time off was issued. A postal supervisor pushed a carrier out of her way along with many other aggressive acts and to management’s credit the supervisor was returned to craft. Looking through the database at Branch 343 I’ve read cases where management will tell an employee they are going to fire them if a route and an hour of overtime aren’t done in eight hours. Other carriers will have supervisors enter a person’s comfort zone with finger pointing in the face and chest with remarks like, “You were a good carrier before you became involved with the union.” Management will repeatedly approach a carrier and antagonize them in order to get a violent reaction from the carrier. Supervisors have told carriers that if a grievance were pursued against them it would not be in their best interest. Postal patrons have witnessed, on many occasions, supervisors cursing and screaming at carriers on the street, even threatening the same postal patrons. Again management seems to wink and nod at these transgressions. The reason these examples are in the grievance database is because other carriers wrote witness statements on behalf of their fellow carrier. Don’t allow management to abuse you or your neighbor. Stand up for each other. Don’t be afraid to write a statement for a fellow carrier.

I’m sure part of management’s training is how to make sarcastic remarks to be overly demeaning, how to threaten carriers with being placed off the clock, and defaming stewards. One top postal manager stated in St. Louis that craft employees were either drunks or drug addicts. As I’ve heard management say many times, “Carriers are a bunch of thieves.”
Greetings once again brothers and sisters! As I write this time it’s mid February and we still haven’t had a significant bout of winter weather like is customary for our area. Spring should be rapidly approaching by the time you receive this month’s edition and, hopefully, we’re in the clear. Unfortunately though, the weather trend seems to be changing from heavy snow to torrential rain the past couple years. If it’s not one thing, it’s another around these parts — huh?

**HEALTH BENEFITS**

Late last year the NALC Health Benefits Plan announced that it had negotiated to have Target Pharmacies added on as a network pharmacy with our health plan. That arrangement has been finalized and now Target Pharmacies are a part of the Plan’s maintenance choice program for prescription drugs along with CVS Pharmacies.

The NALCHBP members now have the option to fill their 90-day (84-day minimum) supply of their maintenance prescriptions at Target Pharmacies and pay the applicable copay depending on which plan option you are enrolled. What this means is that there are an additional 1,672 retail pharmacies nationwide where members can fill 90-day supplies of long-term medicines.

NALCHBP members can simply stop by the pharmacy counter at any Target, and speak to the pharmacist about picking up their 90-day supplies at that location. To find the nearest Target Pharmacy or CVS Pharmacy location you can simply log in at www.caremark.com and use the pharmacy locator tool or call 1-800-933-NALC (6252). In the months to come you will start to see the CVS/Pharmacy logo at all Target Pharmacy locations.

**OWCP**

If you have suffered an on-the-job injury, or even if you’re just the inquisitive type who likes to stay in the know, be sure to make use of the information provided on the NALC website www.nalc.org. Included with all the other useful information on our website is a section specifically designed to educate and inform carriers who are dealing with on-the-job injury situations.

When you go to www.nalc.org, the bar across the top of the page will show you the option to click on WORKPLACE RESOURCES. When you click that, the option at the very bottom of the drop-down will be INJURED ON THE JOB. Once you click there a page will open up with a grid containing multiple questions and topics related to injuries on duty, OWCP, and filing claims in general such as:

- Was your injury due to a specific event?
- Did your injury occur over more than one day?
- Did you reinjure yourself?
- Did your claim get denied?
- Do you have permanent impairment due to an accepted OWCP claim?
- Tools for managing your OWCP claim
- OWCP laws, regulations and USPS manuals
- FECA COLA
- CCAs and on-the-job injuries

As you would imagine, the national has provided a resourceful reference to assist carriers in dealing with the difficult intricacies of filing an injury claim through the OWCP. Filing a claim for workmen’s compensation can be a tedious and agonizing process in many instances and trust me, the Dept. of Labor is not going to make it any easier for you. So it is best to be as knowledgeable as possible of the requirements, the regulations, and the routines involved with a workmen’s compensation claim. This is exactly why the NALC has furnished this much-needed info online at your disposal. This is just one more example of the effort that is put forth by our union to aid and assist letter carriers. Be sure to use it to your advantage.

God bless all and peace!
According to political pundits, this year’s election for president of the United States is going to cost an estimated $5 billion, nearly doubling the amount of the 2012 presidential campaign. In laymen’s terms that equates to roughly 1,250,000,000 Big Mac’s or about 5,000,000,000 Twinkies. That’s a lot of Twinkies.

Peddling influence is the name of the game and you’re either a player or you’re not. The consequences of not being involved in the political process can be catastrophic. It would be nice if money weren’t a factor. It would be nice if candidates for office didn’t have to spend a majority of their political lives seeking monetary support to get reelected. Like it or not Citizen’s United upped the anti. The only way to counter big money contributions is a whole lot of small ones.

The stakes of being a political player are huge. The assaults on labor unions over the last 50 years have emasculated the influence organized labor once held in this country and the consequences are low-wage jobs and the disappearance of the middle class. According to statistics from Forbes magazine there were 49 billionaires in the United States in the year 2000, as of January 2015 there were 971. That’s a lot of money and a lot of influence.

The NALC Political Action Committee has recently changed it name from COLCPE to the now more streamline name of the Letter Carriers Political Fund. Our political fund allows us to support those political friends who support all letter carriers and the United States Postal Service. As NALC President Fred Rolando said in his recent article, “The congressional allies we support in both parties helped us fight off more than a dozen attempts over the past eight years to end Saturday delivery and to deregulate mail delivery in the U.S. They helped us defeat two bills that would have ended door-to-door delivery and would have crippled our ability to capture the growing market for e-commerce delivery. They helped us rebuff many federal budget measures that would have slashed our pension and health benefits.

Most importantly, they are essential to our continuing efforts to achieve sensible postal reform and to defend our collective-bargaining rights.”

Think about our influence in this perspective. While our political action fund raised $6.4 million to support our political friends, UPS and FedEx raised $7.1 million to support political candidates who would like to see the U.S. Postal Service disappear. You think politics is an ugly business? You bet your boots it is. And as I said before, you’re either a player or you’re not.

Look what happened to the once powerful Teamsters Union last year, which saw their retirees’ pensions cut in half. Do you think for one minute with a $17 trillion national debt Congress isn’t thinking of finding ways to cut that debt? You can bet federal workers are in their line of sight.

Don’t sit back and take your future for granted. Don’t assume you can sit back and hope nothing drastic happens to your pension. We’re in the fight of our lives and the table is stacked heavily against us. If you’re a new employee, if you’re a veteran employee but has never contributed to our political action fund, or if you’re in the twilight of your working years and feel like your pension is safe, think again.

Sign up with the NALC Letter Carrier Political Fund. Have an amount deducted from your biweekly check. You’ll never miss it. The money we give today will help support politicians who support the Postal Service. Give as much as you can, the jobs they save may be our own.
Common Sense - Within minutes of coming to work this morning I received a call from a distraught letter carrier who was put off the clock under Article 16.7 - Emergency Placement in an off-duty, non-pay status. This carrier, in order to save a few seconds, exited his vehicle and left it running while delivering to a business. He saved a few seconds and has cost himself thousands of dollars and possibly his career. Don’t put yourself in that situation … use some common sense. Follow the safety rules even if it takes longer.

Pending Legislation - Everyone needs to stay alert this year to their e-Activist messages. Senator Tom Carper has introduced “iPost” (Improving Postal Operations Service and Transparency Act of 2015). This bill would:

- Create a Postal Service Health Benefits Program within the FEHBP (All employees would be enrolled in parts A, B and D of Medicare)
- Eliminate the requirement to prefund retirement benefits and cancel outstanding payments
- Require the Postal Service to fund only 80 percent of expected retirement costs and allow it to amortize those payments over 40 years
- Make permanent the exigent rate increase
- Freeze rates until 2018
- Stop the closing of mail processing plants for two years and post offices for five.

Letter carriers need to be aware that bills can be amended and the end result could look nothing like what was introduced. If you get an e-Activist message, be ready to email, call or write your representative. If you’re not an e-Activist, sign up!

Rap Session — President Rolando came into the region and addressed the hundreds of NALC branch leaders in attendance at this year’s Rap Session. Immediately after opening negotiations with the Postal Service, his presence was especially appreciated. As I’ve stated before, we, the NALC, have been blessed with great leaders over our history, but President Rolando is the right man at the right time for the challenges we currently face. I also want to thank all the volunteers who make the Rap Session possible and a success.

OSHA — President Rolando is requesting that local officers ensure that OSHA form 300A, “Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses,” for calendar year 2015 is posted in a conspicuous place at every office where employees work or report to work. The form should be posted from February 1 through April 30 this year.

Food Drive — The “Stamp Out Hunger” Food Drive this year will be on Saturday, May 14, 2016. If your branch has not yet registered, please do so. Postcards will be made available to branches this year at no cost, as long as they are registered by March 1, 2016. Registration forms have been mailed to each branch president. Getting an early and accurate count of the postcards needed will eliminate the last minute scrambling that we have had to overcome the past few years. The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union has signed on as a national partner for this year’s Food Drive. Make sure you reach out to our brothers and sisters for help and to thank them for their participation.

UBER Unrest — Recently, UBER drivers staged a protest as the transportation upstart slashed their rates by 40 cents per mile. UBER said in a press release that the lower fares would increase workload for the drivers. Isn’t it amazing? These drivers were supposed to be our neighbors, students and housewives who just happened to be going our way … according to UBER. As it turns out, they’re workers, just like us, attempting to get by and now being told that if they work for less, they will make more … sound familiar?

NALC Veterans Group — Last month I urged veterans to join the new NALC Veterans Group. This month, I’m proud to announce that over 7,000 NALC members have joined the group. The group is designed to provide NALC members who are veterans information specific to veterans’ rights and benefits within the Postal Service. Please join us at www.nalc.org/veterans.
87th Annual Ole Timers’ Day

DAN J. GOULD BRANCH 343
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

HONORING
RETIRED MEMBERS AND PAST PRESIDENTS
SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016

SERVING TIME NOON
REFRESHMENTS TILL 3 P.M.

BRANCH 343 UNION HALL
1600 S. BROADWAY

BILL LISTER
President
Branch 343, NALC

WALTER BESCH
Retirees
Chairman

Ole Timers’ Day - 1965
Letter Carriers Hall, 2802 South Grand Blvd.
MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 3, 2016, MEETING

Meeting called to order at 12:47 p.m. by Chairman Walter Besch. Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance offered by Chaplain Gus Frank. Chairman Besch thanked new retiree member Geno Iberg for providing the delicious lunch. Brother Bill Jimas will be providing lunch for the March meeting.

Volunteers: Still looking for volunteers for the May, October and November meetings.

New members: Don Urbanek from Gravois, Lemay and South County.

Minutes from the last meeting: Read and approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Clif Nelson reported a current balance after expenses of $1225.32.

Branch 343 President’s Report: President Bill Lister reported on the plumbing repair to the outside waterline. A 2-inch line providing water to the Union Hall ruptured. Bill reported it took a month to get a plumber out to fix it, but repairs were made and all is well. Bill reported the next need is to finish painting the Union Hall. CCA training took place downtown in January chaired by NALC Director of City Delivery Brian Renfroe. The training was well attended. Bill reported on an agreement regarding R-positions. There are now 25 R-positions throughout the city. We’re still dealing with postal management not doing their jobs and we still have problems with back-pay issues. Bill reported that we have a new area manager, Charlie Miller, originally from St. Louis. Bill’s hoping for better communications.

Legislative Report: Brother Mike Weir reported on NALC President Fred Rolando’s hearing before Congress at the end of January. Fred spoke about the burdensome pre-funding mandate imposed by Congress and its impact on postal operations. Fred also spoke about alternative investment options and the expiration in April of the 4.3 percent exigent rate increase. Mike also reported on Senator Tom Carpers bill (S. 2051) regarding the Postal Service and while it has many provisions which all the postal labor unions agree to, that we had to watch as it makes it way through Congress so that no objectionable provisions are tacked on. Mike reminded everyone to vote in the March 15 Missouri primary.

Chairman’s Report: Chairman Besch asked brother Schulte to report on January AFL-CIO retiree meeting held at the Machinist Hall. Tom gave a brief synopsis of a report to beware of Medicare fraud. Tom reported that there is an advocate who would be willing to come to our meeting to make everyone aware of the prevalence of Medicare fraud. Tom reported that there is an advocate who would be willing to come to our meeting to make everyone aware of the prevalence of Medicare fraud.

New Business: A motion was made, seconded and approved to purchase four tickets at $25 each ($100 total) for the Regional Rap Session dinner on Saturday, February 27, for the state scholarship program.

Deceased Members: Harold P. Joeckel, Gold Card and Ben Fliesher, Gold Card

Recently Retired: Emil J. Bahr, West County; Thomas C. Agusti, Chouteau; Deborah D. Dunn, Des Peres; Valerie J. Scott, Southwest; Marta K. Carpenter, Cuba, and John A. Kesler, Town & Country.

50/50 of $13 won by Tom Harman.

Closing Prayer offered by Chaplain Gus Frank.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:17 p.m.
**BRANCH 343 CARDINALS TICKETS**

**ON SALE 9 p.m.  APRIL 14, 2016**

Immediately following Regular Branch Meeting

**************************************************************************

**ALL GAMES AVAILABLE**

APRIL THRU SEPTEMBER

CUBS, TEXAS, OAK., KC

**GREAT SEATS**

Sec. 249, Row 6, Seats 5 and 6

2nd Level Behind Home Plate

$110 for two seats, must be present and paid for on April 14

These same seats resold by the Cardinals would be up to $150 for premium games.

All tickets will be available with approximately 30 games raffled off as attendance prizes at the regular branch meetings.

Show up by **9 p.m. on April 14, after the regular branch meeting**, and enter the drawing. Order of choice will be by lottery and limited to two games. Any games left after the first round will be available in the same order for an additional two games until tickets are all sold. Payment by check, money order or cash must be tendered on April 14.

Only one set of Cubs, Texas, Oak. and KC tickets per pick of two games.

REDBIRD CLUB SEATS, SECTION 249, ROW 6, SEATS 5 and 6

No sales before April 14, 2016, at 9 p.m.

Any seats remaining will be available after April 14.

**************************************************************************

**AVAILABLE GAMES AND DATES VS. OPPONENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APRIL</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>JUNE</th>
<th>JULY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15, 16, 17 CIN</td>
<td>1 WSH</td>
<td>3, 4, 5 SF</td>
<td>1, 2, 3 MIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18, 19, 20 CHI</td>
<td>2, 3, 4, 5 PHI</td>
<td>14, 15 HOU</td>
<td>4, 5, 6, 7 PIT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29, 30 WSH</td>
<td>6, 7, 8 PIT</td>
<td>17, 18, 19 TEX</td>
<td>15, 16, 17 MIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17, 18, 19 COL</td>
<td>29, 30 KC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20, 21, 22 AZ</td>
<td></td>
<td>18, 19, 20, 21 SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23, 24, 25 CHI</td>
<td></td>
<td>22, 23, 24 LAD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AUGUST</th>
<th>SEPTEMBER</th>
<th>OCTOBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5, 6, 7 ATL</td>
<td>8, 9, 10, 11 MIL</td>
<td>1, 2 PIT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8, 9, 10 CIN</td>
<td>12, 13, 14 CHI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23, 24, 25 NYM</td>
<td>26, 27, 28, 29 CIN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26, 27, 28 OAK</td>
<td>30 PIT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# St. Louis Cardinals 2016 Schedule

**MOUND CITY CARRIER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APRIL</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>JUNE</th>
<th>JULY</th>
<th>AUGUST</th>
<th>SEPTEMBER/OCT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUN</td>
<td>MON</td>
<td>TUE</td>
<td>WED</td>
<td>THU</td>
<td>FRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>FS/E</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS/E</td>
<td>PIT</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS/E</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS/E</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>ATL</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>MIL</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>MIL</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>MIL</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>MIL</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FS/SF</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MIL</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MIL</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MIL</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MIL</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MIL</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MIL</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MIL</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MIL</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MIL</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MIL</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MIL</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Game times subject to change**

All games broadcast on KMOX 1120 AM and the Cardinals Radio Network.

- **FS** = Fox Sports Midwest
- **F** = Fox
- **E** = ESPN or ESPN2
- **TBD** = TV Network TBD

FOR FULL SCHEDULE OR BROADCAST DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT [cardinals.com](http://cardinals.com)
TEXAS HOLD’EM TOURNAMENT
CHILI COOK-OFF
FOR MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION
AND
ST. LOUIS AREA FOODBANK

Suggested donation of only $30 in advance by April 1, 2016, includes:
- 6,000 poker chips, chili and beverages
- Raffle for entries paid in advance
- $35 after April 1

Saturday, April 9, 2016, at 7 p.m. start time
Doors open at 6 p.m.
Letter Carriers’ Hall
(raising money for MDA for over 60 years)
1600 South Broadway in Soulard

20 minute blinds starting at 25/50
Guaranteed prizes for all final table players
Prize pool will be 50% of total entries
50-50 Raffle

To pay in advance or for more information call:
Bobs (314) 941-1589 or Tom (314) 258-0442

Make your dreams come true with a Home Equity Fixed Loan
or Line of Credit.

Use the equity in your home for home improvements,
college tuition, debt consolidation, upcoming expenses...
the possibilities are endless!

In addition, you’ll enjoy:
- No appraisal or balance transfer fees
- No sudden jumps in monthly payments
- Pre-approval and a fast turnaround time
- Friendly, local service
- And much more!

Don’t risk your future with an unfamiliar institution.
Turn to your Neighbors today!

314-892-5400
www.neighborscu.org

.neighbors
CREDIT UNION
Here you belong.”
On January 21, the Senate’s Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee conducted a hearing to discuss the Postal Service’s finances and the impact of legislative and regulator burdens placed on the Postal Service. NALC President Rolando testified at the hearing.

President Rolando focused on three major impediments to the Postal Service:
1. The pre-funding mandate, which accounts for 86.1 percent of the USPS’s $57 billion in reported losses,
2. The policy that requires all postal retirement funds to be invested in low-yielding Treasury bonds, and
3. The scheduled expiration in April of the 4.3 percent exigent rate increase.

Rolando said, “Reforms to the FEHBP (Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan) program to maximize participation in Medicare among eligible postal retirees would all but eliminate the $50 billion unfunded liability for future retiree health, while raising Medicare spending by less than two-tenths of one percent annually.”

Postmaster Megan Brennan also testified at the hearing, although on another panel. Her testimony covered the same issues as President Rolando’s.

The Postal Service reported a $307 million net profit and $19.3 billion in revenue for the first quarter of 2016. Postmaster Brennan stated, “Shipping and package revenue grew 13.5 percent over the same period last year, and was particularly strong during the holiday shipping season. We projected and delivered more than a 16 percent increase in package volume.” President Rolando issued a statement following the release of the financial report for the first quarter. “These results aren’t a fluke. They stem from two structural factors: An improving economy has helped stabilize letter revenue, and Internet-driven online shopping has sent package volume sharply upward.”

The improving financial condition of the Postal Service can only improve the NALC’s position during contract negotiations. The current contract expires on May 20, 2016. Contract negotiations will have already begun by the time you receive your issue of the Mound City Carrier. The National Rural Letter Carriers’ Association (NRLCA) and the Postal Service have already reached a tentative agreement on a new 3-year contract. The contract includes a 3.8 percent wage increase. A ratification vote by the NRLCA membership is required to enact the contract. Senator Tom Carper, D-Del., is the ranking member of the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee. He introduced the Improving Postal Operation Service and Transparency (iPost) Act of 2015 (S. 2051) on September 17. The following is a summary of the provisions of iPost.

- **Medicare Integration into FEHBP** — A mandatory, enrollment of annuitants into Medicare Parts A and B would be required. Maximizing enrollment in Medicare would reduce the cost through FEHBP and thus reduce the future cost of health benefits.
- **Investment in Retiree Health Benefits Fund (RHB)** — The USPS would have the option to invest a portion of its contributions RHB in a Thrift Savings Plan style account rather than in low-interest Treasury bonds.
- **Prefunding RHB** — The pre-funding goal would be changed to 80 percent of projected obligations and a new 40-year payment schedule would be created.
- **FERS/CSRS** — The Postal Service would receive a refund of any pension overpayments revealed by new calculations of pension obligations using postal specific assumptions. The payment schedule for the pension liability would be extended from 25 years to 40 years.
- **Arbitration** — Interest arbitrators appointed to resolve postal contract disputes would be required to pay special attention to the financial condition of the Postal Service.
- **Door Delivery** — The conversion of door delivery to cluster or curb-side delivery is encouraged.
- **Closures and Consolidations** — The closure or consolidation of any mail-processing plants would be delayed for two years.
- **Delivery Standards** — Current delivery standards would be frozen for five years.
- **Postage Rates** — The bill would make permanent the 4.3 percent exigent rate increase, now scheduled to expire in March.
- **Non-postal Services** — The USPS would have the authority to offer non-postal products like banking.
- **Shipping of Alcohol** — The Postal Service would be able to ship beer, wine and alcohol.
- **FECA Reforms** — Various FECA benefits for injured workers and their spouses would be seriously reduced or eliminated for future injured workers.
Greetings sisters and brothers of Branch 343. How’s everyone doing? Fine, I hope. Route inspections are complete, and there are a lot of changes here at West County. Some carriers are upset, and others are okay with their changes. From my understanding you have 30 to 75 days to prove whether or not it’s working for you. Remember to take your breaks, comfort stops and lunch breaks, showing all that time on the street. Don’t case your DPS in the office, take it straight to the street. Make sure you show time on the street for any mail or package collection you pick up. Work safely inside and out. Tell the story of what you do every day on your appointed route. Stop dogging other carriers by saying things about their routes or work habits. When the changes go into effect, show your office and street time daily to demonstrate if it’s working in your favor or not. For those of you without changes, continue to do what you do every day.

Thanks to Brian Litteken and Johnny McLaughlin fighting management on the clock ring errors to give relief to overburdened routes, a new route and auxiliary were added. The rural carriers settled their contract with a 3 percent plus increase over a 3-year agreement. APWU is in contract negotiations right now and they may go to arbitration. Who knows? That’s a sign that the Postal Service is doing great. Gas prices are down so they are saving plenty of cash each and every day. Parcels and mail volume are up. Amazon packages are filling up our Tonkas daily. Letter carriers are giving excellent customer service. Hopefully, management will remember this during our contract negotiations.

Moving on, there were 18 John Henry Haake Scholarship applications received, and four winners will be selected, congratulations.

Food Drive is approaching fast, so let’s get ready to recruit volunteers to help make this an easy, safe day for all. Please bring your sons, daughters, grandchildren, friends and anybody who would like to help. If you deliver to or know someone who works for a grocery store, please ask for bag donations to make its easy to collect the food. Bob Rapisardo will provide you with letters requesting donations for distribution.

Thank you Michele Williams, Darlene Tate, Richard Derbak, Kurtis Mullins, Mark Koehler, Pamela Stepney and all the others who are stepping up to keep donut Saturday going.

I challenge each station and branch to raise $100 or more for the MDA Bowlathon.

Please govern yourselves accordingly for the upcoming election season. This is the time to ensure that eligible voters who wish to participate in the quickly approaching state and national elections are registered to vote. So please, if you’re not already registered, or if you know of someone who is not registered, do it now. The upcoming elections are important. Let’s support those candidates who support the Postal Service and our jobs. Let’s get out and vote!

Remember to do your best, leave the rest, don’t stress, God bless, and thank you for coming.
It’s obvious that when Bo Peep calls the sheep to her desk for undertime, there is a problem. You see, there is no such thing as undertime. You can’t Google it, find it in something called a dictionary or locate it in our contract. It doesn’t exist, so how can you do something that isn’t there? It was never negotiated by an arbitrator, the NALC or management. You’re not obligated to do it. Where are the scribes from Normandy, Kirkwood, Jennings, Creve Coeur or Gaffney?

Rams fans, I’ve got great news for you. You lost your team but you still have their practice facility. Think of it. Take down the Rams logo and their storied history of winning seasons, replace it with the USP shield and boom! You now have the central hub for the Midwest flat-sorting machines, run by Wiley Coyote and friends. If it can go wrong, it will. Kronke has nothing on these property moguls. So the boss gets on the scream-a-com again, we are given her daily dose of inspiration, direct from downtown. Sounds like Radar from M.A.S.H. “Carriers, you’re using 10 hours of office time.” So instead of finding out where or how lost office time is being used or stolen as management would like to claim, we are the guilty party. Management thrives on numbers, especially numbers they put in.

Management operates this way:
- If I say it, it must be true.
- If I believe it, it’s not a lie.
- If I put the numbers in, they’re correct.
- If I can spell P.D.I., then I am smart.
- If it doesn’t work, it’s the carriers’ fault.

Here Bo, try these numbers. If you allow downtown to send out cages of mail marked “Ready” to go, that’s a total mess, it’s on you. Our mail could be scattered around in five cages. It’s a clerk function to separate this, not a carrier function. Simply put, if each carrier uses 15 minutes to locate their mail, and you have 40 carriers, that’s 600 minutes of nonproductive time. Are you ready? Frigging drum roll! That my friends is the missing 10 hours! Hot damn! A carrier figured it out. We can be issued leaving time, but there is no cut-off time. Why? We can be brought our mail at 8:30 but it’s expected to be gone by 9. Why? Management says, “Our way is more efficient.” Save a half hour in the office, but use an hour trying to sort their mess. Take the duties we were given office time to perform, move them to the street, then eliminate the time required to do said duties. The magic trick of numbers used by management bear no resemblance to reality. I guarantee you this, the crew we have here will never question downtown. There is no willingness to stand up for the carriers, no matter how right we are. If I close my eyes, I don’t see a problem. We have three female supervisors. Can someone please explain their function. I know we have an afternoon scan supervisor. We have one who sends out goofy messages on the scanner. Make sure your x-press is delivered (at 2 in the afternoon), scan your parcels. Like we don’t know that. I hope the new area manager gets involved with the DPS cages. Give me a cane, straw hat, tap shoes, large red nose, are you ready to sing loud? La-Da-Da-Da-Da-Da, yea! When they make a decision, think Wiley Coyote. Six left.

**DID YOU MAKE LESS THAN $54,000 IN 2015?**
**YOU CAN GET FREE TAX PREPARATION! CALL THE UNITED WAY DIAL 211 OR 1-800-427-4626 FOR LOCATIONS & TIMES ONLINE FOR FREE AT WWW.GATEWAYEITC.ORG OR CALL 314-539-4062**

---

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME**
**BEGIN MARCH 13**

Change your clock.
Change your battery.
Hello sisters and brothers. We deliver the mail every day from sun up to well pass sunset. Here are some interesting statistics about the environment we service.

- 51,846 persons were killed or injured in all traffic crashes in the state of Missouri. One every 10.1 minutes.
- 11,401 persons killed or injured in speed involved crashes. One every 46.1 minutes.
- 12,960 persons were killed or injured in young driver involved crashes. One every 40.6 minutes.
- 16,176 persons killed or injured in older driver involved crashes. One every 32.5 minutes.
- 1,452 persons killed or injured in pedestrian involved crashes. One every 6 hours.
- 11,389 persons killed or injured in fixed object crashes. One every 46.2 minutes.
- Cell phone use reduces brain activities by 37 percent while driving. Texting while driving is eight times more likely to result in an accident than not texting. Phone conversations while driving reduces the driver’s ability to react.

Could this be you? Could you be a victim of this risky behavior, either directly or indirectly? Currently many of our fellow sisters and brothers do not believe that this can happen to them. These events can have long-term implications.

Please inspect your vehicle. Don’t drive it if it is not safe. Please pay attention to your surroundings and evaluate your park points for safety, not for its efficiency of delivery. A carrier’s job is all about time management and not letting time manage you!

2011 Missouri Reference material data provided by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Missouri Traffic Safety Personal Injury Problem Analysis
The new trucks are coming! The Promaster 2500 is definitely the biggest vehicle thus far. The design has taken features from the previous LLV fleet. Without having to bend over when you step into the cargo area, the motion light comes on, like the mini-vans. Turning up the volume on the back-up camera, you can hear as well as see anyone behind the vehicle.

Like the FFVs the Promaster 2500 gives you a better ride and more than enough power. Remember, safety first! Like the 2 Ton’s you have plenty of shelves that can be secured by lifting them up and not worrying about the rubber straps that usually break.

Alright, let’s talk about 3996s. Management must make these forms available. They should be kept where you don’t have to ask management for them on a daily basis. When you, the carrier, is of the opinion that you can’t complete your assigned route in the time allowed, filling out this form is necessary.

Carriers who do not desire to work over eight hours should complete this form with reasons why. Management should return this form to you in a timely manner with clear instructions.

Carriers on work assignment only should complete this form with reasons why. Let management make the decision.

Carriers on the overtime desired list must always complete this form with reasons why, since you may have pivots or splits on other routes, along with your assigned route.

If sufficient time has not been approved prior to leaving for the street, you should verbally inform management of your request, and demand a copy.

Letting management make the decision will protect you if discipline is issued for unauthorized overtime. C. Y. A. and always get a copy of your 3996.

Des Peres letter carrier Deborah Dunn rings out for the last time. Offering congratulations on her retirement are Br. 343 V.P. Barry Linan and shop steward Richard Schallert.
OFFICIAL ENTRY BLANK
A. BOAT OWNERS NAME: ________________________
ADDRESS: ______________________________________
CITY: ____________________________
STATE: _____________________________
ZIP: _______________________________
PHONE: ____________________________

B. BUDDY’S NAME: _______________________
ADDRESS: ______________________________________
CITY: ____________________________
STATE: _____________________________
ZIP: _______________________________
PHONE: ____________________________

☐ YES, I will be attending the dinner.
Total attending ______________
☐ No, I will not be attending the dinner.

ENTRY BY MAIL ONLY
Entry fee of $150 must be postmarked by April 1, 2016. Checks, money orders and cashiers checks will be accepted. All entries received after deadline will be subject to a $25 LATE FEE, accepted in cash only during check-in.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:
MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION
Help Reel in a Cure Bass Tournament
13801 Riverport Dr., Suite 303
Maryland Heights, MO 63043
On January 21, 2016, in the Senate, the Homeland Security & Government Affairs Committee held a hearing which focused on the finances of the Postal Service; in particular, its revenues, expenses, liabilities and debt. Its theme was the “Reality of the Postal Service.” I must say it was refreshing to see Congress focusing on reality for a change. NALC President Rolando testified at that hearing. He identified three major issues that were adversely impacting USPS’ bottom-line. These included: the pre-funding mandate, which accounts for nearly 88 percent of our current debt; the policy which requires investing retiree health funds in low-yielding Treasury bonds, rather than diversifying those investments to achieve higher returns; and the scheduled expiration of the 4.3 percent exigent rate increase in April. He also recommended reforming FEHBP to maximize participation in Medicare Parts A & B among eligible postal retirees. Such a step would all but eliminate the $50+ billion in unfunded liabilities for future retiree health benefits. Our partner USPS stakeholders, including large corporations, smaller companies and support organizations, are on board with these ideas. Even the Postal Service seems to have come around, to a certain extent. At the hearing, they were a little less doom and gloom, and a little more supportive of our position while citing the continuing growth in operating profits over the past three years and the strong growth in our shipping and package services. In his 2017 budget proposal, President Obama called for a permanent extension of the 4.3 percent emergency rate increase cited earlier in this article. While that was good news, his continuing reliance on a mail volume quota to grant USPS the authority to shift from six-day delivery to five was not!

Still, there was no mention of five-day delivery at the Senate hearing, and a majority of the representatives in the House continue to support six-day delivery. And while Senator Carper’s bill (S. 2051) needs some tweaking, it does address many of NALC’s priorities for postal reform. So, we seem to be moving in a positive direction on this issue; however, since the House has yet to weigh in on legislation, we must be ever vigilant and continue to press the issue in Congress.

Numerous other bills, some of which are beneficial for the Postal Service and letter carriers while others are detrimental to us and all federal employees, have been introduced in both houses of Congress.

Go to our website (nalc.org), click on the Government Affairs heading and access the congressional bill tracker for the latest listing. One recent bill (H.R. 4461) deceptively labelled “Federal Employees Rights Act” is actually an underhanded effort to undermine unions by eliminating automatic dues deductions from federal employees’ paychecks. This is yet another union-busting tactic which extremists, too many of whom are currently in Congress, are all too happy to embrace. On the other hand, H.R. 4422 “Providing Opportunities for Savings, Transactions and Lending (POSTAL) Act” calls for allowing USPS to offer basic financial services such as checking accounts, small loans and interest-bearing savings accounts. This is not a revolutionary idea. Postal Banking existed in this country from 1911 - 1967. The fact is nearly 28 percent of U.S. households do not have access to basic banking services or only have limited access. As a result, they are often forced to deal with payday lenders whose exorbitant interest rates put them in difficult financial straits. NALC has been advocating for a return to Postal Banking to alleviate this situation and to provide another source of revenue for USPS. Over the past couple of years, other organizations have been warming to this idea as well. Unfortunately, at the moment, rural constituencies, where traditional financial services are often lacking, seem to be taking a backseat to corporate constituencies and their lobbyists in Congress on this issue.

Meanwhile, on the state level, Illinois still does not have a budget; and our Missouri legislators are dedicated to passing legislation to support and protect their constituents, namely the moneyed elite. Bills such as right-to-work, paycheck deception, prevailing wage and voter photo ID are thinly veiled attempts to minimize the influence and participation of working men and women in our democracy while ensuring an even stronger voice for corporations and the ultra-rich in shaping fiscal and social policy.

The 2016 election is definitely shaping up as a choice between catering to the greed of the upper 2 percent or protecting the interests of working men and women and the less fortunate. I know where I stand, how about you? Contribute to the Branch 343 PAC Fund and the Letter Carrier Political Fund.
Summary of Branch Action

MSC To pay the branch bills.

MSC That the branch send an additional officer, long with the president to the spring Committee of Presidents Meeting in April of 2016 and pay expenses.

Highlights

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance led by Chet Drain. The minutes were read and accepted. The books were audited and found in good order. RAA Stephanie Stewart reported the Executive Council would form into committees and cover each article of the National Agreement. These committees will make recommendations to the Executive Council May 20, 2016. If the Postal Service and NALC have not reached a contract we either agree to extend the discussion, go to mediation or arbitration.

The NRLCA have reached an agreement—a three year contract offer of 3.8 percent raise for regular carriers and RCAs a raise of 3 percent and they retained the COLA. This has not been ratified by the membership. Stephanie stated she did not fire John McLaughlin from CDRAAP team. John’s counterpart in management was the problem. Routes were added in W. County, Fenton, Creve Coeur to just name a few.

Robinette Hensley’s Bowl Against Muscular Dystrophy is March 20 at 10 a.m. in Fenton and 3 p.m. at Olivette Lanes. Bring the family and have fun.

Stewards, CCAs should have a scheduled time to report. If there isn’t a schedule posted, file a grievance.

Deadline for the pink Food Drive shirts is March 3. There will be 36 delegates going to the State Convention and 33 to National Convention. We have a new district manager, Charlie Miller. Mr. Miller was a carrier in North County also an NALC shop steward member in good standing. The branch is hoping for a better working relationship with Mr. Miller. The new scanners are junk and batteries go dead. They will not hold all the data entered in an 8-hour shift.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m. with an attendance of 68 members.

Recording Secretary
Michael “Thumper” Tharp

New Members

Whitley M. Houston ....Normandy ......................01-26-16
Lance E. Edmonston ....St. James ....................01-26-16
Keith H. Hudson .........Weathers ........................01-26-16
Preston C. Wiley ........Maplewood ....................01-26-16
Kelli M. Laduron ........Kirkwood ........................02-10-16
Andrea L. Hopkins ......Harriet Woods ..............02-10-16
Edwin D. McDermott ...Affton .............................02-10-16
Carmellia M. Jackson....West County ..................02-10-16
Hannah G. Ngugi ........South County ................02-10-16
Chanel L. Thompson.....Maryville Gardens ..........02-10-16
Brittani K. Crump ......Mackenzie Pointe ..........02-10-16
Glenn P. Ragland .........Mackenzie Pointe ..........02-10-16
De’Arra N. Hollins ......Mackenzie Pointe ..........02-10-16
Charles L. Terrell ..........Southwest .................02-10-16
Robert L. Hodges Jr. ......Southwest .................02-10-16
Daniel P. Flynn ..........Coyle ...............................02-10-16
Marquita C. Charles .....Affton .............................02-10-16

Recently Retired Members

Emil J. Bahr .....................West County ..........01-31-16
Thomas C. Agusi ........Chouteau ........................01-30-16
Deborah D. Dunn ....Des Peres ..........................01-31-16
Valerie J. Scott ..........Southwest ....................01-25-16
Marta K. Carpenter ......Cuba ................................12-31-15
John A. Kesler ........Town & Country ...........12-31-15

Deceased Members

Harold P. Joeckel ..........Gold Card ..................01-18-16
Ben Fliesher ........Gold Card ..........................12-24-15
Political Action Honor Roll

CHARLES SEXTON★★
BOB FLAHERTY★★
MIKE WEIR★
TOM SCHULTE★
GENO IBERG★
JOE POLITTE★
TONY JASPER★
BILL LISTER★

GERALD L. GALLEANO★★
MARION HARRIS★★
MIKE DAVID★
DAN BRAUCHLE★
NICKI L. PRADO★
TOM DEGEARE★
THOMAS HOWERY★
MIKE BIRKET★

ART BUCK★★
JOE FITZJARRELL★★
JOHN HAAKE★
BEV CREELY★
BARRY LINAN★
MIKE CHENOT★
HENRY DEIBEL★
RON HOPKINS★

CHARLES SCANLON★★
GUS FRANK★
TOM HARMAN★
KEN MEYER★
THOMAS FITZSIMMONS★
JOSEPH P. REGAN★
LAWRENCE McHAYNES JR★
STEPHANIE STEWART★

JOHN CHUDY
MIKE CHENOT
DERRICK WILLIAMS
WALTER BESCH
LARRY STREIB

TIFFANY HAGAR
MEAGHAN LAKEY
JOSEPH P. REGAN
DON CHARTRAND

RAMONA DROEGE
FRANK ENLOW
BOB STEEL
SAM GOODMAN

JIM KLUEMPEMPERS
ROCKY RAKOWIECKI
BILL JIMAS
MIKE “THUMPER” THARP

The above honor roll gives special recognition to those members who give $50 or more. Each star represents $100.

Derrick Williams
Gary Robertson

Bob Reuster
Raymond Schlereth

Mike Chenot
Chet Drain

Bob Rapisardo

IS YOUR NAME LISTED? WHY NOT?
SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS PAYABLE TO BRANCH 343, P.A.C.
MIKE WEIR
612 CHARLESTON OAKS DR.
BALLWIN, MO 63021-7387

(Donations are not tax deductible)

100 PERCENT UNION HONOR ROLL
CARRIER SQUARE/
CHOUTEAU
COYLE
CUBA
FERGUSON
GRAVOIS
KIRKWOOD
MAPLEWOOD
NORTH COUNTY
OLDHAM
PIEDMONT
ROLLA
SOUTH COUNTY
ST. ANN
ST. JAMES
STE. GENEVIEVE
TOWN & COUNTRY
UNION
WARRENTON
WENTZVILLE
WEST COUNTY
HARRIOT WOODS/
WHEELER

Branch Legal Plan
Advice and Consultation on
General Practice and Civil Actions.

John H. Goffstein
Attorney
225 South Meramec, Suite 402
St. Louis (Clayton), MO 63105
Telephone: 314-932-1919
Facsimile: 314-932-5048
john@goffsteinlaw.com
GoffsteinLaw.com

Branch Meeting Attendance Prizes
February 11, 2016

1. Blues vs. Sharks — Monday 2/22 @ 7:00 p.m. — Ramone Droege, South County
2. Blues vs. Avalanche — Tuesday 3/29 @ 7:30 p.m. — Lyle Harrington, Creve Coeur
3. Olive Garden - $50 Gift Card — Alka Hamilton, Jennings
4. Outback Steakhouse - $50 Gift Card — Charlie Harris, St. Ann
5. 50/50 Winner of $30 — Michael Rucker, Ferguson
Dan J. Gould
BRANCH 343

—OFFICERS—
Bill Lister ....................................... President
Barry Linan  ........... Executive Vice President/
Treasurer
Robert Rapisardo  ................... Vice President/
Financial Secretary
Mike “Thumper” Tharp... Recording Secretary
Derrick Williams ............... Sergeant-at-Arms
Saronda Sutherland ............... Collector, MBA
Chet Drain ........ Health Benefits Representative

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Marvin Booker  Tina Hunt
Stuart East  Brad Layton
Richard Thurman

CORRESPONDENT POSTAL RECORD
Tom Schulte

MEMBER-AT-LARGE
NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
Mike Chenot  Brian Litteken
Frank Enlow  Pam Stepney

DELEGATES TO THE ST. LOUIS LABOR COUNCIL
Mike Chenot  Barry Linan
Gus Frank  Bill Lister
Tony Jasper  Pam Stepney
Mike Weir

MOUND CITY CARRIER
Published monthly by Branch 343
National Association of Letter Carriers
Contents January be reproduced by NALC publications – just mention Branch 343.

STAFF
Tom Schulte .........................Managing Editor
Harry Blecha  ..................... Business Manager
John McLaughlin ......................... Editor
Clif Nelson ......................... Asst. Editor
Brian Litteken ......................... Asst. Editor

ADVISORY BOARD
Barry Linan
Bill Lister

All correspondence and all articles intended for publication in this paper should be addressed to:
John McLaughlin, Editor
1600 S Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63104-3806
Phone: (314) 241-4297

All copy should be TYPED in upper and lower case, double spaced and written on one side only. Articles are to be limited to 250 words and must be signed.

For ad rates call:
HARRY BLECHA
Phone: (314) 645-1192

Opinions expressed intend no malice toward anyone — neither do they necessarily express the views of the editor nor that of Branch 343 N.A.L.C.

Articles January be edited for brevity and potential libelous statements.

LETTER CARRIERS BUILDING
BRANCH OFFICE
1600 S Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63104-3806
(314) 241-4297

Hours: 8 am - 4:30 pm (M-F)
8 am - Noon (Sat)

Fax: (314) 241-2738

Website: www.branch343.org

FEMALE LETTER CARRIERS REPRESENTATIVE
Robinette Hensley, Creve Coeur
(314) 432--8211

EEO REPRESENTATIVE
Robinette Hensley — (314) 432--8211

HEALTH BENEFITS HOT LINE
Chet Drain — Hall: (314) 241-4223
Tuesday 8 am to 4:30 pm

COMPENSATION HOT LINE
Chet Drain — Hall: (314) 241-4223
Wednesday 8 am to 4:30 pm

SAFETY & HEALTH
Richard Thurman, Jennings
(314) 867-0418

VETERANS CONSULTANT
Mike David — (314) 241-4297

FOR LOW COST NALC INSURANCE
Saronda Sutherland, MBA
(314) 535-2850

NBA OFFICE
Mike Birkett — (314) 872-0227

Deadline for articles for the APRIL issue is MARCH 14, 2016

REGULAR BRANCH MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016
7:30 pm

SHOP STEWARDS MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2016
The Letter Carriers Building
1600 S Broadway