

# MOUND CITY CARRIER

Official Publication of Branch 343



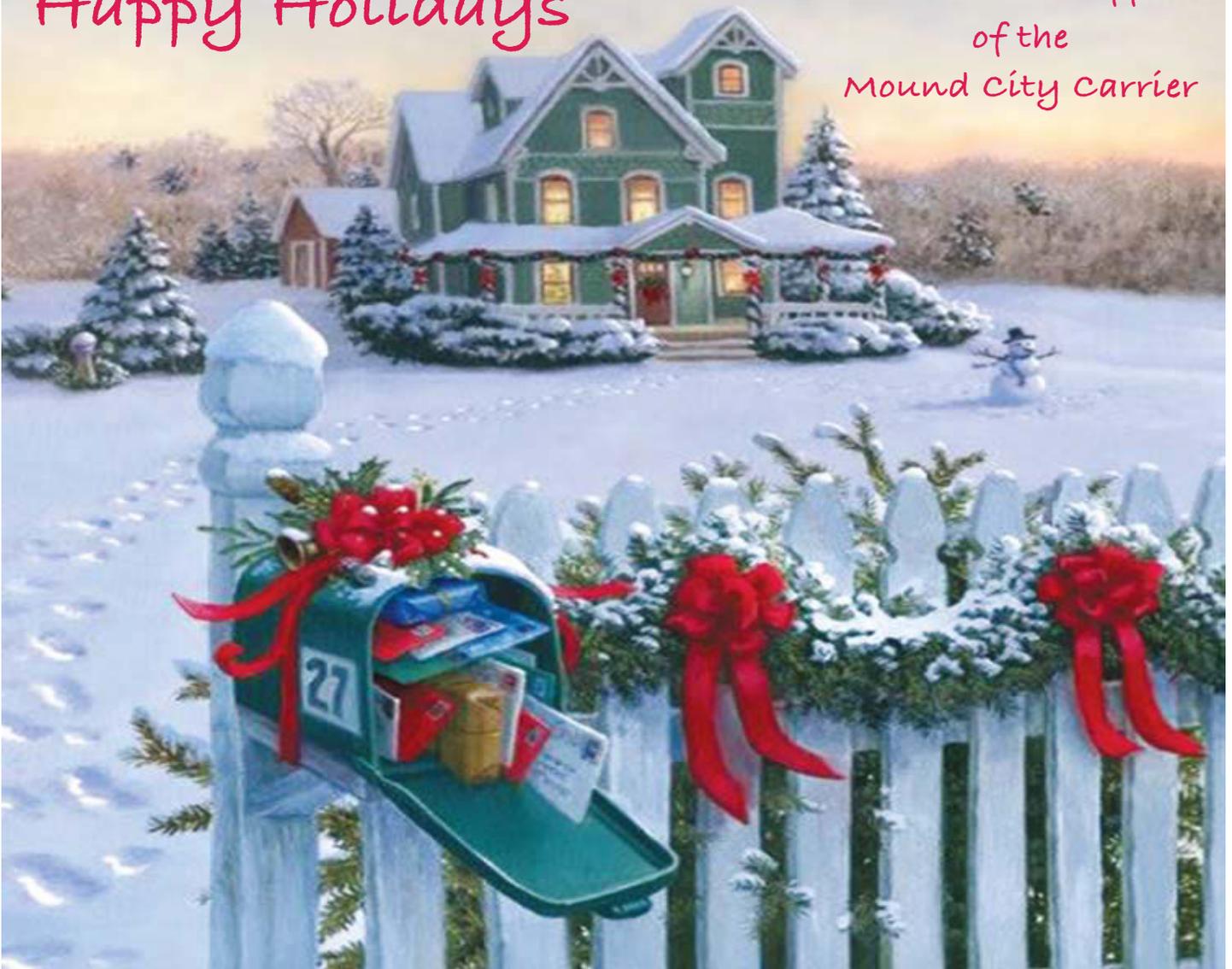
St. Louis, Missouri  
Chartered 1892

Volume 68, No. 12

December 2017

Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy Holidays

from the Officers of  
Branch 343  
and the Staff  
of the  
Mound City Carrier



# PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE ... BY BARRY LINAN

**H**oliday greetings to all of the brothers and sisters of NALC branch 343. Happy Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and a merry Christmas to all. Here is wishing that everyone and their families have a safe and joyous holiday season. Thanks in advance for all of your hard work thru the holidays!



## BRANCH 343 - LMOU NEGOTIATIONS

As I stated last month, the branch officers have been busy trying to negotiate LMOU agreements for each installation that we represent. The national parties had signed an MOU that required language be added to any LMOU for CCAs to **“be granted annual leave selections during the choice vacation period and for incidental leave.”** Each office that has its own postmaster is a separate installation and also has its own LMOU under Article 30. These LMOUs are for the length of the 2016-2019 National Agreement and cover various things, but most importantly they outline the annual leave program for your office. We have been able to get agreements at many offices, but it appears some will be at impasse, including the largest in the St. Louis installation. If your LMOU was settled, then we will be mailing a copy to the steward at your office. For those others at impasse, you should continue under the provisions of your prior LMOU until the impasse gets resolved.

For those CCAs who will now be able to make vacation period selections, be aware you must choose carefully based on when your 360-day term ends and your AL balance resets back to zero. You will need to have accrued 40 hours of AL prior to your selected period. CCAs earn up to four hours AL per pay period if they are working 40 hours or more per week, so 10 pay periods would be needed to accrue 40 hours AL. Refer to your USPS Form 50 if you are not sure when your 360-day term ends. At least now CCAs will have an opportunity to choose a leave period like the regulars do. CCAs can also request incidental (or other) leave throughout the year and it is approved per your local LMOU guidelines. As always, when you make a leave request on PS Form 3971, get it signed/dated by your supervisor and **keep a copy!** Some LMOUs provide that such leave requests must be approved if your supervisor does not get back to you within five days. You must have a signed/dated 3971 copy in order to prove this!

## POWER TO THE PEOPLE – KNOWLEDGE

I will continue to work to educate our members on their contractual rights in every way I can think of. It makes us all stronger when carriers know what to do when situations happen on the work floor. Visit the [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org) national website for information you can use to benefit you and your family. You can view the contract, JCAM, postal handbooks and manuals, letter carrier pay chart, and download FMLA forms all from the website.

There is an NALC member app now available for iPhones at the iPhone App Store and at the Google Play Store for Android smartphones. I know how much some of you like to look up things on your smartphones, so this app would be perfect for you.

Our own branch’s website at [www.branch343.org](http://www.branch343.org) is also informative and has our St. Louis installation bids and postings listed as well as the CCA relative standing list. You can follow the links there to access lots of other information, including the forms to enter your 2018 senior into our John H. Haake Scholarship Award and the Missouri State Association Charles J. Coyle Scholarship Award.

Lastly, please attend your monthly branch meetings at the hall on the second Thursday of every month starting at 7:30 p.m. Find out what is going on at the branch meeting, enjoy a little fellowship, and you might just win an attendance prize of Blues tickets.

MOUND CITY CARRIER  
Published monthly by:  
Branch 343, NALC  
1600 South Broadway  
St. Louis, MO 63104-3806

**STEWARD OF THE YEAR – ONE MORE AWARDEE**

I was unable to present the award to one other steward awardee who was not present at the stewards' banquet last month. I rectified that with a presentation at this month's steward meeting on November 2. Congratulations are now in order for Gaffney steward Lemar Mitchell. Thanks, Lemar, for doing a fine job as a steward and in dealing with a difficult manager throughout the last year. Any other stewards who missed the banquet, please make plans to attend next year. We had entertainment and a fine meal was enjoyed by all.

**GATEWAY DISTRICT – ACCIDENTS ARE UP**

The Gateway District is serious about getting employees to work in a safer manner. There are numerous management teams and safety personnel out on the streets observing your work habits. Make sure you have a pouch and dog spray while delivering mail. Make sure you park your vehicle safely, set the brake, and remove the keys from the ignition. Wherever you go, do not be driving down the road and thru intersections without your seat belt on and your door closed. If not, you are putting your job and your own safety at risk.

Dog bites and vehicle accidents are way up and we all need to be more aware of our own personal safety. We really do want carriers to be able to return home safely at night and enjoy time with their family. Please take the time to work your assignment in a safe manner!

**23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MDA TRIVIA NITE**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2018 (MLK Weekend)**



1600 S. Broadway 63104

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. / Questions begin at 6 p.m.

**The Night Includes:**

- Attendance Prizes
- 10 Rounds of Great Trivia Questions
- Beer, Soda and Snacks all evening long
- We will also have a Raffle and several Silent Auction Items

**Tables of 6 or 8 –**  
**\$20 per person in advance \$25 per person when paid on Jan. 14**  
**Make checks payable to MDA**

For more information call John McLaughlin  
Union Hall: ph # 314-241-4297  
OR email: johnnymac@branch343.com

**Don't wait! We are sure to sell out again this year!**

# EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT ... BY JOHN McLAUGHLIN

**F**irst of all, I would like to wish all my brothers and sisters a happy Christmas and a merry New Year.

## LMOU

The opening of all the local agreement in Branch 343 and associate offices has been a novel experience for us all. The need was precipitated by our recently signed contract. It requires that the LMOU reflect that we “permit city carrier assistant employees to be granted annual leave selections during the choice vacation period and for incidental leave.” This is a very good thing. As such, we are negotiating how exactly they will be incorporated into the present process. Management let it be known, in no uncertain terms, that they wish to relegate the CCAs into a second-class worker by giving them as little possible say in their annual leave selections. For all those CCAs who already feel unappreciated and debased by management’s actions thus far, this should come as no real surprise.

President Linan has put together teams of officers to canvas the entire Branch 343 region which covers as far away as Mexico, Rolla, and Sikeston. At the time of this writing, we are in the throes of negotiations and any impasses will not be fully adjudicated for months. As for St. Louis, we are going to impasse most of the items we discussed. To get a sense of the negotiations, management referred to **our** LMOU in St. Louis as “**your** LMOU.” So much for having the same perspective.

## BACK PAY

No news. We have no news about the contractual back pay nor do we have any news on the back pay for the CCAs who made regular in November of 2013. In fact, you may find out before we do. One positive note, it has been reported that at least one 2013 converted CCA has completed the journey back to the pay grade they should be at. I’ll believe it when I see it.

## “THE FISH ROTTS FROM THE HEAD DOWN.”

A recent OIG report found that the USPS has been inaccurately reporting delayed mail. The report

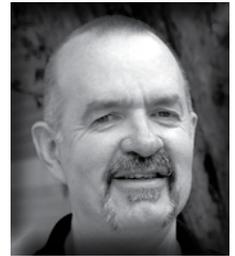
questioned whether the USPS was meeting their own service standards or whether the numbers it reports are based on flawed data. The OIG report estimated that over a one-year span, more than 2 billion mail pieces have been delayed across the country. It gets better. Another separate report found that USPS supervisors manipulated mail delivery-time records and inaccurately reported delayed mail. Employees have reported mail being intentionally delayed in order to meet local goals and of having workers in their offices at arbitrary times. The OIG estimates that delays in mail reporting costs the USPS \$85 million in revenue. The OIG found no formal training for conducting daily mail counts even exists. It has made the OIG question what other essential tasks the PDC may be overlooking.

These are the same untrained and inexperienced supervisors who are quoting DPS data daily as if it were gospel. Furthermore, this is the same data upon which they estimate your amount of work for the day. So carriers, and especially CCAs, just because they say you are underperforming, remember this OIG report. I would further add, these supervisors are merely doing as they are instructed. Any supervisor who questions their methods are swiftly relegated to the worst kind of punishment. They are sent back to carrying mail. Look at the top of the ladder. This is where you will find the culprits.

## 2018 MDA TRIVIA NIGHT

MDA Trivia Night will be **Sunday, January 14, 2018**. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and questions start at 6 p.m. The cost remains \$20 per person, but if you plan on paying the day of, it will be \$25 per person. It is a little bit like herding cats trying to get people’s money the night of the event. As usual, we will have Cardinal baseball tickets, a lots of fun giveaways and silent auction items.

Until next month, do your job safely and accurately. Show up to your union meeting. You might learn something. We don’t write the rules; we just have to play the game. Sláinte.



# VICE PRESIDENT FINANCIAL SECRETARY

... BY ROBERT RAPISARDO



## USPS / NALC

There are still many inquiries regarding conversion of CCAs. Nothing has changed since last month's article except one more grievance has been filed for USPS not converting CCAs. My assumption would be that those who are calling the hall may be the same carriers who are not reading my articles. I can only say, those who are reading the articles, pass the word to the other CCAs. As of this writing, the union has argued that a total of 23 CCAs should have been converted since July 22. Hang in there; in the long run, I am very confident that the grievances will be sustained.

The issue of carriers not receiving uniforms has reared its ugly head again. We have tried to work with management on this issue, repeatedly. Unfortunately, we continue to have instances of the same managers not doing their job despite higher management asking them to submit for the clothing allowances. At this time, another grievance has been filed. The basic fact is they just are not held accountable. Since handling these grievances, I feel management has been more than fair in the settlements. It will be a tough decision whether to work with them again or just bring it to the next level. I will keep you posted.

We are currently working on a grievance regarding a CCA who was not converted at the right time. He was involved in a situation that he incurred many medical bills after the date that he should have been converted but before the date that he was converted. We won the grievance that made his conversion date retroactive, prior to the medical bills. We are now filing a grievance for USPS to pay his medical bills because he should have had health insurance when the medical costs occurred. This should be an interesting case as we are unaware of any cases like this. We will keep you posted.

## UNION

I want to talk about a carrier who used to be a member of Branch 343. The carrier's name is Jaz Granderson who used to be a CCA. He left the USPS

to find a job that God had in mind for him. Jaz played high school and college football and then took a position being an assistant coach at the high school level in St. Louis. Unfortunately, a few months ago, he left this earth and is no longer with us. The reason that I am mentioning this is what he accomplished on this earth. There was much publicity about his loss on the news and in the papers. Jaz had quite an impact on his high school athletes; not just on the field but in their personal lives. There was nothing but good things to say about the 27-year-old who left us too early. I just wanted to recognize a young man and his accomplishments on this earth who just happened to be a past member of our branch. Kudos to you, Jaz.

## HOLIDAYS

I would like to wish all fellow members an enjoyable and safe holiday season including a happy New Year. Whatever holiday that you recognize and celebrate, I wish you and your loved ones the same, and stay safe to enjoy 2018 and beyond.

Roy Tailors is now...



- Postal Uniforms & Footwear
- Superior Service
- No Hassle Guarantee

When quality & service count, call one of our Area Representatives:

<b>George Cooper</b> 10443 Halls Ferry Rd. St. Louis, MO 63136 <b>314-541-1503</b>	<b>Pat Wheatley</b> 1638 Piney Dr. Arnold, MO 63010 <b>314-707-8120</b>
---	--

**CALL TOLL FREE 800.543.0379**

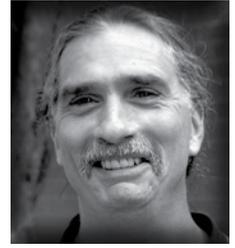
Retired letter carriers of Br. 343 and Br. 5050  
**SUPPORT YOUR UNION BROTHERS**

**USA MADE ★ UNION MADE**  
*It does matter!*



025A1114A50

# RECORDING SECRETARY ... BY BRIAN LITTEKEN



## LMOU NEGOTIATIONS

**L**MOU negotiations have been on-going for the past month. The deadline for reaching an agreement is November 14. So, by the time this article reaches you, Branch 343's 22 LMOUs will either have been negotiated or impasse. Either the USPS or the NALC may impasse one of the 22 items in Article 30 of the National Agreement. If management impasses an item, it has the burden of establishing that keeping the existing provision would represent an unreasonable burden to the USPS. Branch 343 has no such burden when it seeks to change an item in the LMOU. The Branch just has to show that it is solving a problem or is making the written terms of the LMOU consistent with an established past practice.

Just like the grievance process, the impasse process can be lengthy. The following are the impasse procedure deadlines.

- **Wednesday, November 29, 2017:** A written, initialed statement identifying the item(s) in

dispute must be furnished to the national business agent (NBA), the USPS Labor Relations Service Center, and the postmaster. The proposals and counterproposals for each item that were presented during negotiations are sent with the appeal. Each item that is disputed is appealed separately. As an example, disputes concerning vacation selections are appealed separately from the holiday pecking order. The disputed items are then negotiated on their own merits.

- **Sunday, January 28, 2018:** The NBA and the Postal Service's representative try to resolve the disputed items.
- **Sunday, February 18, 2018:** NALC President Rolando certifies all impasses which are to be resolved by arbitration.
- **Monday, February 19, 2018:** An Alternate Dispute Resolution team begins discussions on any CCA annual leave impasse issues from installations that had no CCA annual leave rights in their current LMOU.
- **Tuesday, April 4, 2018:** Interest arbitration hearings for LMOU impasse items will begin.



## Mark Your Calendar

*Don't sit on the sidelines...Get involved!*

Dec 12	Hanukkah Begins
Dec 14	Regular Branch Meeting
Dec 21	First Day of Winter
Dec 25	Christmas Day
Dec 26	Kwanzaa Begins
Jan 1	New Years Day
Jan 3	Retirees' Meeting
Jan 4	Shop Stewards' Meeting
Jan 11	Regular Branch Meeting
Jan 14	23rd Annual Trivia Night for MDA (Letter Carriers Hall - see ad)
Jan 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observed

## *100 percent Union* HONOR ROLL

CARRIER SQUARE/	SALEM
CHOUTEAU	SOUTH COUNTY
COYLE	ST. ANN
CREVE COEUR	ST. JAMES
CUBA	STE. GENEVIEVE
FERGUSON	TOWN & COUNTRY
GRAVOIS	UNION
KIRKWOOD	WARRENTON
MAPLEWOOD	WENTZVILLE
NORTH COUNTY	WEST COUNTY
OLDHAM	HARRIET WOODS/
PIEDMONT	WHEELER
ROLLA	

# HEALTH BENEFITS PLAN/ OWCP ... BY CHET DRAIN



**S**eaSon's greetings brothers and sisters. I hope the season finds you healthy, wealthy and wise enough to not get overextended in debt for Christmas.

The OPM Open Season is winding down to a close on Monday, Dec. 11. We are hoping that many of you made the choice to join our NALC Health Benefit Plan this year. Last year nationally the NALCHBP gained over 7,000 new members. Hopefully those numbers will continued to increase for this year with the new improvement to the Plan and with CCAs being converted to regular from coast to coast.

Even with the slight increase in cost created by the contractual premium increase, the NALCHBP is still one the best choices you can make as a letter carrier. As I've stated before, the fact that the NALC Health Plan is third largest insurance under the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program is a testament to the fact the Plan is reliable and affordable. It says a lot when our union-owned plan ranks that well in comparison to other privately-owned insurances.

If you are enrolled in the Plan already, you are entitled to the benefits described in the brochure. If you are enrolled in self and family coverage, each eligible family member is also entitled to these benefits. We

did not recommend the Self Plus One enrollment with the Plan because the premium payment turned out to be higher than Self and Family again for 2018 while the benefits are the same. This phenomenon was created by how the weighted averages for premium cost were determined by OPM, not the Plan itself. OPM negotiates benefits and rates with each plan annually.

If you need to review the coverages that are a part of the NALC Health Benefit Plan you can access the 2018 brochure on the website at [www.nalc.org/hbp](http://www.nalc.org/hbp) or you can call the Union Hall at (314) 241-4223 and request a copy. The benefits in the brochure are effective January 1, 2018.

**If you just joined the Plan during the current Open Season, your coverage begins on the first day of your first pay period that starts on or after January 1, 2018** – that's Jan. 6. If you've changed plans or plan options this Open Season and you receive coverage between January 1 and the effective date of coverage under your new plan option, your claims will be paid according to the 2018 benefits of your old plan or option.

As we come to the close of another year I would like to take the opportunity to thank Br. 343 and the membership for the opportunity to serve as a part-time officer for our local. I have always considered it a privilege to be in the position to help the members of our union and to give my best effort towards the well-being of those that we serve. Merry Christmas!

God bless all and peace!

*Merry Christmas  
from the  
Mound City Carrier  
Staff*



## Hand Surgery Associates

*Treating hand & wrist problems since 1986*

**Bruce Schlafly, M.D.**

*Board Certified Hand Surgeon*

**(314) 842-2200**

10004 Kennerly Rd., Suite 259B

St. Louis, MO 63128

(St. Anthony's Medical Offices)

# NOTES FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR

... BY TOM SCHULTE



## YEAR END THOUGHTS

**W**ow! What a year. In January we inaugurated a game show host as the president of the United States and immediately watched our country's status in the world plummet to an all time low. Who ever saw that coming? Majority parties in the House and Senate immediately attempted to dismantle health care for millions of Americans only to be thwarted by reasonable members of their own party. That's not to say that inaction won't lead to the destruction of the Affordable Care Act. That is yet to be seen.

But we all know the formula to dismantle federal programs: defund, buy outs for senior employees, and eliminate training for new hires and wait for the public to complain about the service. Bingo, solution? Turn it over to private industry.

That, my friends is what we need to be wary of. The Postal Service has stood the test of time. The Second Continental Congress has entrusted us with the nation's mail since the appointment of the first postmaster general on July 26, 1775. That PMG was none other than Benjamin Franklin. For over 242 years the Postal Service has served as an engine that has fueled the nation's economy, delivering hundreds of millions of pieces of mail every day to over 8 million businesses and 350 million Americans six and sometimes seven days a week. It is estimated that the connection we have with

the business community, printers, publishers, etc., results in annual revenues exceeding \$1 trillion. That alone makes us a target for privatization.

The Postal Service has been around because of our adaptability. We've weathered depressions, wars, and uncertainties in the economy. We've expanded and consolidated more times than we care to remember. In all, we've evolved into the most efficient and economical delivery business in the world. And in order to maintain that position and keep the privatization wolves at bay, we need to educate, inform and nurture that next generation of postal carriers.

It's not surprising that the United States Postal Service has been chosen as the most admired agency of the United States government for the last 10 years running. It's because of the commitment to excellence by each and every letter carrier across this nation to provide quality service at affordable rates.

The new administration hates federal employees. Look at every unqualified department secretary appointed by the president. Most have no practical experience to head their respective departments. Most are billionaires or millionaires who favor private enterprise and certainly no one cares about the poor or for that matter the middle class.

Our only hope, as a service, is to continue to curry favor by earning the trust and respect of the American public. It's hard to get fired if you're doing your job. Amazing isn't it. When the annual survey is taken of the most trusted federal agencies in the United States government, the Postal Service is number one and members of Congress approval ratings are in the single digits, making the greatest threat to the Postal Service coming from those we trust the least.

Do your best, every day. That's all we can do. Happy holidays to all.

### BRANCH LEGAL PLAN

Advice and Consultation on  
General Practice and Civil Actions.

**GL**

GOFFSTEIN LAW, L.L.C.

**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

# REGION 5 NBA REPORT ... BY MIKE BIRKETT



**Christmas and Happy Holidays** – Stephanie, Charlie, Dave and I would like you to know what a privilege it is to work for you and wish each and every one of you a merry Christmas and joyous holiday season. Thank you all for being part of our extended family.

**Speaking of the Holiday Season** – Carriers are expected to deliver more than 15 billion pieces of mail this season with about 850 million packages, a 10 percent increase over last year. The service expects December 18 will be its busiest day online, so expect a late rush of packages this year as our customers continue to increase their online shopping and expect near immediate delivery. Meanwhile, letter and flat volume continues to fall. This makes it especially important that we do our best when delivering parcels to our customers. There is a lot of competition for that parcel we deliver and more in the future. USPS has the best last mile of delivery in the world, because of you, and we need to capitalize on your experience, professionalism and dedication.

**Dignity and Respect** – It goes without saying that we demand that letter carriers must be treated with dignity and respect by management. What we occasionally forget because of pressures of work, issues at home and life in general, is to make sure we treat each other with the same dignity and respect we demand from others. I remember being taught that we should treat others the way that we wish to be treated. This goes for all managers, branch officers, members or non-members. Perhaps this is the perfect time of year to reflect and change the way we deal with our co-workers in the upcoming new year.

**Autonomous Delivery Vehicles** – In my September article I wrote about autonomous vehicles and my concern about legislation that may affect jobs across this country. Recent news articles in “Air Cargo World” and “Freight Waves” have reported that the USPS, working with the University of Michigan, is exploring the use of autonomous technologies and could deploy a prototype vehicle by this December. From there, the service is expected to search for a company to build the “ARDVs”

(autonomous rural deliver vehicle) with plans to test them on up to 10 routes in 2019. If these tests are successful, the service expects to deploy the vehicles on 28,000 rural routes by 2025. Apparently, the USPS has outlined five potential uses:

1. Driving the letter carrier for curbside delivery which would allow the carrier to sort mail between deliveries.
2. Driverless parking where the vehicle will park itself while the carrier gets out and begins deliveries.
3. Following the letter carrier, reducing “dead heading” and certain discounts.
4. The vehicle could return to the office to pick up additional or late arrival mail while the carrier continues working.
5. As a mobile parcel locker where the vehicle can be dispatched to a customer when convenient, allowing 24/7, on demand delivery.

While these articles do not directly mention city letter carriers, it’s inconceivable that the service would not use these vehicles in our craft.

**Safety** – At a recent trip to NALC Headquarters in Washington, D.C., I took time to stop at the memorial for letter carriers who have died on duty. It’s sad that a workforce has so many who have died that a memorial wall can be created. Perhaps during this season, you can take a minute and say a short prayer for those who have passed while delivering the mail and as important, make sure your name is never placed on the wall. Take the time that’s needed to work safely; the time to make sure your vehicle and surrounding work area are safe; the time to turn off your vehicle and park it properly so it doesn’t roll away; the time to look behind your vehicle when you have to back up; the time to cool down in the summer when overheating and the time to warm up in the winter when freezing. Most important, take the time you need to be safe and go home every day.

**Tidbits** – Since late in 2013, over 25,000 City Carrier Assistants have been converted to career status.

# RETIREE REPORT

... BY GUEST RECORDING SECRETARY NICKI PRADO



## MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 1, 2017, MEETING

**M**eeting called to order by Chairman Tom Schulte at 12:45 p.m. Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance offered by Chaplain Gus Frank. Tom thanked Roy Hatchard Jr. for providing the delicious lunch from P'Sghetti's. Tom announced that the officers of Br. 343 would be providing lunch for the December meeting from Hodak's.

**Volunteers:** Bill Jimas volunteered lunch for January; Tom and Linda Schulte volunteered for February; Nicki Prado, Ray Breakfield and John Haake volunteered for March; and Geno Iberg volunteered for April of 2018.

**Sick Call:** Get well card signed and sent to brother Mike David.

**Introduction of new members:** Joe Politte, South County; Jo Ann Cotham and Paul Wagner, Fenton.

**Minutes from the last meeting:** Read by guest Recording Secretary Nicki Prado.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Clif Nelson reported a current balance after expenses of \$1367.62.

**NBA:** No report

**Branch 343 President's Report:** President Barry Linan reported that the branch is currently negotiating the LMOUs for all 631 offices and associate offices. The branch is in the midst of settling the back pay issue for 128 CCAs resulting from a grievance settlement from July of 2013. Barry reported that 40 CCAs attended a training session provided by the branch on Sunday, October 15. Barry announced that the ballots for branch officers and delegates to the State and National Conventions are in the mail and encouraged everyone to vote.

**Legislative Report:** Brother Mike Weir announced that the retirees will see a 2 percent

increase in our CSRS and FERS annuity. The TSP Modernization Act which passed the House and Senate will allow greater access to our TSP accounts. Mike warned all retirees to be aware of the proposed budget seeking to cut Medicare and Medicaid benefits by \$32 billion over the next 10 years.

**Chairman's Report:** Tom announced that the officers of Br. 343 will provide lunch for the December meeting. Tom is also arranging to have a guest speaker from the Better Business Bureau come in December and address the retirees concerning Social Security fraud and telephone scams.

**New Business:** Health Benefits Representative Chet Drain spoke about the increase in the NALC Health Benefits Plan for 2018 resulting in an increase of approximately \$11 per month for the family plan. Still the NALC is one of the best health coverage plans of all of the FEHB offered. Chet said information can be found on the NALC website and information regarding those already enrolled in the NALC Plan should be receiving the new booklet in the mail shortly. Open season for the FEHB plans is November 13 through December 11.

Branch 343 Recording Secretary and Chairman of the Warsher Tournament Brian Litteken thanked the retirees for the two pit sponsorships for this year's tournament.

**Deceased Members:** A moment of silence was offered for Valerie Scott, Retired; Brian Turner, Active Park Hill; and Jim Price, South County.

**50/50:** \$15 won by Don Urbanek who donated it back to the retirees.

**Closing Prayer:** Offered by Chaplain Gus Frank

**Meeting Adjourned:** 1:25 p.m.

# SCENES FROM 2017



DECEMBER - MDA Pool Tournament



JANUARY - Retirement Seminar



JANUARY - Trivia Night for MDA



JANUARY - Trivia Night for MDA



APRIL - Texas Hold'em for MDA



APRIL - John H. Haake Scholarships



APRIL - MDA Bass Tournament



APRIL - MDA Bowlathon



# 2017 A YEAR



MAY - Basketball for MDA



MAY - Ole Timer's Day



MAY - NALC Food Drive



MAY - NALC Food Drive



JUNE - Run, Ride & Roll for MDA



JUNE - MDA Summer Camp



SEPTEMBER - MDA Wa'r'sher Tournament



SEPTEMBER - MDA BBQ Cook-Off

# THE REVIEW



SEPTEMBER - Labor Day Parade



SEPTEMBER - Co-Ed Kickball Tournament



SEPTEMBER - Br. 343's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



SEPTEMBER - Br. 343's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



SEPTEMBER - Retirees' Picnic



OCTOBER - Shop Stewards' Banquet



OCTOBER - CCA Training



OCTOBER - MDA Golf Tournament

# WEST COUNTY ... *By PAM STEPNEY*

**G**reetings sisters and brothers of Branch 343. How's everyone doing? Fine I hope. The holiday season is here and Amazon is going to beg the Postal Service to help them. They'll be overwhelmed with parcels and they'll come running to us for our vehicles. I'm sure they've taken all of the resources to accommodate their needs, and to heck with every other delivery service. I know they are hiring seasonal employees to help with the heavy load. But working with the Postal Service, the man/woman power allows letter carriers to go door to door. Do not allow Amazon employees to place small parcels inside the mailbox, because that's our job. If they want the small parcels to be placed inside the mailbox, they pay us the money to deliver them. Plus our customers are going to be placing holiday treats and gifts inside the mailbox for you. Pull them out sending a message loud and clear that we are letter carriers delivering our brand first and foremost. We cannot allow them to get away with taking our job security because

they have all the resources. I'll bet UPS, DHL, or the Postal Service cannot find any extra vehicles to rent. They planned their delivery service routes months, maybe years in advance by using the Postal Service as a model and collecting all the data for five years.

We've got to be smarter than Amazon by soliciting our customers to do business with us. When we see parcels collected from our customers by our competitors, this would be the perfect time to talk to them about doing business with the Postal Service. These are our jobs we're saving, so take a customer connect lead card out with you, give it to your customer and tell them there's a Q&R code on the back and ask them to fill out the card and give it back to you. It's that simple.

Moving on, Alexis Taylor, West County, and Marvin "Blu" King, Kirkwood, aka the MDA Kickball Tournament coordinator are having their holiday party on December 9, at the Bridgeton Banquet Center, 12259 Natural Bridge Rd. Tickets are \$20 each. This is great

time to come out to see your postal sisters and brothers, enjoy good food, shake a tail feather, and have great conversations with your family. Twenty dollars is a small amount to ask to come out, dress real nice, take photos, have a few drinks and enjoy yourself. This is a great bargain for you and your significant other to enjoy. Make plans to attend right now by calling Alexis at (314) 718-0903 or "Blu" at (314) 327-7215 for more information and event tickets.

Congratulations to the new union president of Branch 343.

John Haake/Charles Coyle Scholarship applications are in this book. Do the right thing, cut them out, fill them out, and mail them today. There's no need to wait until December 31, 2017, when you can do it today. I'm sure your senior is too busy right now to do it. Just think, that's \$1,000 to \$1,500 you don't have to pay for college expenses. For additional scholarship money, look in the *Postal Record* for the Doherty and Donelon Scholarships also due by December 31, 2017.

Happy Hanukkah, merry Christmas, happy Kwanzaa, and have a happy and prosperous New Year.

Remember to do your best, leave the rest, God bless, don't stress and thank you for coming.



# THE "U" ... BY FRANK ENLOW

**I**would like to wish every member and your family a blessed and safe holiday season. And thank you for a wonderful year.

By now most of us that have turned in our election ballots are anticipating who will be the next president and their ideas for the future of your branch.

Also, don't forget that your first phase vacation was due, and we are approaching the deadline for the second phase bids.

Now, we as carriers must accept some responsibility of what's going wrong in the post office also. As you well know by now, Amazon has begun delivering their own packages which have decreased our work load on Sunday and during the week. Not saying this wasn't a part of their plan, but we were hired by Amazon to deliver packages daily which we failed to do. Not to scan them, business closed, no access, or delivered to the wrong

address. I'm not sure what 75 percent of us get, that the other 25 percent of us don't. Our jobs depend on several things that are very important.

1. **Service.** Companies pay us to deliver their product to the customer daily, not when it is convenient for us. That includes packages, door to door mailings, local values, and red plums. Like Amazon, if we can't get the packages or mail delivered correctly and in a timely manner. They will find other ways to get their product delivered and that will affect our jobs.
2. **Voting.** We must get out and vote to ensure the right candidates are in office to help protect the working-class people. If you don't vote, then losing your job should not matter.

When we were told this was a physically demanding job, and that we would be required to work regardless of the weather or long hours, the hourly rate and job security made us say yes.

Freedom to do our job without management harassing us is what we all want. Each one of you must make the decision to come to work and give an honest day's work for an honest day's pay, or there won't be enough jobs to retire from. And I quote, this is a true story.

Until next time



**SPREAD  
THE  
NEWS:  
SHOP  
UNION**

## Brookfield® Uniforms

EXPERIENCE THE BEST IN POSTAL UNIFORM QUALITY AND SERVICE

*Celebrating Over 50 Years of World Class Service*

*\$45 Package Plan Bonus*

**Union Made \* Made in USA**

**Ron Schmidt**  
Florissant  
314-839-1754

**Ed Brazzil**  
Imperial  
636-464-7974

**Richard Coombs**  
Springfield  
866-678-9156

**Customer Service 800-527-0606**  
M-F 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. cst  
Saturday 8 a.m. - Noon

# CREVE COEUR CHRONICLES ... By KIESHA WILEY

**G**reetings my fellow brothers and sisters in unionism, it has been a long time since I wrote an article and I was at a different station, Jennings Branch. But now I have ventured out further down 270 to my home sweet home until I retire: Creve Coeur! Yes, I have arrived to my final and last stop until retirement. The subject for this issue will be as follows:

1. If management gives you instructions to do something, do not (I repeat) **do not argue get loud or unprofessional with management.** Do as you are instructed unless you feel it is unsafe or will put you in harm's way. Speak with your shop steward immediately afterwards.
2. Take your time while making

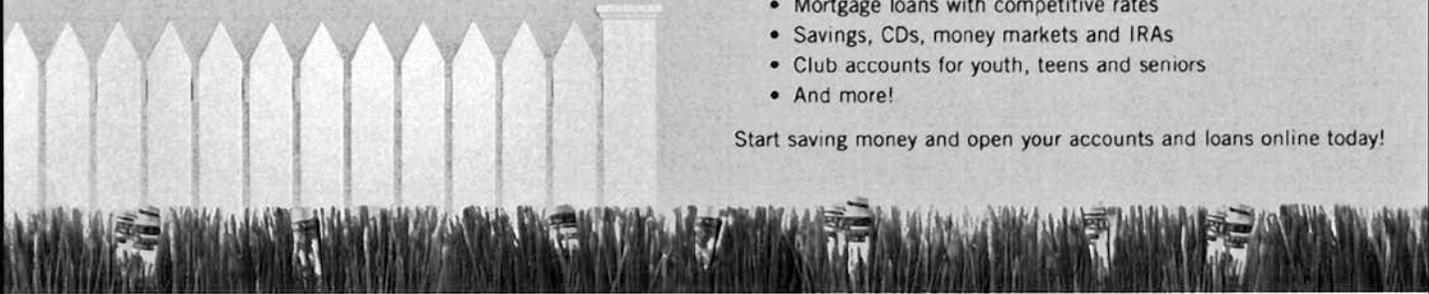
- your deliveries on your route or overtime pivots/hours, meaning take both of your breaks and lunch.
3. If you have attendance issues, please cover yourself by using FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act) for any/all of your absences while being off from work. This will help alleviate management targeting you for **attendance discipline.**
4. (#3) is a great protector from management and it is very simple. Just request the FMLA paperwork when you call in to ERMS (sick leave #). Then let your doctor fill the paperwork out and please, please mail it back **within 15 days.**
5. Letter carriers, **do not go**

**against other letter carriers.** We are all in this postal career together. Remember: **United we stand, divided we fall!** Management has only one goal in mind. "Making their numbers!" Letter carriers are just an afterthought for them. This type of drama production being put on by management has been seen before, so just buckle up and enjoy the ride. "Giddy up, cowboy/cowgirl!" Please take heed to the information which was given to you "free of charge."

6. Last, but not least, **start attending union meetings (second Thursday) of each month!**

Stay strong and peace is with you my union brothers and sisters.

## COME TO OUR SIDE OF THE FENCE



We started in 1928 as the credit union for postal workers. Today, we've opened our doors to everyone in our surrounding communities, but our roots remain. We can save you money on:

- Checking accounts with online banking, mobile banking, mobile deposit and more<sup>1</sup>
- Auto loans with low rates and no payments for 90 days<sup>2</sup> (even on refinances!)
- Home equity loans with low rates and no closing costs<sup>3</sup>
- Mortgage loans with competitive rates
- Savings, CDs, money markets and IRAs
- Club accounts for youth, teens and seniors
- And more!

Start saving money and open your accounts and loans online today!

Neighbors Credit Union logo and address information.



Federally Insured By NCUA



314-892-5400 NeighborsCU.org

Downtown • Fenton • Florissant • Hazelwood  
Jennings • South County • St. Peters



Where the grass is greener

<sup>1</sup>Message and data rates may apply from your wireless carrier. <sup>2</sup>Interest will continue to accrue during deferral period. <sup>3</sup>If loan is paid off and closed within 24 months from opening of loan, member must reimburse the credit union for fees paid.

Membership eligibility required on all offers. Restrictions apply on all offers. See Neighbors Credit Union for complete details on all offers.

# EMPLOYEE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

**Basic Leave Entitlement**

FMLA requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to eligible employees for the following reasons:

- for incapacity due to pregnancy, prenatal medical care or child birth;
- to care for the employee’s child after birth, or placement for adoption or foster care;
- to care for the employee’s spouse, son, daughter or parent, who has a serious health condition; or
- for a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the employee’s job.

**Military Family Leave Entitlements**

Eligible employees whose spouse, son, daughter or parent is on covered active duty or call to covered active duty status may use their 12-week leave entitlement to address certain qualifying exigencies. Qualifying exigencies may include attending certain military events, arranging for alternative childcare, addressing certain financial and legal arrangements, attending certain counseling sessions, and attending post-deployment reintegration briefings.

FMLA also includes a special leave entitlement that permits eligible employees to take up to 26 weeks of leave to care for a covered servicemember during a single 12-month period. A covered servicemember is: (1) a current member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status, or is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list, for a serious injury or illness\*; or (2) a veteran who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable at any time during the five-year period prior to the first date the eligible employee takes FMLA leave to care for the covered veteran, and who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy for a serious injury or illness.\*

**\*The FMLA definitions of “serious injury or illness” for current servicemembers and veterans are distinct from the FMLA definition of “serious health condition.”**

**Benefits and Protections**

During FMLA leave, the employer must maintain the employee’s health coverage under any “group health plan” on the same terms as if the employee had continued to work. Upon return from FMLA leave, most employees must be restored to their original or equivalent positions with equivalent pay, benefits, and other employment terms.

Use of FMLA leave cannot result in the loss of any employment benefit that accrued prior to the start of an employee’s leave.

**Eligibility Requirements**

Employees are eligible if they have worked for a covered employer for at least 12 months, have 1,250 hours of service in the previous 12 months\*, and if at least 50 employees are employed by the employer within 75 miles.

**\*Special hours of service eligibility requirements apply to airline flight crew employees.**

**Definition of Serious Health Condition**

A serious health condition is an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves either an overnight stay in a medical care facility, or continuing treatment by a health care provider for a condition that either prevents the employee from performing the functions of the employee’s job, or prevents the qualified family member from participating in school or other daily activities.

Subject to certain conditions, the continuing treatment requirement may be met by a period of incapacity of more than 3 consecutive calendar days combined with at least two visits to a health care provider or one visit and

a regimen of continuing treatment, or incapacity due to pregnancy, or incapacity due to a chronic condition. Other conditions may meet the definition of continuing treatment.

**Use of Leave**

An employee does not need to use this leave entitlement in one block. Leave can be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule when medically necessary. Employees must make reasonable efforts to schedule leave for planned medical treatment so as not to unduly disrupt the employer’s operations. Leave due to qualifying exigencies may also be taken on an intermittent basis.

**Substitution of Paid Leave for Unpaid Leave**

Employees may choose or employers may require use of accrued paid leave while taking FMLA leave. In order to use paid leave for FMLA leave, employees must comply with the employer’s normal paid leave policies.

**Employee Responsibilities**

Employees must provide 30 days advance notice of the need to take FMLA leave when the need is foreseeable. When 30 days notice is not possible, the employee must provide notice as soon as practicable and generally must comply with an employer’s normal call-in procedures.

Employees must provide sufficient information for the employer to determine if the leave may qualify for FMLA protection and the anticipated timing and duration of the leave. Sufficient information may include that the employee is unable to perform job functions, the family member is unable to perform daily activities, the need for hospitalization or continuing treatment by a health care provider, or circumstances supporting the need for military family leave. Employees also must inform the employer if the requested leave is for a reason for which FMLA leave was previously taken or certified. Employees also may be required to provide a certification and periodic recertification supporting the need for leave.

**Employer Responsibilities**

Covered employers must inform employees requesting leave whether they are eligible under FMLA. If they are, the notice must specify any additional information required as well as the employees’ rights and responsibilities. If they are not eligible, the employer must provide a reason for the ineligibility.

Covered employers must inform employees if leave will be designated as FMLA-protected and the amount of leave counted against the employee’s leave entitlement. If the employer determines that the leave is not FMLA-protected, the employer must notify the employee.

**Unlawful Acts by Employers**

FMLA makes it unlawful for any employer to:

- interfere with, restrain, or deny the exercise of any right provided under FMLA; and
- discharge or discriminate against any person for opposing any practice made unlawful by FMLA or for involvement in any proceeding under or relating to FMLA.

**Enforcement**

An employee may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor or may bring a private lawsuit against an employer.

FMLA does not affect any Federal or State law prohibiting discrimination, or supersede any State or local law or collective bargaining agreement which provides greater family or medical leave rights.

**FMLA section 109 (29 U.S.C. § 2619) requires FMLA covered employers to post the text of this notice. Regulation 29 C.F.R. § 825.300(a) may require additional disclosures.**



For additional information:  
1-866-4US-WAGE (1-866-487-9243) TTY: 1-877-889-5627  
[WWW.WAGEHOUR.DOL.GOV](http://WWW.WAGEHOUR.DOL.GOV)

U.S. Department of Labor | Wage and Hour Division



WHD Publication 1420 · Revised February 2013

# MDA OVERVIEW 2017 ... BY MIKE WEIR

As we prepare for the fun and festivities of the holiday season and, soon, the start of a new year, I would like to revisit how our commitment to MDA played out in 2017. While I do not have the final tally for the year, it appears that we will be a little more than \$300 short of our fundraising totals from the previous year. Still, when you add that amount to the annual totals we have posted since the year 2000, we have raised almost \$700,000 during that time frame. And given the fact that Branch 343 began its partnership with MDA in 1953 by participating in the Porchlight Brigade, it is certainly not a stretch to extrapolate that our fundraising efforts over the years have netted at least one million dollars for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Ours is a rich history of dedication to helping MDA find cures for the 40+ diseases associated with muscular dystrophy and making life better for the children and adults who are afflicted by these diseases. The fact that I can now add adults to the list of people we have helped is a testament to the progress that scientific research has made in discovering treatments which have given hope, comfort and longer, more productive lifespans to those dealing with these illnesses.

Our partnership with MDA has contributed significantly to the success of their research and the many services they provide to families with muscular dystrophy diseases. Currently, MDA has more than 150 Care Centers which handle 50,000 visits every year. They fund 150 research projects around the world. MDA

awarded nearly 70 research grants in 2016 alone, involving a \$16 million funding commitment. Additionally, they contribute to dozens of clinical trials now underway, provide more than 3,000 devices that increase mobility and independence, and they send approximately 3,800 kids to summer camp with no charge to the families. Recent breakthroughs include FDA approved disease-modifying drugs to treat Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

Ever since Gus Frank took over as MDA chairman in 1975, Branch 343 has continued to grow its commitment and contribution to this worthwhile charity. We have done so by sponsoring various fundraising events that chairpersons have created, committees have developed, volunteers have supported and members have participated in over the years. Last year, we were third in the nation among NALC local branches in fundraising for MDA. After all is said and done, I expect we will be in the upper echelon again in 2017.

In the order they were held in 2017, I want to recognize these events and their chairpersons:

- **Trivia Nite** (John Mclaughlin)
- **Cardinals Opening Day Raffle** (Barry Linan)
- **Poker Night** (Bob Rapisardo)
- **Bowling Against Dystrophy** (Leona Bryson)
- **The Bass Tournament** (Kenny Young)
- **The Basketball Challenge** (Quinten Jones and Marvin King)

- **Run, Ride & Roll** (Mike David)
- **USPS Coed Kickball Tournament** (Marvin "Blu" King)
- **The Washer Tournament** (Brian Litteken)
- **The BBQ Cook-Off** (Diane Carter)
- **The Golf Tournament** (Barry Linan)
- **The 9-Ball Pool Tournament** (Nick Grillo)

I salute the chairpersons, their committee members and the volunteers for all of their hard work in putting together these events each year. I want to thank all those who participate as well. And last, but certainly not least, I want to send a shout-out to Beau Trussell, our MDA fundraising coordinator, and his colleague, Erin Anselman, who work with NALC branches in the area. They are passionate about their jobs and hands-on in their approach. Together, we are all making a significant difference in the fight to find cures for these terrible diseases.

This is my last article as the MDA co-chair for the branch. While I will no longer have that title, I will still be attending many of the events and volunteering as needed. It has been an honor for me to have worked with so many of you to reinforce and reaffirm Branch 343's commitment to the cause. Your dedication and generosity have never ceased to amaze me. My hope is that, one day, our efforts will result in a world where no child has to suffer with one of these dreaded diseases. Let's take the next step toward fulfilling that hope with a renewed commitment to MDA in 2018!



Application for the John H. Haake Scholarship Award



Fill out and mail to: John H. Haake, Branch 343
Scholarship Committee
1600 S. Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63104

Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print clearly)

Please send instructions as to how I can compete for a scholarship award. I will be a senior in the 2017-2018 school year.

I am the ( son ) of ( active ) letter carrier \_\_\_\_\_ (Name)
(daughter) (deceased) (retired)

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

My home address is \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of NALC parent member (or spouse if deceased)

NALC Parent's SS number \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

THIS FORM MUST BE POSTMARKED BY DEC. 31, 2017.

Signature of Branch Officer
Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_
(For Office Use Only)

NOTICE FOR THE 2018 MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS CHARLES J. COYLE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

I am the son/daughter of active/retired/deceased letter carrier \_\_\_\_\_ of Branch # \_\_\_\_\_, state of Missouri. I am a high school senior in this 2017-2018 school year. Please send instructions as to how I can compete for a scholarship award.

NAME OF APPLICANT \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF NALC PARENT \_\_\_\_\_

SS# OF NALC PARENT \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO: MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS CHARLES J. COYLE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE c/o Kevin Holmes, President 212 Strathmoor Way O'Fallon, MO 63368-7227

NOTICE: MUST BE POSTMARKED BY DECEMBER 31, 2017.

# BRANCH MEETING

BRANCH 343, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

NOVEMBER 9, 2017

## Summary of Branch Action

MSC: To pay the branch bills.

MSC: That Branch 343 host a dinner for the *Mound City Carrier* committee for their continued efforts preparing the publication every month on behalf of the members of Branch 343.

MSC: That Branch 343 assist in providing warm, delicious meals for the homebound elderly during the holidays by donating \$100 to Meals on Wheels.

MSC: That Branch 343 purchase a one-eighth page ad in the Christmas edition of the *Labor Tribune*.

## Highlights

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. The invocation and pledge of allegiance were led by Chet Drain and the minutes were read and accepted.

**Break Away:** MDA Coordinator Beau Trussell accepted donations for the Kickball Tournament, BBQ Cook Off, Washer Tournament, and Golf Tournament. 2017 is the highest grossing year for Branch 343's MDA donations.

**NBA's Report:** Trustee Tina Hunt reported that LMOUs are being negotiated across the nation. Barry Simon is back on the regular arbitration panel.

**Retiree's Report:** Tom Schulte reported that a representative from the BBB will be at the December retirees' meeting to provide information on fraud prevention.

**Labor Council Report:** Mike Chenot reported that the phrase 'RTW' will not be used on the ballot in Nov 2018. It has not been decided what type of photo ID will be required for voting.

**Health Benefit Report:** Chet Drain informed the members that open enrollment is November 13 through December 11. Go to [opm.gov](http://opm.gov) or [liteblue](http://liteblue) to compare plans.

**OWCP Report:** Chet Drain let the carriers know

that the NALC Health Benefit Plan is the only plan that will pay your medical expenses while you are appealing an OWCP claim and the NALC Health Plan will get reimbursed from OWCP once the claim is approved.

**Mound City Carrier Report:** Tom Schulte highlighted the upcoming Pool Tournament (Dec. 3) and Trivia Night (Jan. 14). The Nov. MCC covered the BBQ Cook Off, Golf Tournament and Shop Stewards' Banquet.

**Moment of Privilege:** Ribbons presented to veterans.

**Haake Scholarship Report:** Pam Stepney noted the Dec. 31 deadline for seniors graduating in 2018.

**Safety & Health Report:** Richard Thurman said 165 accidents were reported in this fiscal year, slow down and pay attention to what you are doing.

**Trustees Report:** Tina Hunt reported the books were audited and found to be in good order.

**PAC Report:** Mike Weir reported the 2018 COLA for retirees is 2 percent and the budget reconciliation is ongoing in Congress. A new tax bill has been proposed.

**Executive Vice President/Treasurer Report:** John McLaughlin reported that all 22 LMOUs for Branch 343 have been opened for negotiation because the new contract requires provisions for CCAs to bid on choice vacation periods and incidental leave. Trivia Night will begin at 5:30 and an additional \$5 will be required if tickets are purchased at the door.

**Vice President/Financial Secretary Report:** John McLaughlin read the financial report for Oct.

**President's Comments:** Barry Linan provided additional information on LMOU negotiations. The award to retroactively convert CCAs to career in 2013 has temporarily resulted in a pay cut to those carriers. Barry sent a letter to all affected CCAs explaining how their pay will be eventually corrected.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brian Litteken  
Recording Secretary

**New Members**

Roniqua L. Garrett.....Jennings ..... 10-31-17	Marshay N. Morton .....Weathers ..... 10-31-17
Bonette Meeks .....Oldham ..... 10-31-17	Tomiqua Estes.....Oldham ..... 10-31-17
LaDamion L. Ward .....Gaffney..... 10-31-17	Vakeldrin D. Campbell..Kirkwood ..... 10-31-17
Makkia A. Sands .....Oldham ..... 10-31-17	Shawn D. Hall.....Chouteau..... 10-31-17
Bryn D. Jameson .....Clayton..... 10-31-17	Natasha J. Naka-Akpodee..Coyle..... 10-31-17
Antoinette R. Parks.....Oldham ..... 10-31-17	Darrell E. Orea .....Harriet Woods..... 10-31-17
Kashan Yousaf .....Affton ..... 10-31-17	Devion L. Glass .....Weathers ..... 10-31-17
Lorenzo Jones II .....Weathers ..... 10-31-17	Korion T. Brown.....Mackenzie Pointe ... 10-31-17
Ketia M. Henry.....Oldham ..... 10-31-17	China S. Griffin.....Ferguson ..... 10-31-17
Eddie L. Wicks Sr. ....Chouteau..... 10-31-17	Anthony S. Hawkins .....Chouteau..... 10-31-17
Kennethy R. Burks .....Washington ..... 10-31-17	Devin A. Byrd.....Clayton..... 10-31-17
John P. Hayden .....Wentzville..... 10-31-17	Yuric D. McDonald .....Kirkwood ..... 10-31-17
Joseph M. Rallo .....O’Fallon ..... 10-31-17	Evelyn Fuller.....Gaffney..... 10-31-17
Daren M. Brooks.....Maplewood ..... 10-31-17	Rhonda McClure.....West County..... 10-31-17
Shabriel B. Banks .....Affton ..... 10-31-17	Charniece N. Jones.....Oldham ..... 10-31-17
Rebecca J. Hitchcock.....West County..... 10-31-17	Patrick J. Lavin .....Olivette..... 10-31-17
Myron D. Shelby.....Weathers ..... 10-31-17	Michelle D. Holland.....Jennings ..... 10-31-17
Jacqueline M. Triola.....Affton ..... 10-31-17	Molly A. Mallory.....Park Hills..... 10-31-17
Myron D. Shelby.....Weathers ..... 10-31-17	

**Recently Retired Members**

Gregg W. Knopf.....Sappington..... 10-31-17
Carolyn A. Burlage.....South County .....09-30-17
Henry P. Zittel .....Coyle..... 10-27-17
Sharyn K. Mechler .....Affton..... 10-28-17
Karen L. Meinberg .....Sappington..... 10-31-17
David M. Barr.....Maryville Gardens.. 10-31-17

**Deceased Member**

James F. Price.....60 Year Member ..... 10-21-17



*Affton letter carrier Sharyn Mechler receives congratulations on her retirement from Exec. V.P. John McLaughlin and shop steward Dan Brauchle.*

**BRANCH MEETING ATTENDANCE PRIZES**

1. Blues vs. Edmonton Oilers	Tuesday, 11/21 @ 7 p.m.	Cortez Lanier, North County
2. Blues vs. Anaheim Ducks	Wednesday, 11/29 @ 8 p.m.	Michael Chouinard, Sappington
3. Blues vs. Anaheim Ducks	Thursday, 12/14 @ 7 p.m.	Tiffany Hager, South County
4. Target	\$25 Card	Zachery Blanks, Weathers
5. Applebee’s	\$25 Card	Chet Drain, DesPeres
6. 50/50 Winner	\$36	Mark Andrus, Retired



Gravois letter carrier Mark T. Ramsey, with his grandson, joins the "Last Punch Bunch" as he bids farewell.



Shop Steward Mike "Thumper" Tharp and Br. 343 President Barry Linan offer congratulations to retiring Coyle letter carrier Hank Zittel.



Br. 343 President Barry Linan presents Lemar Mitchell from Gaffney Station with the Shop Steward of the Year Award. (Lemar was unable to attend the Shop Steward Banquet).



Marvin "Blu" King presents a check for \$207 to MDA Rep. Beau Trussell from the first Coed Kickball Tourn. Also pictured are MDA Chairman Mike Weir and Pres. Barry Linan.



MDA BBQ Cook-Off Coordinator Diane Carter (Maryville Gardens) presents a check to Beau Trussell for \$2,765.



Wa'r'sher Tournament Coordinator, Brian Litteken presents a check for \$1,875 to MDA Rep. Beau Trussell.



MDA Golf Tourn. Directors Mike Weir and Pres. Barry Linan present a check to MDA Rep. Beau Trussell for \$10,056.30.



Br. 343 Military veterans were recognized for their service at the November Regular Branch Meeting.

# Political Action Honor Roll

JOE FITZJARRELL★★	MARION HARRIS★★★★★	ART BUCK★★★	DAN BRAUCHLE★★
MIKE WEIR★★	CHARLES SCANLON★★	ROBERT FLAHERTY★★	CATHERINE CIARAMITARO★★
MIKE CHENOT★★	TONY JASPER★★	JOE POLITTE★★	GERALD GALLEANO★★
NICKI L. PRADO★	DERRICK WILLIAMS★★	JOSEPH P. REGAN★★	RAMONA DROEGE★
MIKE BIRKETT★	HENRY DEIBEL★	KEN MEYER★	TOM HARMON★
BARRY LINAN★	JOHN BUCHHEIT★	CHET DRAIN★	LAWRENCE McHAYNES JR.★
TOM SCHULTE★	JOHN HAAKE★	DICK LEONG★	TIFFANY HAGER★
DARLENE TATE★	GENO IBERG★	JAMES KLUEMPERS★	LAURA KEIM★
TOM DEGEARE★	DEAN WERNER★	MICHAEL McCOY★	STEPHANIE STEWART★
	BILL LISTER★	JAMES O'DAY★	

CLIF NELSON	ROY HATCHARD JR.	ROBERT RAPISARDO	JOHN SAMUELSON
LEONA BRYSON	FRANK ENLOW	LYNN RAY PRATT	BRIAN LITTEKEN
LARRY STREIB	KEVIN WELBY	MARION HARRIS	LAWRENCE McHAYNES JR.
BILL JIMAS	DON CHARTRAND	SAM GOODMAN	SARONDA SUTHERLAND
ROCKY RAKOWIECKI	MICHAEL JENNINGS	ROBERT STEEL	CATHERINE CIARAMITARO

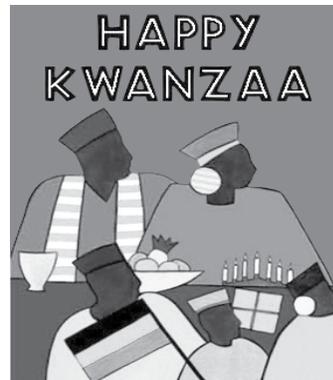
*The above honor roll gives special recognition to those members who give \$50 or more. Each star represents \$100*

Raymond Schlereth	Gary Robertson	Mike Chenot	Lawrence McHaynes Jr.
Bob Ruester			

**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)*



*Dan J. Gould*  
**BRANCH 343**

—OFFICERS—

Barry Linan ..... President  
 John McLaughlin ... Executive Vice President/  
 Treasurer  
 Robert Rapisardo..... Vice President/  
 Financial Secretary  
 Brian Litteken..... 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**

Joe Regan                            Kiesha Wiley  
 Richard Brown                    Pam Stepney

**DELEGATES TO THE ST. LOUIS  
 LABOR COUNCIL**

Mike Chenot                         Barry Linan  
 Frank Enlow                         Bill Lister  
 John McLaughlin                 Pam Stepney  
 Mike Weir

**MOUND CITY CARRIER**

Published monthly by Branch 343  
 National Association of Letter Carriers  
 Contents may be reproduced by NALC  
 publications — Just mention Branch 343.

**STAFF**

Tom Schulte ..... Managing Editor  
 John McLaughlin..... Editor  
 Clif Nelson ..... Asst. Editor  
 Brian Litteken ..... Asst. Editor

**ADVISORY BOARD**

Barry Linan  
 John McLaughlin

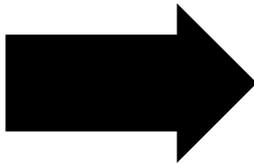
All correspondence and all articles  
 intended for publication in this paper  
 should be addressed to:

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.**

*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 may be edited for brevity and potential libelous  
 statements.*



**Local delivery date  
 requested no later  
 than December 11**

**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, Creve Coeur  
 (314) 432-8211

**VETERANS CONSULTANT**

Mike David — (314) 241-4297

**FOR LOW COST NALC INSURANCE**

Saronda Sutherland, MBA  
 (314) 535-2850

**NBA OFFICE**

Mike Birkett — (314) 985-8040

**RETIRED MEMBERS MEETING**

LETTER CARRIERS BUILDING  
 1600 S Broadway

1st Wednesday of the month.  
 Lunch at noon, meeting at 12:45 pm

Tom Schulte, Chairman.....(636) 255-3057  
 Ray Breakfield, Vice Chairman .....(573) 358-5266  
 Clif Nelson, Treasurer.....(314) 355-4600  
 Tom Schulte, Recording Secretary ....(636) 255-3057

Non-Profit  
 Organization  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 St. Louis, MO  
 Permit No. 1452

Dan J. Gould Branch 343  
**MOUND CITY CARRIER**

1600 S Broadway  
 St. Louis, MO 63104

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Deadline for articles for  
 the JANUARY issue is  
 DECEMBER 18, 2017**

★ ★ ★

**REGULAR BRANCH MEETING  
 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2017  
 7:30 pm**

★ ★ ★

**SHOP STEWARDS MEETING  
 THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2018  
 The Letter Carriers Building  
 1600 S Broadway**