

MOUND CITY CARRIER

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PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE ... BY ROBERT RAPISARDO

I fully understand and respect everyone's view on all issues. We will soon be working on a plan to get more of our members registered to vote in this year's general election.

I would like to think that all our members and their families would like for them to retire from the USPS when the time arrives. During this current pandemic, the USPS has shown what a critical role they play for the American public and the U.S. economy. The carriers are the number one reason for that trust that has been built with the American public. You carriers have done that with many long hours and delivering many essential products. It just dumb-founds me and puzzles me to hear our own members complain about delivering too many parcels, delivering too many political mailings, and not supporting vote by mail. Just try to give one valid reason why an employee of the USPS would not support vote-by-mail. Obtain the real facts and do not listen to opponents stating this would create fraud and irregularities. The facts speak for themselves because many states have voted by mail for years without problems. I can say to those who either choose or refuse to comprehend this fact; **more USPS revenue equates to more for your wages** in contract negotiations. We all need to do our part to keep the USPS running and viable for years to come. We must make every effort to vote against those not supporting the USPS.

There will be some very interesting races in the November election. The young, talented, vibrant, and current State Auditor Nicole Galloway has a very strong chance to be Missouri's next Governor. Current State Senator Jill Shupp has an excellent chance to upend Ann Wagner for U.S. Congresswoman in the 2nd District. Joe Biden will be running for president of the United States against our current president. Like I stated elsewhere, everyone's political views are respected. Most voters base their decisions on what is best for their families; their job normally coincides with that thinking. Gather your facts and support those who have the best interest of the USPS in mind and not for those who are hell bent on destroying the USPS. What good do certain reasons to vote for a certain candidate even make sense if you are voting against your families well-being?



NOTICE: NOMINATIONS

NOMINATIONS FOR BRANCH OFFICERS AND DELEGATES TO THE ST. LOUIS LABOR COUNCIL SHALL TAKE PLACE AT THE REGULAR BRANCH MEETING, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020. THE TERM OF OFFICE FOR BRANCH OFFICERS AND LABOR COUNCIL DELEGATES SHALL BE THREE YEARS. ELECTIONS SHALL BE HELD IN NOVEMBER BY MAIL BALLOT.

During the past two weeks, we held our first steward meeting and general branch meeting since March. This year, Branch 343 is on pace for 1,500 grievances. I really do not recall any conversations with management where they initiated any discussions about avoiding grievances. The big issue, this past month, has been the blatant violations of not maximizing the OTDL prior to drafting or asking for volunteers. Bulletin to our members: You make matters worse if you agree to volunteer prior to consulting with the steward to verify that the OTDL has been maximized. How about if you please request to see a steward first, prior to volunteering? When you need something for yourself, we have been there for you. The branch is pursuing different avenues on how to handle these blatant violations.

Our six-month budget review leaves us in great shape, financially. The current pandemic has put a halt to training, meetings, and conventions. Our revenues were about \$4,500 less than projected. This was mainly due to more carriers being off for periods of time and not collecting their dues. Our expenses for salaries and other expenses have been way less than budgeted. One expense that was not budgeted was a \$45,000 expense for updating our old database; that expense was approved for at a general meeting. We have been able to pay those installments by cutting other expenses.

One of the most enjoyable parts of this job is speaking with retirees. Over the past eight plus years, I have gone and presented many retirees with their 50- and 60-year pins. When I got hired, a long time ago, I worked with Mr. Robert Kossmeyer at the Kirkwood Post Office. Bob was a senior carrier who retired in 1982. Fortunately, a few weeks ago, I visited Bob at his lovely place south of Owensville. The visit happened because my motorcycle broke down and I had to get it repaired a few miles away. I had to return the next day to get the bike and I called Bob because I recalled talking with him, a few years ago, saying that I would love to come see him if I was ever around Owensville. The old days brought back many memories of some of the carriers we worked with and one super nice station manager, Tom Murphy. Mr. Murphy was a superb boss who always appreciated the work of the carriers and had their backs when needed. Mr. Murphy gave respect and respect was returned to him. Bob and his late wife of 58 years moved to Owensville after retiring. Bob and his wife have three children. Bob lives on some beautiful land. Bob is a veteran who served our country; thank you Bob and all other veterans. Thanks again, Bob, and thanks for the hospitality.

Until next month, please stay safe in this summer heat and thanks again for the outstanding job you do every day and especially this year during this pandemic.



Mark Your Calendar

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

For information regarding future Regular Branch Meetings, Shop Steward Meetings and Retiree Meetings, please check the branch343.org website, station bulletins or call the Union Hall greeting phone number at (314-241-4297)

Branch 343 Warsher Tournament cancelled

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VICE PRESIDENT FINANCIAL SECRETARY

... BY BRAD LAYTON

CCAs DID YOU KNOW?



A situation where relative standing is very important for CCAs is when the Postal Service decides to not reappoint a CCA for operational reasons. In this circumstance, **the CCA with the least relative standing in that installation is separated first.** Section (i) of the CCA General Principles found on page 135 of the National Agreement covers this:

i. **CCA employees are separated for five days between appointments.** When operational circumstances indicate that reappointment for a CCA(s) is not needed and the installation employs a CCA(s) with lower relative standing, the CCA(s) will be reappointed and the CCA(s) with the lower standing in the installation will be separated instead. Such separation of a CCA(s) with the lowest relative standing is not grievable except where the separation is pretextual.

These CCAs separated for lack of work during or upon completion of their term of appointment will be given a preference for reappointment ahead of other CCAs with less relative standing in the installation provided the need for hiring arises within 18 months of separation.

A CCA separated for lack of work or due to operational circumstance will be given preference for reappointment ahead of other CCAs with less relative standing in the installation if the need for hiring arises within 18 months of their separation.

CCAs have a right to bereavement leave, below are the following procedures: The MOU, Re: Bereavement Leave found on pages 182-183 of the National Agreement gives employees the right to use up to three days of leave in the unfortunate event of the death of certain family members. **CCAs do not earn sick leave so they may only use annual leave or leave without pay for bereavement purposes.**

Re: Bereavement Leave: City letter carriers may use a total of up to three workdays of annual leave, sick leave or leave without pay, to make arrangements necessitated by the death of a family member or attend the funeral of a family member. Authorization

of leave beyond three workdays is subject to the conditions and requirements of Article 10 of the National Agreement, Subsection 510 of the Employee and Labor Relations Manual and the applicable local memorandum of understanding provisions.

Definition of Family Member: "Family member" is defined as a:

- (a). Son or daughter – a biological or adopted child, stepchild, daughter-in-law or son-in-law;
- (b). Spouse
- (c). Parent or
- (d). Sibling – brother, sister, brother-in-law or sister-in-law or
- (e). Grandparent.

Use of Sick Leave: For employees opting to use available sick leave, the leave will be charged to sick leave for dependent care, if eligible.

Documentation: Documentation evidencing the death of the employee's family member is required only when the supervisor deems documentation desirable for the protection of the interest of the Postal Service.

Note: As clarification, in-laws covered by the above Memorandum of Understanding include the spouse of a child (whether biological, adopted, or stepchild). The memorandum also applies to the parents and siblings of the employee's spouse (whether biological or adoptive).

Until next month, here's to solidarity and unionism.

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EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT ... BY JOHN McLAUGHLIN

SELF-QUARANTINE (PART V): EIGHT HOURS, LEAVE THE MAIL



I hope everyone is well and staying safe from the heat and COVID-19. Five Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) have been extended until September 25. The two most important Memos are the *Addition Paid Leave for CCAs* and the *Expanded Sick Leave for Dependent Care During COVID-19*. To be clear, these MOUs are in addition to the federally mandated Families First Coronavirus Response Act which will stay in effect through the end of the year.

Meet the new boss, worse than the old boss. Our new PMG has made quite the splash in a little less than one month in office. As a large Trump donor, it should come as no surprise that he has decided to steer the USPS off the cliff. Memos surfaced recently detailing how he plans on dismantling the USPS and eventually privatize it under the guise of cost savings. Among other things, he wants to eliminate OT. Carriers are to stop working OT and leave mail at the station if it means they would otherwise run over. If the mail gets to your station too late for you to work up, that's tomorrow's mail. He wants carriers to leave at the same time every day and return in eight hours. Simple. What he does not understand is that you can stop the water, but the river keeps flowing. So, instead of being fired for delaying the mail, carriers are now being instructed to delay the mail. Routes are not going out. Instead of prompt, reliable, efficient service it is, "That mail can wait."

They will be experimenting at a few locations with carriers leaving on time, even if it means delaying the mail, and coming back sooner in the afternoon and casing up mail that arrived late or was delayed that morning. The USPS removed the two-day first class mail standard years ago and now this. The purpose of this is under the guise of reducing costs by reducing OT. This would appear on the surface to make sense, but it does not. Some level of OT is more cost efficient than no OT. It is far more costly to hire another carrier with benefits than to simply pay an existing employee \$15 more an hour. The end game is to degrade service to the point where they can get the American public to declare the post office

a failure and the only solution is privatization.

Consolidated Casing: Speaking of ill-fated postal ideas, Jennings will hopefully soon see an end to this albatross. The purpose of this plan was to eliminate fixed office time, which is built into every route, by reducing the number of carriers who actually case mail. The results have been abysmal. Unfortunately, Jennings will have to wait for a task force to decide some time later this year whether or not to continue it. Neither local management nor the union want this program to continue. Even if they would decide to scrap it, Jennings would not return to their original route structure until January 22, 2021.

Joint Statement of Violence and Behavior in the Workplace (JSOV): Carriers more and more are having to deal with abusive management. The JSOV protects carriers from this. It is not only physical violence and threats but **behavior** of any sort. The title itself recognizes that inappropriate behavior like intimidation, bullying and harassment are included. The Postal Service has a **zero** tolerance policy for such behavior. When presented by this type of behavior, ask to see your shop steward immediately, fill out a PS Form 1767 *Report of Hazard, Unsafe Condition or Practice*, and notate in writing in detail the incident. Do **not** engage with management. Unfortunately, many times the only way that we can get the attention of upper management is to contact the authorities outside of the Postal Service like the police, the courts, OSHA, or EEO. We have enough daily hazards like the weather, COVID-19, and dogs to worry about. We should not have to endure abuse at the hands of our employer.

Lastly, an **OIG report** on the oversight of informal grievance process concluded it is not effective and that the cost of grievances are spiraling up each year. In just the last five years, the cost to the Postal Service for management violating the contract has increase 61%. Of the 25 supervisors interviewed in this study, 24 did **not** take the mandatory Labor Relations "Grievance Handling course." Nine of the

25 supervisors who took the course indicated that the course did not contain enough practical knowledge to handle specific grievance issues. Our supervisors are not trained on the contract. I find many times, when I provide contractual language to a steward to present to a supervisor, the supervisor will ignore it and rely solely on the word of another ill-informed person in management. I am sure that the OIG

recommendations will be summarily ignored because that would require them to read and comprehend. You can lead a supervisor to the contract, but you can't make them read it.

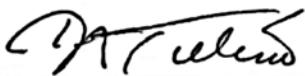
Until next month, do your job safely and accurately. Show up to your union meeting. You might learn something. We don't write the rules; we just have to play the game. Sláinte.

M-01924

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
AND THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS, AFL-CIO**

The following Memoranda of Understanding between the United States Postal Service and the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) have been extended through September 25, 2020. The parties agree to meet and discuss these Memoranda of Understanding prior to September 25 to determine whether or not further extension is appropriate.

- M-01913 • Re: Temporary Use of the Employee and Labor Relations Manual (ELM) 432.53, City Letter Carriers (7:01 Rule)
- M-01911 • Re: Temporary Additional Paid Leave for CCAs
- M-01910 • Re: Temporary Expanded Sick Leave for Dependent Care During COVID-19
- M-01915 • Re: Temporary Workplace Changes to Promote Social Distancing - COVID-19
- M-01916 • Re: Temporary Carrier Assistants - COVID-19



Doug A. Tutino
Vice President Labor Relations
United States Postal Service

Date: 7-8-2020



Fredric V. Rolando
President
National Association of Letter
Carriers, AFL-CIO

Date: 7-8-20

HEALTH BENEFITS PLAN/OWCP ... BY CHET DRAIN



OWCP CLAIMS FOR COVID-19:

A letter carrier who contracts COVID-19 while in the performance of their duties would have the full coverage of the Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) for related medical treatment and for wage loss or disability related to that condition or associated complications. Letter carriers who have been diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus and are suffering symptoms related to the virus may file claims with the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, OWCP. You should submit **factual evidence** concerning exposure as well as supporting **medical evidence**.

The Postal Service will be expected to provide OWCP with any information they have concerning all alleged exposure and to indicate whether they are supporting or controverting the claim. If the Postal Service supports the claim including that the exposure occurred and the CA-1 is filed within 30 days, you are eligible to receive continuation of pay for up to 45 days. OWCP will then develop the claim and review evidence provided by you and the Postal Service concerning your work-related exposure and a COVID-19 diagnosis. Should the claim be accepted for COVID-19, you are entitled to receive all medical services, appliances or supplies which a qualified physician prescribes or recommends, and which OWCP considers necessary to treat the work-related injury.

Exposure to COVID-19 alone does not constitute a work-related injury. You must actually be diagnosed with COVID-19 to potentially be afforded coverage. To establish coverage, you must submit a medical report from a qualified physician reflecting a positive test result for COVID-19 based on established work-related exposure to COVID-19.

Letter carriers claiming an injury due to contact with COVID-19 **must be in performance of duty** when exposed to be covered. You have the same burden to establish the basic requirements of coverage as other injured workers and must submit medical evidence in support of an identifiable injury in the performance of your letter carrier duties, and any related period of disability.

OWCP requires letter carriers exposed to the

COVID-19 virus provide a detailed statement that explains:

- How you were exposed to the virus
- When the exposure occurred
- How long and how frequently you were exposed
- Where and why the exposure occurred
- You should also explain if other individuals and co-workers were exposed.
- You should provide a timeline of activities for the days leading up to your exposure or the onset of your symptoms.

The Postal Service will be required to provide similar documentation, such as comments from a knowledgeable supervisor on the accuracy of your statements, whether the agency concurs, and if possible, confirmation of a positive COVID-19 test result for any co-workers or customers.

If exposure to COVID-19 arose out of and in the course of your employment, it is generally said to have occurred in the performance of duty. **The facts in your case must show that a work factor or requirement gave rise to the resulting COVID-19 diagnosis.** Proof that you have been exposed to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the office or out on the street will be necessary. Postal Service tracking data: TACS, RIMS and scan records should be requested and submitted to OWCP to support proof of exposure. You will also need a medical report from a qualified physician reflecting that the positive COVID-19 diagnosis resulted from a work-related exposure while in the performance of your duties. You must explain the nature of your work exposure to your physician and make sure it is referenced in a medical report.

OWCP will only pay for the COVID-19 test up front (prior to accepting a case), if a claimant was exposed to a person with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 in the performance of duty. Otherwise OWCP will pay for the test, if the case is accepted, through a reimbursement. To obtain more information on OWCP policies for COVID-19 claims contact COVID-19 FECA Task Force at DFEC-Coronavirus@dol.gov.

God bless all and peace!

NOTES FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR

... BY TOM SCHULTE

IS THE USPS STILL RELEVANT?



In early May, Hart Research Associates and North Star Research, leading Democrat and Republican public opinion firms released the findings of a national poll commissioned by the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) regarding the continued operation and funding of the U.S. Postal Service during the COVID-19 pandemic. The results of the poll showed overwhelming bipartisan support of the Postal Service.

The survey conducted among 804 registered voters nationwide explored the importance voters placed on the Postal Service today and to measure support in Congress to provide financial assistance.

Nearly unanimously, Americans say that the mail and package service provided by the U.S. Postal Service is important to them and their families. Fully 94% say these services are important, including 64% who say very important. Just 6% feel the USPS's mail and package services are not important.

Americans in every part of the country, in all types of communities, and of all political persuasions value postal services. This includes 91% of urban voters and 94% of rural voters, no less than 92% in every region of the country, and 95% of Democrats and 92% of Republicans.

Voters said they relied on USPS for a variety of highly valued services, including delivery of prescription medications (93% important service), receiving and paying monthly bills (92%), and receiving items purchased online (91%). Significantly, they place the highest priority on the role the Postal Service is playing in responding to the coronavirus crisis: delivering official government recommendations, supplies, medications, and test kits related to COVID-19 (95% important, 75% very important).

Voters in rural communities place more importance than average on the delivery of prescription medications (82% very important, COVID-19

services (77%), and receiving and paying monthly bills (71%).

Seniors (voters age 65 and over) place more importance than average on the delivery of prescription medications (80%) and receiving and paying monthly bills (71%).

The survey reveals an overwhelming bipartisan consensus in favor of Congress appropriating funds for the U.S. Postal Service to maintain operations through the coronavirus crisis in the next round of financial relief legislation. When voters learned that USPS is expected to run out of operating funds by September, fully 92% of all voters support congressional action, including 90% of Republicans and 96% of Democrats. Agreement is widespread encompassing every region of the country and all generations of Americans.

Direct funding favored over loans. Finally, the survey presented voters with a debate over which of two responses to the Postal Service funding shortfall is better: loans or direct funding. Fully, 70% of Americans reject the loan option, because it would weaken the postal system at a time when so many Americans are relying on it, and embrace direct funding as the best solution.

A new coronavirus aid package was recently released by the House of Representatives that includes \$25 billion in direct funding to the Postal Service. The bill would also repeal restrictions on a \$10 billion line of credit that was authorized in a previous stimulus package. There is also a hazard pay provision that would include postal employees. There is already resistance in the U.S. Senate and the current administration to the House bill.

Knowing the importance the American public places on the U. S. Postal Service, letter carriers are encouraged to continue contacting their senators and urge them to support funding of the USPS in the next stimulus package.

REGION 5 NBA REPORT ... BY MIKE BIRKETT



COVID-19: As I write this article on July 10, the current pandemic seems to be getting worse rather than better. I was hoping that we would get a respite during the summer months with fewer people testing positive and the spread of this virus declining. Well, that hope has been dashed! We are currently seeing a spike in postal employees testing positive which began as states relaxed their restrictions and people let their guard down. Now is not the time to relax. Letter carriers need to stay vigilant, wear your mask, and use your PPE to protect yourself, which will protect your fellow employees and families. As a reminder, if your office is short of any supplies, please call my office immediately.

NALC Food Drive: As you should be aware by now, the annual NALC Food Drive for 2020 has been postponed until such time as the donations can be collected safely for all those involved. What you might not know is that donating to the food pantries that process the millions of pounds of food collected each year couldn't be easier. Go to nalc.org/food and scroll to the bottom of that page; select the state from a drop down menu then select the food pantry you wish to donate to from the state list. Follow the link and make your donation! It's that simple, but needed now more than ever to help Stamp Out Hunger.

OWCP: The NALC has been assisting letter carriers who have determined that their COVID-19 exposure came from the workplace by filing an OWCP claim. It is important if you feel the exposure came from work, for example from another employee who tested positive, that a claim be filed. The claims so far have been under development and are being processed from OWCP HQ. We have no idea what the future health ramifications are from contracting COVID-19, so we should protect ourselves. Please contact our office for referral to RWCA for assisting in filing the claim.

Heat Safety: It's **hot!** I want to thank all of you who have kept us informed of heat incidents/illnesses within the region and all of you stewards, safety teams and branch officers who really have changed the culture. Not that many years ago, all management cared about was the numbers. The majority of the reports I'm seeing show that management is doing what they should have

been doing all along, putting carrier safety first. Now, for those of you grinding your teeth as you read the sentence above, there are still some idiots in management that don't get it. They certainly don't put safety first across the board, but when it comes to heat incidents, they're doing much better and frankly, that is because of you. Please make sure you grab that newer employee on the next hot day and make sure they have enough water, and they understand that work time isn't everything, life is.

Retirements: On a recent executive board telecom, we learned that retirements are up by about 1,700 this year over last ... COVID-19? Along the same note, if you are planning on retiring in the near future, be aware that HRSSC is taking longer to process, and even to answer their phones. I would assume the same to be true for OMB.

Parcels: It's my understanding that the service in parts of the country is turning away business because they have no room to intake and store the parcels. What a sad state of affairs. Perhaps the new PMG who is alleged to be an expert in logistics can fix that issue first. Meanwhile in Region 5, I'm still hearing that parcel volume is up on average by 80-90%.

Tidbits: Did you know that the NALC insurance pays for 100 percent of COVID-19 testing? The "temperature" testing of employees using the overhead scanner was a failure, while the hand held scanner worked. Look for one coming to your station soon. Route inspections should be coming this fall. We are in the process of putting together a virtual training for all those who will be inspected ... same for retirement seminars.

MDA GOLF TOURNAMENT



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HEAT-RELATED ILLNESSES

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

WHAT TO DO

HEAT STROKE

- High body temperature (103°F or higher)
- Hot, red, dry, or damp skin
- Fast, strong pulse
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Confusion
- Losing consciousness (passing out)

- Call 911 right away—heat stroke is a medical emergency
- Move the person to a cooler place
- Help lower the person's temperature with cool cloths or a cool bath
- Do not give the person anything to drink

HEAT EXHAUSTION

- Heavy sweating
- Cold, pale, and clammy skin
- Fast, weak pulse
- Nausea or vomiting
- Muscle cramps
- Tiredness or weakness
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Fainting (passing out)

- Move to a cool place
- Loosen your clothes
- Put cool, wet cloths on your body or take a cool bath
- Sip water

Get medical help right away if:

- You are throwing up
- Your symptoms get worse
- Your symptoms last longer than 1 hour

HEAT CRAMPS

- Heavy sweating during intense exercise
- Muscle pain or spasms

- Stop physical activity and move to a cool place
- Drink water or a sports drink
- Wait for cramps to go away before you do any more physical activity

Get medical help right away if:

- Cramps last longer than 1 hour
- You're on a low-sodium diet
- You have heart problems

SUNBURN

- Painful, red, and warm skin
- Blisters on the skin

- Stay out of the sun until your sunburn heals
- Put cool cloths on sunburned areas or take a cool bath
- Put moisturizing lotion on sunburned areas
- Do not break blisters

HEAT RASH

- Red clusters of small blisters that look like pimples on the skin (usually on the neck, chest, groin, or in elbow creases)

- Stay in a cool, dry place
- Keep the rash dry
- Use powder (like baby powder) to soothe the rash



"I started in management but gradually worked my way up to mismanagement."



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Eric & Bill

RECORDING SECRETARY ... BY BRIAN LITTEKEN

COVID-19 LEAVE ELIGIBILITY



In my article in the July issue of the Mound City Carrier, I wrote about Temporary Additional Paid Leave for CCAs and the Family First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). The article covered the circumstances a carrier is eligible for leave, whether the leave can be taken intermittently, the number of hours of leave available, the leave code to be used, and the remark to be written on the PS Form 3971. This article will address documentation that is needed, who is considered a “health care provider” that can provide documentation, and some specified examples to determine if you are eligible for leave. The information is from the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Wage and Hour Division has an online tool to help you determine your eligibility for FFCRA leave. The online tool can be found at the following internet address: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic>

What documents do I need to give my employer to get paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave?

When requesting paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave, you must provide your employer either orally or in writing the following information:

- Your name;
- The date(s) for which you request leave;
- The reason for leave; and
- A statement that you are unable to work because of the above reason.

If you request leave because you are subject to a quarantine or isolation order or to care for an individual subject to such an order, you should additionally provide the name of the government entity that issued the order. If you request leave to self-quarantine based on the advice of a health care provider or to care for an individual who is self-quarantining based on such advice, you should additionally provide the name of the health care provider who gave advice.

If you request leave to care for your child whose school or place of care is closed, or childcare provider is unavailable, you must also provide:

- The name of your child;
- The name of the school, place of care, or child care provider that has closed or become unavailable; and
- A statement that no other suitable person is available to care for your child.

Who is a “health care provider” for purposes of determining individuals whose advice to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19 can be relied on as a qualifying reason for paid sick leave?

The term “health care provider” means a licensed doctor of medicine, nurse practitioner, or other health care provider permitted to

issue a certification for purposes of the FMLA.

When am I eligible for paid sick leave to self-quarantine?

You are eligible for paid sick leave if a health care provider directs or advises you to stay home or otherwise quarantine yourself because the health care provider believes that you may have COVID-19 or are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19, and quarantining yourself based upon that advice prevents you from working.

I am an employee. I become ill with COVID-19 symptoms, decide to quarantine myself for two weeks, and then return to work. I do not seek a medical diagnosis or the advice of a health care provider. Can I get paid for those two weeks under the FFCRA?

Generally no. If you become ill with COVID-19 symptoms, you may take paid sick leave under the FFCRA only to seek a medical diagnosis or if a health care provider otherwise advises you to self-quarantine. If you test positive for the virus associated with COVID-19 or are advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine, you may continue to take paid sick leave. You may not take paid sick leave under the FFCRA if you unilaterally decide to self-quarantine for an illness without medical advice, even if you have COVID-19 symptoms. Note that you may not take paid sick leave under the FFCRA if you become ill with an illness not related to COVID-19.

When am I eligible for paid sick leave to care for someone who is subject to a quarantine or isolation order?

You may take paid sick leave to care for an individual who, as a result of being subject to a quarantine or isolation order, is unable to care for him or herself and depends on you for care and if providing care prevents you from working.

Furthermore, you may only take paid sick leave to care for an individual who genuinely needs your care. Such an individual includes an immediate family member or someone who regularly resides in your home. You may also take paid sick leave to care for someone if your relationship creates an expectation that you would care for the person in a quarantine or self-quarantine situation, and that individual depends on you for care during the quarantine or self-quarantine.

You may not take paid sick leave to care for someone with whom you have no relationship. Nor can you take paid sick leave to care for someone who does not expect or depend on your care during his or her quarantine or self-quarantine.

Can I take paid sick leave to care for any individual who is subject to a quarantine or isolation order or who has been advised to self-quarantine?

No. You may take paid sick leave under the FFCRA to care for an immediate family member or someone who regularly resides in your home. You may also take paid sick leave under the FFCRA to care for someone where your relationship creates an expectation that you care for the person in a quarantine or self-quarantine situation, and that individual depends on you for care during the quarantine or self-quarantine.

However, you may not take paid sick leave under the FFCRA to care for someone with whom you have no relationship. Nor can you take paid sick leave under the FFCRA to care for someone who does not expect or depend on your care during his or her quarantine or self-quarantine due to COVID-19.

When am I eligible for paid sick leave to care for someone who is self-quarantining?

You may take paid sick leave to care for a self-quarantining individual if a health care provider has advised that individual to stay home or otherwise quarantine him or herself because he or she may have COVID-19 or is particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 and provision of care to that individual prevents you from working.

What is a “place of care”?

A “place of care” is a physical location in which care is provided for your child. The physical location does not have to be solely dedicated to such care. Examples include day care facilities, preschools, before and after school care programs, schools, homes, summer camps, summer enrichment programs, and respite care programs.

Who is my “child care provider”?

A “child care provider” is someone who cares for your child. This includes individuals paid to provide childcare, like nannies, au pairs, and babysitters. It also includes individuals who provide childcare at no cost and without a license on a regular basis, for example, grandparents, aunts, uncles, or neighbors.

Can more than one guardian take paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave simultaneously to care for my child whose school or place of care is closed, or child care provider is unavailable, due to COVID-19 related reasons?

You may take paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave to care for your child only when you need to, and actually are, caring for your child if you are unable to work as a result of providing care. Generally, you do not need to take such leave if a co-parent, co-guardian, or your usual childcare provider is available to provide the care your child needs.

My child’s school or place of care has moved to online instruction or to another model in which children are expected or required to complete assignments at home. Is it “closed”?

Yes. If the physical location where your child received instruction or care is now closed, the school or place of care is “closed” for purposes

of paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave. This is true even if some or all instruction is being provided online or whether, through another format such as “distance learning,” your child is still expected or required to complete assignments.

May I take paid sick leave to care for a child other than my child?

It depends. The paid sick leave that is provided under the FFCRA to care for one (or more) of your children when their place of care is closed (or child care provider is unavailable), due to COVID-19 related reasons, may only be taken to care for your own “son or daughter.”

However, paid sick leave is also available to care for an individual who is subject to a federal, state, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19 or has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19. If you have a need to care for a child who meets these criteria, you may take paid sick leave if you are unable to work as a result of providing care. But in no event may your total paid sick leave exceed two weeks.

May I take expanded family and medical leave to care for a child other than my child?

No. Expanded family and medical leave is only available to care for your own “son or daughter.”

My employee claims to have tiredness or other symptoms of COVID-19 and is taking leave to seek a medical diagnosis. What documentation may I require from the employee to document efforts to obtain a diagnosis? When can it be required?

In order for your employee to take leave under the FFCRA, you may require the employee to identify his or her symptoms and a date for a test or doctor’s appointment. You may not, however, require the employee to provide further documentation or similar certification that he or she sought a diagnosis or treatment from a health care provider in order for the employee to use paid sick leave for COVID-19 related symptoms. The minimal documentation required to take this leave is intentional so that employees with COVID-19 symptoms may take leave and slow the spread of COVID-19.

I took paid sick leave and am now taking expanded family and medical leave to care for my children whose school is closed for a COVID-19 related reason. After completing distance learning, the children’s school closed for summer vacation. May I take paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave to care for my children because their school is closed for summer vacation?

No. Paid sick leave and emergency family and medical leave are not available for this qualifying reason if the school or child care provider is closed for summer vacation, or any other reason that is not related to COVID-19. However, the employee may be able to take leave if his or her child’s care provider during the summer — a camp or other programs in which the employee’s child is enrolled — is closed or unavailable for a COVID-19 related reason.

WEST COUNTY ... BY PAM STEPNEY

Greetings, brothers and sisters of Branch 343. How is everyone doing? Fine, I hope. Working long hours here at the post office is hard on your body and mind. A start time of 8:30 a.m. is horrible, and you must prepare yourself mentally. There are a lot of carriers preparing to retire because the job has changed so much. Who would have thought we would be out on the streets so late at night? There are so many delivery trucks in the neighborhood every day that I do not know who is ordering what and where all the parcels are coming from. You can stop to deliver at one house and here comes Amazon, UPS, Fed-Ex, and DHL. I am sure the new postmaster is aware of letter carriers out delivering late in the evening, but I hear he is going to put a stop to it today. Receiving a package or an accountable piece of mail at 9 p.m. is too late for anybody. What are normal business hours? What is considered a respectable quitting time for businesses that operate during the day? The new postmaster plans to make a lot of changes, such as cutting out penalty and regular overtime, putting the 204bs back on their routes. We can use some of their help. He is also planning to close post offices for one hour per day to cut out some of the clerk's overtime and allow them to go to lunch. If the parcels are not ready and the letter carriers go to the

street, the parcels will wait until the next day.

If you do not have the NALC app on your phone, you are missing out on a lot of information about the fight our union puts up for us each day. Stop living in a cave and come to the future. The businessman postmaster is trying to bring an end to the Postal Service, and it is not okay. We have been around for hundreds of years and we need to continue for hundreds of years to come. We need all letter carriers in the fight right now, standing arm and arm with your union sisters and brothers. We need all hands-on deck to fight the good fight for middle-class workers. The union needs us to fight like our lives depend on it. No more voting in candidates to try and take out workers and the union. This is the perfect time for all the unions to come together and fight for the good of all workers. I have never had a job where the CEO makes all the money and the decisions for all workers. This sounds like Jeff Bezos and the Amazon experience. I cannot wait to see the day when the Amazon workers walk out and form a union. Thank God for ours! Stay tuned I am sure this is just the beginning. Get out and vote in the August 4 election and make sure you vote **yes** on Medicare expansion!

Moving on. Have you registered everyone you know to vote? Now is the time! If you know anyone 18 years old and not registered,

ensure that they register before October 7. If they do not register to vote by then,

they will not be allowed to vote in the November election. Please do not let that happen. We need every vote to count this election. Make sure you vote absentee or go and stand in line to cast your vote. If you will be mailing in your vote, please be advised that your ballot will have to be notarized before you mail it. Select candidates who support your middle-class lifestyle and please do not forget the ones who help our union stay strong.

Alexis Allen and Charlie Kell do a fine job of keeping us safe each day, thank you. Thank you to West County for raising \$150 for the food bank and to Bob Rapisardo for matching it. There are a lot of people in need and we are blessed, so thank you again. Thank you to Priscilla Bailey, Lakeesha Hayes, Rance Hope, Phil Winkler, Daryl Vaughn, and Steph Moore for purchasing watermelons for Watermelon Wednesday.

How could I not forget to wish Rodney Reams a long happy, healthy, retirement. So here it goes, enjoy yourself, and live life to the fullest. Until next time do your best, do not stress, leave the rest, God bless, and thank you for coming. Continue to keep yourself and your family safe during the pandemic. Respect yourself and others.



SAFETY & HEALTH ... BY RICHARD THURMAN

HYPONATREMIA

We're all taught to drink fluids to stay hydrated during extreme heat. It's important everyone is aware of some of the early signs of over hydration; hyponatremia is muscle cramping, along with fatigue, nausea, and headaches. This condition is very similar to heatstroke. Drinking **too much water** brings it about. By drinking too much water, you are affecting the sodium concentration in your blood. It's essential also to understand the electrolyte balance of your body is affected by what you intake into the body. Being hydrated before you begin your tour is affected by what you ingested the previous day. Your ingestion of different types of beverages, maybe coffee, soda, tea, and other drinks, all affect your hydration. So you could be doing all the right things for the right reason, while trying to get acclimated to the weather, but if you don't understand your own body, you put yourself at risk for a heat-related event. It's also vital that you eat nutritionally before going into the extreme heat. So all the new letter carriers out there, take the time to understand what acclimating to the weather means.

It's essential to drink water to remain hydrated because it's one of your best sources of hydration. We have new CCAs who have fallen victim to heat-related illnesses because of hyponatremia. So take some time to understand what you ingest before you are exposed to the temperature. Be safe out there!

Brothers and sisters, it is essential we apply safety to our working environment. Some believe that this cannot happen to them. Our district safety team has observed some very frightening events. Carriers leaving the vehicle running while they are outside of the vehicle or inside of a business having a conversation with their customer. You put yourself and the public at risk.

COVID-19

To wear a mask or not wear a mask is not the question. There are options out there for those of us who cannot wear a mask. You can wear a face shield; you can wear a gator, which is a piece of cloth that goes around your nose and mouth and neck. What is essential is that we protect people indirectly, maybe brothers, sisters, grandmothers, children from exposure to the virus because of a lack of social distancing. That's what's important! We should all know by now how one person affects the other, which may cause a ripple effect in our working environment.

Again, peace and love, be careful out there. Be safe, safeguard yourself.



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Saturday 8 a.m. - Noon

MDA GOLF TOURNEY OCTOBER 11



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

CONTACT:
TINA HUNT
OR JOHN McLAUGHLIN

CALL 314-241-4297

THE "U" ... BY FRANK ENLOW

Unofficially, information was shared on line Saturday, July 11, outlining Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's expectations and plans for the Postal Service.

Eliminating overtime has always been at the top of every postmaster general's agenda, but should not be at the expense of delaying the mail. It talks about what to do if the mail is late leaving the plant or carriers being gone before the clerks can get the mail to the routes. The mail will remain at the station for the next day's delivery. If you don't want to delay or have us wait on mail, then change the plant processing time, or change the clerk's schedule, not ours. Do you think someone should inform our new postmaster general that it takes more time to deliver more mail, unless we are going back to using color code placards to rotate bulk mail?

This may come as a shock to those of you who have never delivered mail, but starting early and having daylight to deliver mail is much safer than delivering mail in the dark. But what do we know?

Now closing the customer service windows even for an hour would affect the Postal Service revenue, since most customers rush to the post office during their lunch break to take care of business. Bad idea!

This PMG also says he will be looking at all employees regardless of the craft, including management, to capture undertime, workers compensation cases, details and 204B positions, along

with employees working their nonscheduled day. I wonder if the PMG has talked to any of the union reps or craft employees to get a pulse on what might work, probably not. Brothers and sisters, we just can't catch a damn break. This is round 12 of a heavy-weight fight. Keep your guards up and protect yourself at all times.

A few things you must pay attention to are your office time and completing your 3996s. Because most stations are still short of clerks, management is doing whatever it takes to make their office time look good. If you still have mail to case and you are being told to move to operation 721 (street time), immediately inform whomever that you want to see your shop steward to file a grievance. They are being told to get you on street time sometimes within 45 minutes of you clocking in. Checking your vehicle, casing your mail, clerks signing you out for your accountable items or doing any morning mark-up mail should be done on operation 722 (office time).

Now I'm not sure why carriers hate filing out 3996s. If you are of the opinion that you may not be able to case all your mail within your allotted office time, fill out a 3996. If your DPS or parcel volume increases, fill out a 3996. If you are instructed to wait on mail or come back for parcels, fill out a 3996. If these forms are not made available, have your steward file a grievance. Keep a paper trail to protect yourself. Management may try to use bullying tactics to keep you from filling out this form. Without this form, it is your word against their bad memory, which could lead to you being disciplined. You can get in trouble for making decision, but you can't get in trouble for following instructions. Protect yourself at all times.

I mentioned before this is a heavy-weight fight, and we have won another round. Carriers at Jennings will be allowed to case and carry their own routes again.

Welcome back Jennings.

Until next time ...



BRANCH LEGAL PLAN

Advice and Consultation on
General Practice and Civil Actions.



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TELEPHONE: 314-932-1919
FACSIMILE: 314-932-5048
JOHN@GOFFSTEINLAW.COM
GOFFSTEINLAW.COM

CREVE COEUR CHRONICLES ... BY KIESHA WILEY



Greetings my fellow brothers and sisters in unionism. We have a pandemic amongst us and it seems to be increasing every day since March. I will not give a lecture on this pandemic but I will stress the **importance** of being safe for yourself but also for your family. A majority of the post office/stations had several fellow carriers contract COVID-19, so continue to wear a mask while working within your station but also during street deliveries if you are not able to maintain 6 ft. social distancing from your customers. Utilize hand sanitizers, use Lysol spray to disinfect your work station and postal vehicle before and after completion of your assignment. Wash your hands throughout the day, also do not touch your face and cover your mouth when you have to cough/sneeze. Please continue to follow the CDC guidelines for 6 ft. social distancing, wearing a mask (if not able to maintain social distancing) and utilizing hand sanitizer as needed.

So, the new PMG has set out to eliminate penalty overtime across the country by delaying mail and packages for next day delivery, if the plants are running late in getting them to the post office/station before the carrier leaves for the street. All 204b's and career employees on a detail assignment will have to return back to their assignments (all details will be terminated), closing down the Customer Service Window operations for an hour. Unfortunately, these changes will have a significant impact on the Postal Service: Parcel deliveries, mail deliveries and providing great customer service to our postal patrons by cutting window service hours. A change is coming and too bad it appears not in favor for carriers, but we have been through this type of behavior "**I am boss and this is what I want to happen, now!**" type of behavior, so let's just "**buckle up**" for the ride.

I would like to congratulate the following individuals on their retirement from the post office and wish them well on their future endeavors as retirees: Paul Strickland, January 2020; Daryl "High Noon" Boyd, February; Kevin "Leprechaun" Spann, April; Ron "#1" Boden, May; Lawanda

Johnson, June; and Terry Marks, July. All of these carriers will be truly missed by their Creve Coeur family., God bless you all. Very recently Creve Coeur lost a carrier, Debra Kennedy. Everyone will miss her dearly. Debra was an Air Force veteran and Black Lives Matter activist. She use to always somehow make it on the news during any protests that were going on within our city. Everyone use to come into work the next day discussing how she was seen on the television protesting and being herself. Debra also helped the homeless with volunteering with food service and providing clothing items. During the Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Thanksgiving and on her non-schedule day, she would take homeless individuals and veterans out to eat. I would like to express our deepest sympathy to the family of Debra Kennedy. Farewell my fellow sister in unionism and military. Rest in peace.

Until next month, please take care of yourself and get to know your rights by attending union meetings. **United we stand, divided we fall!**

Roy
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NORMANDIE GOLF CLUB

REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!



33rd NALC Br. 343 Golf Tournament for Muscular Dystrophy ENTER NOW!

WHEN: 8 A.M. SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2020

WHERE: NORMANDIE GOLF CLUB

7605 St. Charles Rock Rd.

St. Louis, MO 63133

COST: \$80 PER PERSON (\$320 PER TEAM)

Price includes 18 holes of Golf, Electric Cart,
Prizes, Refreshments, (Beer, Soda, Brats,
Hamburgers, etc.)

FORMAT: Best Ball Four Man Scramble

"Shot Gun Start"

HOW TO ENTER: A check or checks totaling \$320 with the
names and addresses of team members must
be received ASAP (Please list at least one
phone number and email)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

MDA Golf, Branch 343

1600 S. Broadway

St. Louis, MO 63104

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

1. Registration will start at 8 a.m.
2. Shot Gun Start — 9 a.m.
3. There will be a cutoff at 36 teams due to time restrictions. Money will be refunded to any team who enters after the cutoff.
4. Teams must arrive 30 minutes prior to tee time.

If you have any other questions about the tournament that have not been answered here, contact:

John McLaughlin
Letter Carriers Hall
314-241-4297

Clip and Mail

.....
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Community service

2020 Stamp Out Hunger Donor Drive



For the last 27 years, the National Association of Letter Carriers has been proud to hold the Stamp Out Hunger food drive, the nation's largest one day food drive, on the second Saturday in May. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we weren't able to safely collect and distribute food in May this year. However, we will schedule the 28th annual Stamp out hunger food drive when it is safe to do so.

In the meantime, the need for food assistance is more urgent than ever and we want to give everyone the opportunity to continue to help meet that need.

The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is a drive with a single mission—to feed the hungry in America, and as always, with your help, we will

Food drive coordinators can find resources to help them in their local communities [here](#).

PLEASE DONATE WHAT YOU CAN TO A FOOD BANK IN YOUR COMMUNITY. SIMPLY FIND YOUR STATE BELOW AND CLICK ON THE LINK TO DONATE DIRECTLY. ALL COLLECTIONS STAY IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

NATIONAL PARTNERS



**MOVED OR MOVING?
KEEP US INFORMED**

To all members of Branch 343. Please keep us informed of your current address. Address correction services are expensive and cost the branch money that can be better spent. Failure to have an updated mailing list could also result in delayed communication to you and if you are a shop steward, a delay in getting paid. Don't assume that the Postal Service keeps the Union Hall advised of your address change, they don't.

You can call the Letter Carrier's Union Hall at 314-241-4297 or mail us your new address at:
Letter Carrier's Hall
1600 S. Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63104

**BRANCH MEETING
ATTENDANCE PRIZES
JULY 9, 2020**

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. \$25 Lowes Card | Tom Schulte, Retired |
| 2. \$25 Dierbergs Card | Marcia Contejean, Sappington |
| 3. \$25 Schnucks Card | Diane Carter, Maryville Gardens |



\$14

Tina Hunt, South County



BRANCH MEETING

BRANCH 343, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
JULY 9, 2020

City of St. Louis

Health Commissioner's Order #10

The revised guidance reflects the number allowable attendees in large venues.

The capacity limits for large venues are adjusted as follows:

July 6, 2020, 75% of permitted capacity

July 20, 2020, 100% of permitted capacity

These revised capacity limits shall be effective **provided** the number of new regional hospital admissions does not exceed 40 per day for three of four consecutive days, or a seven-day moving average of 35 new COVID-19 related admissions.

The official capacity of Branch 343 Letter Carriers Hall is 250. The regular branch meeting conducted on Thursday July 9, 2020, had an attendance of 26 with all wearing facial masks. Tables were separated 6 feet apart with chairs set at opposite ends. CDC guidelines were strictly adhered to with the Union Hall providing facial masks and hand sanitizer to all in attendance.

For future regular branch and shop steward meetings check: the branch343.org website, station bulletins and the Union Hall greeting phone number (314-241-4297)

Summary of Branch Action

MSC To pay the branch current expenses

MSC Br. 343 pay for the Labor Day ad of \$439 in the St. Louis Labor Tribune

New Members

William Crump.....	Afton	06-05-20
Destiny Evans.....	Jennings.....	06-05-20
Brian Gray	Southwest	05-29-20
Jada Jarrett.....	Weathers.....	06-05-20
Rachel Jurgesmeyer.....	Mexico	06-09-20
Matthew Larios	Coyle	05-22-20
Nathaniel Markovich.....	Southwest	05-29-20
Tiaura Wilson.....	Coyle	05-22-20

Recently Retired Members

Thomas Plasmeier.....	Olivette	03-27-20
James M. Peppers.....	Coyle	06-16-20
Deborah A. Bryan.....	South County	06-28-20
Walter W. Rutherford.....	Southwest	06-30-20
Gary J. Tillman	Carrier Square	06-30-20
Terence A. Marx.....	Creve Coeur	06-30-20
Kevin L. Cox.....	Gaffney.....	06-30-20
Gregory J. Wiegert.....	Creve Coeur	07-03-20

Deceased Member

Richard L. Champion	60-Year Member	06-30-20
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Highlights

President Robert Rapisardo called the meeting to order at 7:41 p.m. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance led by Diane Carter. The minutes were read and accepted by guest Recording Secretary Tina Hunt.

Retirees Report: Tom Schulte reported that the retirees had not met since March and that the yearly Ole Timers Day celebration in May has been postponed until further notice. Tom suggested that we may have to award this years Gold Cards and pins by mail and invite this years awardees to next years Ole Timers Day. Stay tuned.

Labor Council Report: Pamela Stepney reported that the Labor Day Parade has been postponed this year. Pam urged all letter carriers and their families to vote in the upcoming elections and you have until October 7 to register in the November 3 general election.

Mound City Carrier Report: Tom Schulte congratulated the winners of this years John H. Haake Scholarship and urged everyone to read the profiles of each of the winners in the May issue. Future plans are to bring the winners and their parents to an upcoming regular branch meeting. Information in the July MCC regarding the October Br. 343 Golf Tournament and how and when to register for the upcoming elections. Please go to the NALC website to send a letter to urge Congress to support the HEROES Act to provide financial assistance to the USPS.

Safety & Health Report: Richard Thurman urged everyone to continue social distancing. Encourage everyone at your station to please wear a facial mask. COVID-19 is serious and we must act responsibly.

Legislative Report: Mike Weir encouraged everyone to check out the political action page of the Mound City Carrier. Several bills introduced in Congress, H.R. 7120, the George Floyd police reform bill, bans choke holds, no knock warrants, and the withholding of military surplus to police. Bill passed. H.R. 6800, the HEROES Act,

Political Action Honor Roll

RICHARD RHYNER ★★★★★★★★

ART BUCK★★★

ROBERT RAPISARDO★★★

JOE POLITTE★★★

TED HEMPEN★★

CHARLES SCANLON★★

JOE FITZJARRELL★★

GENE BRADFORD★★

JOHN SCHULTZ ★★

J. MARK SIMS★★

JIM BRUGGEMAN★★

CATHERINE CIARAMITARO★★

TONY JASPER★★

MIKE WEIR★★

ROBERT EVERS★★

LAWRENCE McHAYNES JR.★

GENO IBERG★

KEN MEYER★

NICKI L. PRADO★

DAN "BOGIE" BOGDAN★

BILL LISTER★

CHARLES SEXTON★

DARLENE TATE★

JOHN McLAUGHLIN★

TOM HARMAN★

JOHN H. HAAKE★

MEAGHAN LAKEY★

MICHAEL "THUMPER" THARP ★

LAURA KEIM★

ROBERT FLAHERTY★

DICK LEONG★

ROY HATCHARD JR.★

TOM SCHULTE★

MIKE CHENOT★

LOREN LOERCH★

DAN BRAUCHLE★

DERRICK WILLIAMS★

GARY COFFELT★

MIKE BIRKETT★

DON CHARTRAND★

GUS FRANK

MARION HARRIS

ROBERT RAPISARDO

LAWRENCE McHAYNES JR.

SAM GOODMAN

JAMES GOHEEN

MIKE CHENOT

SARONDA SUTHERLAND

MICHAEL JENNINGS

EVELYN PARK

LOREN LOERCH

ROBERT EVERS

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Chet Drain

Gary Robertson

Raymond Schlereth

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By making a contribution to the Letter Carrier Fund or our local Political Action Fund, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your contribution is not a condition of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers or of employment by the Postal Service, nor is it part of union dues. You have a right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal. The Letter Carrier Political Fund and Branch 343 Political Action Fund will use money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office and undertake other political spending as permitted by law. Your selection shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled. Contributions to the Letter Carrier Political Fund are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the Letter Carrier Political Fund and Branch 343 Political Action Fund from soliciting contributions from individuals who are not NALC members, executive and administrative staff or their families. Any contribution received from such an individual will be refunded to that contributor.

addresses a relief package for the U.S. Postal Service. Passed in House. Not moving in Senate. We have a new postmaster and two new members have been added to the Postal Regulatory Commission. Support Jill Schupp in the 2nd District to unseat Ann Wagner.

Executive Vice President/Treasurer Report: John McLaughlin urged everyone to check the br343.org website, check bulletins or call the Union Hall greetings line for information on future regular branch and shop stewards meetings. No meetings planned, but we may do a ZOOM or WEBX meeting in the future. The outside water leak has been repaired and we are seeking a financial adjustment from MSD. Union Hall floor mud jacking will take place in the near future. Jennings will continue in the consolidated casing through the rest of this year.

Vice President/Financial Secretary Report: Brad Layton reported that the annual NALC Food Drive was cancelled this year, but you can go to the NALC website to make a financial donation to the food drive with local revenue going to the St. Louis Area Food Bank. Brad thanked all who showed up for the meeting injecting a little energy back into the hall. State and national conventions cancelled. Warsher tournament cancelled.

President's Comments: Robert Rapisardo thanked everyone for attending. Noted that carriers are working 12-hour days and 60-hour work weeks. Stay safe in the heat. We are on a pace to exceed 1,500 grievances this year. No cooperation with local management.

Respectfully Submitted, Guest Recording Secretary Tina Hunt

John H. Haake BRANCH 343

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John McLaughlin ... Executive Vice President/
Treasurer
Brad Layton..... Vice President/
Financial Secretary
Brian Litteken Recording Secretary
Stuart East..... Sergeant-at-Arms
Saronda Sutherland MBA Representative
Chet Drain Health Benefits Representative

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Robert "Bob" Rapisardo John McLaughlin

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for publication in this paper should be
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Tom Schulte, Managing Editor
1600 S Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63104-3806
Phone: (314) 241-4297

or

You may submit articles and photos from
events and retirement photos to:

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If you submit a photo, please identify all
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All copy should be TYPED in upper and
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Lunch at noon, meeting at 12:45 pm

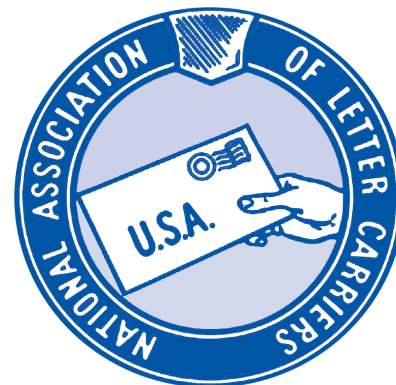
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