

MOUND CITY CARRIER

Official Publication of Branch 343

2020 General Excellence
Award Winning Publication



St. Louis, Missouri
Chartered 1892

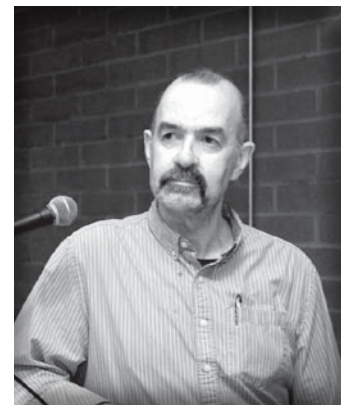
Volume 75, No. 3

"Diversity is our Strength and Unity is our Power"

March 2024

PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE ... BY JOHN McLAUGHLIN

Postal Math: 259 Proper Complement of PTFs
– 167 Actual Number of PTFs
92 Number of PTFs short



Our numbers are getting better. It appears that we are beginning to right the ship. The service now has 167 PTFs in the Saint Louis installation, with another 40 or so in the process. This is getting better, but we are still not there. This still leaves us a couple of bodies short at each station. Even if, and when, we reach 259 PTFs, the collateral damage inflicted on city carriers over the last three or so years will take time to heal. The goal is for non-ODL carriers to get their days off again and just work eight-hour days. Also, OT should be the exception and not the rule even for ODL carriers. The service cannot leave well enough alone. Even with more coming on board, they are hell-bent on making letter carrier lives a living hell by demanding that we make their numbers.

The persistent and unrelenting badgering of carriers with, "You carriers should be out of the office in one hour (or 45 minutes)." This nonsense puts unnecessary stress on every single letter carrier in the installation. Gee, who wouldn't want to come to work every day? If you really want to know what the service's own manuals say about what determines your leaving time, I recommend you pull the black binder out from underneath your case ledge and begin reading.

A copy of the M-41, *City Delivery Carriers Duties and Responsibilities*, should be in every black binder. Turn to page 31 and read section 251.3. Every route has the "Route Schedule" listed on the Form 1564-A showing the "scheduled reporting, leaving, returning, and ending time on the route."

Management's own Handbook the M-39, *Management of Delivery Services*, also notes on page 18 under "Carriers' Leaving Schedules" the following:

BRANCH 343 CARDINALS TICKETS ON SALE MARCH 14

Immediately Following the Regular Branch Meeting
See Schedule Inside This Issue



122.2 Carriers' Leaving Schedules

122.21 Establishing Leaving Schedule

The leaving time for the carrier is determined by the following:

- Workload. The normal workload for the route;**
- Availability of Mail.** The time all the mail for the same day's delivery is available;
- Necessary Office Time. Time required to case this mail, withdraw, tray or strap out mail, obtain parcels, and complete other required office duties; and**
- Business Hours.** Normal community business hours.

In short, once you've cased all your available mail and pulled down, this is your leaving time. Management has their own ideas based on their DOIS projections. DOIS projections are not the sole determinant of a carrier's leaving or return time, or daily workload. As such, the projections cannot be used as the sole basis for corrective action. This is where they get their pie in the sky, "You should be out of here by"

If you want to verify your mail volume, do the following. Look at the workhour/workload daily report (if it is not posted daily have your steward file a grievance) to find the piece count of letters and flats for your route from the day before. Most carriers don't know their exact mail count, but we do know how many feet of mail we have. You can use the following conversion of the number of letters/flats to feet: 1 foot of letters = 227 pieces and 1 foot of flats = 115 flats.

One thing you must ask them regarding your leaving time is, "Is this a direct order or an instruction?" If it is a direct order, then you should obey to avoid discipline. Do not argue. Unfortunately, they can manage this business as ineptly as they wish. If leaving within the time instructed requires you to leave mail, you should fill out a PS Form 1571 *Undelivered Mail Report*. Present this to your supervisor for their signature, make a copy, and place the copy in your pocket. If someone in management confronts you later about delaying mail, simply pull your copy of the PS Form 1571 and present it to them.

If your supervisor has not given you a direct order, simply respond by telling them you will do your best to try and achieve their arbitrary decree. If management continues this behavior multiple times in a day or day after day, and you feel intimidated or harassed, ask to see your shop steward and write a statement. Harassment means words or behavior that threatens, intimidates, or demeans a person. Harassment is unwanted, uninvited, and unwelcome and causes nuisance, alarm, or substantial emotional distress without any legitimate purpose. Intimidation is an act or course of conduct directed at a specific person to cause that person to

fear or apprehend fear. Management cannot berate you to make their numbers. This is a violation of the ***Joint Statement of Violence and Behavior in the Workplace:***

"*Making the numbers*" is not an excuse for the abuse of anyone. Those who do not treat others with dignity and respect will not be rewarded or promoted. Those whose unacceptable behavior continues will be removed from their position.

You do not need to stand for this treatment. Document every instance and report this to your steward.

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all those wannabe Irish people on March 17.

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.

**Armed, off-duty police security
provided at every meeting at the
Union Hall**



MOVING?

WE NEED YOUR NEW ADDRESS!

If you have moved, please notify the branch office directly. Personnel does not notify us of your change of address.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip _____

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EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT ... BY BRIAN LITTEKEN

ONE HOUR OR LESS OF OFFICE TIME



Once again (or still?), management is instructing all the carriers at a station they need to be out of the office in one hour. When the steward asks the supervisor how they determined that all the routes in the station have one hour or less office time, the supervisor says they are just doing what they are being instructed by their boss.

Dear "Boss," using an arbitrary amount of office time is an improper instruction and does not change the letter carrier's reporting requirement outlined in Section 131.4 of *Handbook M-41*; the supervisor's scheduling responsibilities outlined in Section 122 of *Handbook M-39*; or the letter carrier's and supervisor's responsibilities contained in Section 28 of *Handbook M-41*.

A pre-arbitration settlement agreement signed on December 14, 2023, for the installations of O'Fallon, Illinois and Collinsville, Illinois states the following:

ISSUE: In both grievances listed above local management had instituted a blanket mandate of no more than 60 minutes office time for the city letter carriers in both installations.

The undersigned agree that the blanket one hour or 60-minute office time mandate is an improper instruction and should be immediately rescinded if it is still in effect.

City carrier's morning office time/leaving time is based on multiple factors including base fixed office time and cased mail volume and can vary depending on the day. In addition, there can be other unforeseen factors that can occur that can affect the time it takes the carrier each morning.

The local parties are encouraged to refer to the

M-39 and M-41 Handbooks for further information.

An arbitration award issued on May 18, 2012, for St. Louis, Missouri (Creve Coeur Station) states the following:

It should be clear from the above quoted settlement agreements that the service may not base a letter carrier's leave and return times solely upon the DOIS information. Other factors must also be considered, such as weather conditions, the types of mail being handled by the carrier, road construction and the physical condition of the carrier. Some of these factors may be known by the carrier but not by management. Therefore, projected leave and return times should be established in consultation with the individual carriers and take into consideration these factors, as well as the DOIS information. It is worth repeating that the DOIS projections may not be used as the sole basis for corrective action.

These are principles that have been consistently agreed upon by the union and the Postal Service at the local and national levels. The message, however, has either not been communicated to or understood by those charged with complying with these settlements.

What should you, as a carrier, do if your supervisor makes an announcement that everyone should be out of the office in an hour? Read next month's article.



Mark Your Calendar

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

Mar 14	Regular Branch Meeting
Apr 3	Retiree Meeting
Apr 4	Shop Stewards Meeting
Apr 11	Regular Branch Meeting
Apr 13-14	28th Annual Reel in the Cure Bass Tournament for MDA (see ad)
May 4	Ole Timers Day (Letter Carriers Hall)



VICE PRESIDENT FINANCIAL SECRETARY

... BY MARVIN BOOKER

IT'S THAT TIME!



Saturday, May 11, marks the 32nd anniversary of one of America's great days of giving — the National Association of Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Letter carriers across the country will collect nonperishable food donations from our customers. These donations go directly to local food pantries to provide food to people in the areas we serve who need help.

Over the course of its 31-year history, the food drive has collected well over 1.9 billion pounds of food, thanks to a Postal Service universal delivery network that spans the entire nation, including Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The need for food donations is great. Currently, more than 42 million Americans are unsure where their next meal is coming from. More than 12 million are children who feel hunger's impact on their overall health and ability to perform in school. And nearly 5.2 million seniors over age 60 are food insecure, with many who live on fixed incomes often too embarrassed to ask for help.

The food drive's timing is crucial. Food banks and pantries often receive most of their donations during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons. By springtime, many pantries are depleted, entering the summer low on supplies at a time when many school breakfast and lunch programs are not available to children in need.

Preparation and coordination for food drive day will be challenging. This will be the first food drive for many of our members. As much as we would like every letter carrier to take part — and a sizable majority of them do — some letter carriers opt not to take part in the national food drive, for a variety of reasons.

Despite the challenges, I encourage everyone to participate because of the important role we're playing in the fight against hunger in this country. What makes the food drive truly successful, year after year, is the efforts of letter carriers, other postal employees, postal customers, community volunteers and many more.

There will also be a need for food drive coordinators at every station to help with the weeks of up-front preparation such as explaining why we do what we do to those who have never done it, making sure that information about the food drive is disseminated within the station, drumming up support for it and recruiting volunteers to help.

While food drive day may be one of the most challenging days of the year for letter carriers, it's also one of the most gratifying since each bag of donations represents a meal for a family in need. Additionally, some stations barbecue and invite retirees and family members in to help. We also offer volunteer certificates for anyone needing community service hours. It is a great opportunity to build camaraderie amongst co-workers.

Please take this opportunity to give back to the communities that we serve on this one day during the year. As letter carriers we are keenly aware of the meaning of the word "service." A quote by Marian Wright Edelman captures the true essence of the word.

"Service is the rent we pay for being. It is the very purpose of life, and not something you do in your spare time."

Until next time be safe and be professional.

100% Union Honor Roll

CHOUTEAU	OLIVETTE
CUBA	PIEDMONT
DES PERES	SALEM
FENTON	SOUTH COUNTY
FREDRICKTOWN	ST. CLAIR
GAFFNEY	WARRENTON
GRAVOIS	WASHINGTON
JENNINGS	WENTZVILLE
MAPLEWOOD	WEST COUNTY



LETTER CARRIERS' FOOD DRIVE SECOND SATURDAY IN MAY

PUT YOUR NON-PERISHABLE DONATION IN A BAG BY YOUR MAILBOX.
WE'LL DELIVER IT TO A LOCAL FOOD BANK.

National Partners



RECORDING SECRETARY ... BY RICHARD BROWN

MARCH MADNESS



Greetings and salutations to all of the brothers and sisters of Branch 343. As some of you are aware, the branch has undergone a few obstacles already this year. The month of March will be no different. We have battled management constantly, in dealing with the treatment of the PTF carrier. Management in some units seems to think that these employees are CCAs, and they are handling them as such. While we know these are not full-time regulars, they still deserve to be respected as a career carrier, which they are. The National Agreement reads that they not only earn annual leave, but they also earn sick leave (unlike the CCA). Also, if management chooses to involuntarily reassign the PTF, they must provide a 60-day notice in advance (Article 12.5.B.5). A lot of them are being denied the leave even after 90-days of service. I know they are making regular at an alarming rate, but please look out for them and the treatment of them, as much as you can.

Our stewards are still being mistreated too. One thing the steward can do to create a buffer to this mistreatment, is to start building a working relationship with some of the management staff. This doesn't mean make friends, just help them understand that they are obligated to do certain things when it comes to you, as a steward. You must realize that they have expectations of you as a carrier too. Once you all reach an understanding, things may be a little smoother. Some management staff doesn't care about doing the right thing and will be who they have been trained to be, because they can't see anything else. This is where Articles 17 and 31 of the National Agreement come in. It reads in relative part:

The specific steward rights and responsibilities set forth in Article 17.3 and 17.4 of the National Agreement, including:

- Article 15 (grievance handling)
- Article 31.3 (right to information)
- Article 41.3.H (right to use telephones)

Right to Steward Time on the Clock. *Although a steward must ask for supervisory permission to leave his or her work area or enter another one to pursue a grievance or potential grievance, management cannot unreasonably deny requests for paid grievance-handling time.*

Steward time to discuss a grievance may not be denied solely because a steward is in overtime status.

Information. *Article 31.3 provides that the Postal Service will make available to the union all relevant information necessary for collective bargaining or the enforcement, administration, or interpretation of the Agreement, including information necessary to*

determine whether to file or to continue the processing of a grievance.

The above provisions of the National Agreement clearly entitle the steward to time on the clock to process a grievance, as well as the information they request to process that grievance. This right is being violated in a lot of offices. Stewards, you must be vigilant in filing that follow-up grievance for being denied your right. There is no reason that you should be at home working on grievances. I realize that we want to get the job done and sometimes the space to concentrate in peace is at home. However, management must provide you with time to process these grievances, on the clock. If not, that's where the above cited sections of the National Agreement come into play.

CHALLENGES

Some of you were present at our February branch meeting and had a chance to witness an appeal of Article 10 charges and an appeal of how the election was conducted. The branch held elections for officers in November of 2023 and some members were not happy with the results. Charges against some officers of the branch and objections to the conduct of the election by these aggrieved members were appealed to the February branch meeting. The appeal process was necessary and required per the NALC Constitution for the Government of Subordinate and Federal Branches and the NALC Governing Branch Election Procedures.

It was a lot of information to absorb, but that was a good time to get up and speak on all that was happening. If you were listening, all of the citations are available to every member. Looking up the Constitution and the NALC Regulations will better help you understand everything. The bottom line is that two committees/boards reviewed the allegations and information and found none of them to be credible. Then you, the membership, had an opportunity to speak your peace on the matters. Those present looked at the information presented and listened to the parties speak. When the votes took place on each issue, the members present made a choice to agree with the executive board's findings, and the findings of the committee of three disinterested members.

I wanted to take this opportunity to personally thank everyone in attendance and hope to see you all at the next regular branch meeting.

Until next time, happy St. Patrick's Day.

Who is Responsible!

HEALTH BENEFITS PLAN/OWCP ... *BARRY LINAN*



March greetings to all of the brothers and sisters of NALC Branch 343. We now have around 200 PTF carriers in the Saint Louis Installation. We still need another 60 or so PTFs, but at least progress is being made. PTF is a career position, so make sure to sign up on LITEBLUE for your benefits within 60 days of your appointment date. The enrollment codes for the NALC Health Plan - High Option are 321 Self Only and 322 Self and Family. Also, choose your level of life insurance (FEGLI) coverage and invest in the Thrift Savings Plan (like an IRA). The USPS matches the first 5% of your TSP contribution and it is deposited into your account tax-free.

HBP NEWS

There was finally an article in the January Postal Record regarding the **SilverScript** prescription drug program. The article notes what I wrote about in the January MCC regarding why you might want to opt out of SilverScript. If your physician has prescribed a drug that falls into the Tier 3 Non-Preferred Brand (co-pay 40% of cost) or into Tier 4 Specialty (\$200 co-pay) and you are currently using a discount card or coupon with Caremark/CVS to save money on your co-pay, you may want to opt out. You can call the NALC HBP and review the savings you receive from your discount card or coupon. If it's saving you more than the \$600 per person you would receive for being in SilverScript, then you will want to opt out. Unfortunately, because SilverScript is a Medicare drug plan, they are not allowed by law to let you use a discount card or a coupon. You can opt out by calling **SilverScript at 833-272-9886** or by filing a Disenrollment Form with the NALC HBP. Disenrollment Forms are available on the plan website at nalc.hbp.org. You can opt out at any time and your benefits will revert back to the NALC HBP beginning the next month. Remember that since SilverScript is a Medicare plan, disenrollment is done individually by both the annuitant member and their spouse if desired.

No mention in the Postal Record article of a new vendor, HealthEquity, who mailed out letters to annuitants about setting up a Medicare Reimbursement Account in order to get the \$600 incentive from

SilverScript. This does not seem to be an annuitant-friendly process and is sure to cause some confusion going forward. You are asked to register online at www.healthequity.com/wageworks, select "LOG IN/REGISTER," and then "Employee Registration." Once there you will need to answer some questions and then create a user name and password for your new account. Again, each eligible annuitant and their spouse will need to set up their own account. Once your account is created, you can set up direct deposit to your bank account for reimbursement. You are also required to provide proof of payment of your Medicare Part B premium. Listed examples of proof are a cancelled check, credit card statement, bank account statement, and Social Security COLA statement. I know that many annuitants also have their Part B premium deducted from their monthly annuity and you can get an Annual Summary of Payments from OPM. If you're having problems, you can call **HealthEquity at 844-768-5644** weekdays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern time.

Medicare Part B – Special Enrollment Period (SEP): The USPS has begun mailing cards to annuitants advising them of the upcoming SEP from April 1 thru September 30 this year. The card simply states that "you may be eligible" and that "individuals eligible for the SEP will receive notification in March 2024." I believe that notification will come from Medicare itself. During the SEP, annuitants and their spouses over age 65 that did not enroll in Medicare Part B when they were initially eligible will have a one-time opportunity to enroll without paying a late enrollment penalty. Normally, Medicare charges enrollees a late enrollment penalty of 10% of the premium per year past age 65 if you enroll later in Medicare Part B.

OWCP NEWS

When you are injured on duty, your supervisor has an obligation to provide needed medical treatment by issuing **Form CA-16 Authorization for Treatment** to your chosen medical facility or physician. Always keep a copy of the CA-16 for your records.

RETIREE REPORT

... BY GUEST RECORDING SECRETARY NICKI L. PRADO



MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING

Chairman Tom Schulte called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m. Guest chaplain John Haake led us in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Tom thanked Sandy Theisman and Kevin Welby for providing the delicious lasagna, salad, and assorted desserts.

Sick Call: Get well cards were signed and sent to brothers Mark Howard, Ken Meyer, and Tom Harman.

Minutes from the last meeting: The minutes from the January meeting were read by guest Recording Secretary Nicki L. Prado.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer Mike Chenot reported a checking balance of \$1,280.36. Check for \$30 paid to the Stocker fund. Cash balance following lunch expenses of \$362.

Presidents Report: John McLaughlin reported on the new fence erected by the adjoining blueprint company that restricts access to the Union Hall's parking lot from the southern end of the alley. John announced the purchase of a new defibrillator for the Union Hall. Grumbling from the retirees as to its use. John announced that both he and the vice president/financial secretary appeared on local news regarding the delays in mail delivery around St. Louis. Understaffing issues continue to be the problem. John also introduced to the retirees our new branch recording secretary, Richard Brown.

Legislative Report: Mike Weir reported that the 2024 projected COLA remains at 0%, due to inflation being under control. Mike asked everyone to contact their respective congressmen and asked for support of House bill H.R. 82 the Social Security Fairness Act which currently has 308 cosponsors. Mike reported on the dysfunction amongst Republicans to craft and support their own legislation regarding security of the southern border. Republicans crafted a bill in the Senate and sent it over to the House only to be met with a DOA response from the Speaker of the House. Unfortunately, that response left aid to Israel and the Ukraine on the table.

Health Benefits Report: Barry Linan reported that there are articles in the Postal Record regarding health benefits. He is still receiving calls regarding the SilverScript prescription drug plan. Medicare will be mailing information in March for the SEP one-time enrollment for Medicare Part B. If not currently enrolled, you will have from April 1 to September 30 to enroll without paying a penalty. You must be 65 or older to sign up.

Chairmans Report: Tom announced that May 4 will be the date for the upcoming Ole Timers Day celebration. Tom asked for all retirees to please hold the date to come and honor the new 50-year Gold Card members and those receiving 55- and 60-year pins. Plans are currently in the works to make arrangements for a guest speaker and a caterer.

Deceased Members: Tom asked for a moment of silence to remember brothers Denis Toler and James E. Barbee Sr.

50/50 Winner: \$15 won by Richard Boien who donated to the Branch 343 PAC Fund.

Closing Prayer: Offered by guest chaplain John Haake

Meeting Adjourned: 1:20 p.m.

The following stations
were represented at the
February 2024
Shop Stewards Meeting

Afton	Jennings
Carrier Square	Kirkwood
Clayton	Maryville Gardens
Creve Coeur	Sappington
Ferguson	South County
Gaffney	Southwest
Gravois	Weathers
U-City/Harriet Woods	West County

1930

95th Annual Ole Timers Day

2024

JOHN H. HAAKE BRANCH 343
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

HONORING
RETIRED MEMBERS AND PAST PRESIDENTS
SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024

BRANCH 343 UNION HALL
1600 S. BROADWAY

LUNCH SERVED AT NOON
REFRESHMENTS UNTIL 3 P.M.

JOHN McLAUGHLIN
PRESIDENT
Branch 343, NALC



TOM SCHULTE
CHAIRMAN
of the Retirees



NOTES FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR

... BY TOM SCHULTE

PLAN YOUR RETIREMENT NOW



As a retired letter carrier, I've witnessed success and failure of letter carriers to properly prepare for their retirement. Throughout my career I was always conscience of the fact that preparation for retirement began with sensible decisions made from the outset. Those decisions included living within our means, whether that meant owning a smaller home and not being tied down to an exorbitant mortgage payment or forgoing the Corvette for the minivan.

Early decision making now, can save you the harsh reality of having to hold a job post postal career or enjoying the benefits of travel and leisure once your career is over.

For those of you who are just beginning your postal career, I highly recommend investing as much as possible in the Thrift Savings Plan. No, I am not, nor have I ever been a salesman for the TSP. However, I absolutely encourage you to make every effort to get involved now to ensure that your retirement years are happy ones.

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is a retirement savings and investment plan for government employees. It was established by Congress in the Federal Employees' Retirement System Act of 1986. TSP offers the same types of savings and tax benefits that many private corporations offer to their employees under 401(k) plans.

The TSP is a defined combination plan, meaning that the retirement income you receive from your TSP account will depend on how much money you put into your account during your working years and the earnings accumulated over time. The TSP is administered by federal employees, who are also TSP participants.

The purpose of the TSP is to give you long-term retirement savings and investment plan. Saving for your retirement through the TSP provides many advantages. Automatic payroll deductions allow for investment without missing anything on

your paycheck. The TSP offers a diversified choice of investment options from the aggressive, riskier, possible high return investment portfolio to mid-range and conservative investment options. TSP can help you tailor your portfolio to your personal tastes.

Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) employees hired on or after October 1, 2020, are automatically enrolled upon hire, and 5% of base pay is automatically withheld unless the employee elects not to participate. All FERS and CSRS employees may contribute up to the Internal Revenue Code limitations, which was \$22,500 for 2023. All FERS employees automatically have 1% of base pay contributed by their agency, even if the employee does not participate in TSP; the employee cannot waive this requirement. Additional matching contributions are made dollar-per-dollar up to 3% of base pay (e.g. an employee contributing 3% will have 1% automatically contributed plus 3% matched, for a total of 4%), then at \$0.50/\$1 for each additional dollar up to 5% of base salary. Neither amounts above 5% nor "catch-up" contributions are matched, regardless of an employee's base pay.

Once you are enrolled in TSP, begin establishing specific investment planning strategies based on your working conditions. By this I mean, every time you get a step increase, increase your contributions to TSP. Every time you get a wage increase, increase your investment in TSP. If you find that placing your name on the desired overtime list is your opportunity to increase your wages, then definitely set aside a portion to invest in your TSP. And with payroll deduction, what you don't see, you don't miss.

Now is the time to take these simple steps to ensure the financial security you desire to enjoy your retirement years. Get on the TSP website to see how to enroll. Do it today!

REGION 5 NBA REPORT ... DAVID A. TEEGARDEN

As I write this month's NBA article, we have just concluded the Region 5 Rap Session. My staff and I have discussed the good and the bad of the event and have gone over your responses to the exit survey. There were several great suggestions that we will consider for next year's event. Some suggestions are difficult or impossible to implement even though we agree with them. As always, our goal in the Region 5 office is to provide training to all participants whether they are seasoned veterans or just getting started as a union activist.

To all the instructors, volunteers, and participants who made the Region 5 Rap Session a huge success, I would like to thank you. Without all your collective efforts, the event would certainly not have been as big of a success as it was. Thank You!

NEW NALC INITIATIVES

Women's Mentoring Program has been created to help ensure that women who wish to take on leadership roles at the branch, state, regional, and national levels of the NALC have mentors who can help current and future leaders in that endeavor. These mentors will help other women realize their potential and help steer them in the right direction in the NALC leadership positions.

eLearning Platform is committed to creating virtual training. This training is not intended to replace in-person learning, but it is meant to supplement it and give union activists who want to increase their knowledge an opportunity to do so.

The **Emergency Response Support Program** is designed to assist members affected by a traumatic event on or off the job. Whether that is being the victim of a crime; assault at work; or witnessing traumatic events outside of work like shootings, natural disasters, or other life-altering events. Individuals selected for this program will be trained in March on how to best show support and assistance for NALC members who have suffered a traumatic event. This is the first phase in this program and will eventually include suicide prevention, substance abuse, and mental health. The goal is to provide members with the assistance needed to get someone the initial help

they need rather than to replace medical or professional help.

The **Standing Committee on Diversity and Inclusion** will form a standing committee on diversity and inclusion. The committee's main goal is to improve access and make it as easy as possible for people from all walks of life to get involved with the NALC and to strengthen our union through that diversity.

NALC ACTIVIST

The NALC Activist is back in print. The 2024 winter edition is out and loaded with helpful information to assist all union activists in better representing their members and enforcing the National Agreement.

The 2024 winter episode contains articles on LMOU negotiations, stewards' right to information, union bulletin boards, OWCP compensation (OWCP related grievances), leadership skills, health benefits representatives, mutual benefits association representatives, MDA fundraising, and a steward's corner.

REGION 5 TRAINING

Soon, we will be announcing our schedule for Steward University training across the region. Branch presidents should pay attention to their email for notification of the time and place these trainings will be held.



BRANCH LEGAL PLAN

Advice and Consultation on
General Practice and Civil Actions.



GOFFSTEIN LAW, L.L.C.

JOHN H. GOFFSTEIN
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BRANCH 343 CARDINALS TICKETS



For Sale, Thursday, April 11

Immediately following the Regular Branch Meeting

Great Seats (Behind Home Plate)

Section 249

Row 6

Seats 5 and 6

\$135 for the pair

Must be present and pay on April 11

These same seats resold by the Cardinals
would go for up to **\$300** for premium games.

Payment only by **check or cash** tendered on **April 11**.

Everyone wanting to purchase tickets will be given a lottery ticket.

During the first round, carriers will be limited to two games.

After the first round, the games will be selected in the same order as the first round.

No Sales prior to **April 11** at 9 p.m.

Remaining tickets for sale after **April 11**.

St. Louis Cardinals

MARCH/APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
24	25	26	27	28 <i>R</i>	29 <i>R</i>	30 <i>R</i>
				LAD 3:10	LAD 9:10	LAD 8:10
31 <i>R</i>	E 1 <i>R</i>	2 <i>R</i>	3 <i>R</i>	4 <i>R</i>	5	6 <i>R</i>
LAD 6:10	SD 8:40	SD 8:40	SD 3:10	MIA 3:15		MIA 1:15
7 <i>R</i>	8 <i>R</i>	9 <i>R</i>	10 <i>R</i>	11	12 <i>R</i>	13 <i>R</i>
MIA 1:15	PHI 6:45	PHI 6:45	PHI 12:15		ARI 8:40	ARI 7:10
14 <i>R</i>	15 <i>R</i>	16 <i>R</i>	17 <i>R</i>	18	19	20
ARI 3:10	OAK 8:40	OAK 8:40	OAK 2:37		MIL 7:15	MIL 1:15
21 <i>R</i>	22 <i>R</i>	23 <i>R</i>	24 <i>R</i>	25	26 <i>R</i>	27 <i>R</i>
MIL 1:15	ARI 6:45	ARI 6:45	ARI 12:15		NYM 6:10	NYM 3:05
28 <i>R</i>	29 <i>R</i>	30 <i>R</i>				
NYM 12:40	DET 5:40	DET 5:40				

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 <i>R</i>	2	3 <i>R</i>	4 <i>R</i>
			DET 12:10		CWS 7:15	CWS 1:15
5 <i>R</i>	6 <i>R</i>	7 <i>R</i>	8 <i>R</i>	9 <i>R</i>	10 <i>R</i>	11 <i>R</i>
CWS 1:15	NYM 6:45	NYM 6:45	NYM 12:15	MIL 6:40	MIL 7:10	MIL 6:15
12 <i>R</i>	13 <i>R</i>	14 <i>R</i>	15 <i>R</i>	16	17 <i>R</i>	18 <i>R</i>
MIL 1:10	LAA 8:38	LAA 8:38	LAA 8:07		BOS 7:15	BOS 6:15
19 <i>R</i>	20 <i>R</i>	21 <i>R</i>	22 <i>R</i>	23	24 <i>R</i>	25 <i>R</i>
BOS 1:15	BAL 6:45	BAL 6:45	BAL 12:15		CHC 7:15	CHC 6:15
26 <i>R</i>	27 <i>R</i>	28 <i>R</i>	29 <i>R</i>	30	31 <i>R</i>	
CHC 6:10	CIN 3:10	CIN 5:40	CIN 12:10		PHI 5:40	

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 <i>F</i>
						PHI 6:15
2 <i>R</i>	3 <i>R</i>	4 <i>R</i>	5 <i>R</i>	6 <i>R</i>	7 <i>R</i>	8 <i>R</i>
PHI 12:35	HOU 7:10	HOU 7:10	HOU 1:10	COL 6:45	COL 7:15	COL 3:15
9 <i>R</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15
COL 1:15		PIT 6:45	PIT 6:45	PIT 1:15	CHC 1:20	CHC 1:20
16 <i>R</i>	17 <i>R</i>	18 <i>R</i>	19 <i>R</i>	20 <i>R</i>	21 <i>F</i>	22 <i>R</i>
CHC 1:20	MIA 5:40	MIA 5:40	MIA 11:40	SF 6:15		SF 1:15
23 <i>R</i>	24 <i>R</i>	25 <i>R</i>	26 <i>R</i>	27 <i>R</i>	28 <i>R</i>	29 <i>R</i>
SF 1:15	ATL 6:45	ATL 6:45	ATL 6:15	CIN 6:45	CIN 7:15	CIN 1:15
30 <i>R</i>						
CIN 1:15						

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		PIT 5:40	PIT 5:40	PIT 11:35	WSH 5:45	WSH 3:05
7 <i>R</i>	8 <i>R</i>	9 <i>R</i>	10 <i>R</i>	11	12 <i>R</i>	13 <i>R</i>
WSH 12:35	WSH 3:05	KC 6:45	KC 6:45		CHC 7:15	CHC 1:15
14 <i>R</i>	15 <i>R</i>	16 <i>R</i>	17 <i>R</i>	18	19 <i>R</i>	20 <i>R</i>
CHC 1:15	ALL-STAR WEEK				ATL 6:20	ATL 6:20
21 <i>R</i>	22 <i>R</i>	23 <i>R</i>	24 <i>R</i>	25	26 <i>R</i>	27 <i>R</i>
ATL 12:35	PIT 5:40	PIT 5:40	PIT 11:35		WSH 7:15	WSH 6:15
28 <i>R</i>	29 <i>R</i>	30 <i>R</i>	31 <i>R</i>			
WSH 1:15	TEX 6:45	TEX 6:45	TEX 1:15			

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 <i>R</i>	2 <i>R</i>	3 <i>R</i>
				CHC 7:05	CHC 1:20	CHC 1:20
4 <i>R</i>	5	6 <i>R</i>	7 <i>R</i>	8 <i>R</i>	9 <i>R</i>	10 <i>R</i>
CHC 1:20		TB 6:45	TB 6:45	TB 6:15	KC 7:10	KC 6:10
11	12 <i>R</i>	13 <i>R</i>	14 <i>R</i>	15	16 <i>R</i>	17 <i>F</i>
	CIN 5:40	CIN 5:40	CIN 5:40		LAD 7:15	LAD 6:15
18 <i>R</i>	19 <i>R</i>	20 <i>R</i>	21 <i>R</i>	22 <i>R</i>	23 <i>R</i>	24 <i>R</i>
LAD 1:15		MIL 6:45	MIL 6:45	MIL 1:15	MIN 7:10	MIN 6:10
25 <i>R</i>	26 <i>R</i>	27 <i>R</i>	28 <i>R</i>	29 <i>R</i>	30 <i>R</i>	31 <i>R</i>
MIN 1:10	SD 6:45	SD 6:45	SD 6:45	SD 1:15	NYN 6:05	NYN 12:05

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 <i>R</i>	2 <i>R</i>	3 <i>R</i>	4 <i>R</i>	5	6 <i>R</i>	7 <i>R</i>
NYN 12:35	MIL 1:10	MIL 6:40	MIL 6:40		SEA 7:15	SEA 6:15
8 <i>R</i>	9	10 <i>R</i>	11 <i>R</i>	12 <i>R</i>	13 <i>R</i>	14 <i>R</i>
SEA 1:15		CIN 6:45	CIN 6:45	CIN 12:15	TOR 6:07	TOR 2:07
15 <i>R</i>	16 <i>R</i>	17 <i>R</i>	18 <i>R</i>	19 <i>R</i>	20 <i>R</i>	21 <i>R</i>
TOR 12:37	PIT 6:45	PIT 6:45	PIT 6:45	PIT 6:15	CLE 7:15	CLE 6:15
22 <i>R</i>	23	24 <i>R</i>	25 <i>R</i>	26 <i>R</i>	27 <i>R</i>	28 <i>R</i>
CLE 1:15		COL 7:40	COL 7:40	COL 2:10	SF 9:15	SF 3:05
29 <i>R</i>	30					
SF 2:05						

HOME

AWAY

Game times subject to change
All Game Times are Central Time

All games broadcast on KMOX 1120 AM / 98.7 FM
and the Cardinals Radio Network

R = Bally Sports Midwest
F = FOX
E = ESPN or ESPN2

■ Played at Rickwood Field – Birmingham, AL

All home games broadcast in Spanish
on WIJR 880AM.

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WEST COUNTY ... BY PAM STEPNEY

Greetings sisters and brothers of Branch 343. How's everybody doing? Fine, I hope. MC Hammer made a song in 1990 called Hammer Time. In 2024 here in the good old Postal Service, we have scanner time. Scan this scan, scan that, work it like you are a part of management on the street making your clock rings. It allows you to send and receive texts. We receive missing and endangered alerts looking for abducted people. It allows us to pick up packages from our customers, saving them a trip to the post office. We scan them and it downloads right into the system for our customers to track. Get ready, because soon we will sell postage stamps from our vehicles like the rural carriers are already doing. With all these duties added to your route, why are we running?

Each morning, we report to work at 8 a.m. and the first thing management says is, "Withdraw your mail from the left side," while there's one clerk on the right side throwing and sorting mail for the whole station. Then management comes around and says you have one hour of office time because there is **no** mail. First, you have mail at your case when you come in from checking your vehicle to case and with one clerk working you are waiting on the rest of the mail. Management is supposed to put in the mail volume for the route daily. So why are we not getting a count for the mail the one clerk is still throwing? Have you ever heard the term, garbage

in/garbage out? I'm sure that's what the problem is with the office time numbers. They're not counting the mail correctly because the one clerk is not done sorting yet. You have 33 minutes of fixed office time which allows you to withdraw your mail, collect your accountable mail from the clerk, (or supervisor), or most of the time you get it yourself. You take care of your markups A-Z aka forwarding mail, (ANK) attempted not known, (UTF) unable to forward, (DEC) deceased, (FOE) forwarding order expired just to name a few, and a list of other duties you must do before you head out to the street for delivery. So, can you tell me where this one-hour office time business is coming from? I almost forgot about waiting for all the parcels to get sorted, with most of the time one, maybe two clerks, sorting for the whole station.

I don't know what's going on with management starting to do 99s on routes with all the problems we are having getting the mail from our skeleton clerk crew. But, if they give you a notice in writing saying they're going to do a 99 on your route, be professional and work it like you are being inspected. Some stations are scheduled for inspections. Both Maryville Gardens and Marian Oldham are on the list. So, if these are your stations, make plans to attend the route inspection training to help you help yourself from the trickery management will try and pull. Make plans today to come to the meetings and hear

what's going on with letter carriers.

Moving on!

All the senior letter carriers are retiring, our union officers are invited to more than one station to congratulate these sisters and brothers who are leaving the service to go out to travel, enjoy life, and spend time with their families. The Postal Service will miss the district safety captain, fight the power, stand up for letter carriers' rights, Richard Thurman, who retired from Creve Coeur on January 31, assisted by a delicious catered meal from Jocelyn Robinson.

Richard always looked out for your rights and fought the good fight on the streets and in the offices for all of us. Some of you may not like his delivery, but it's what we need to hear to keep us safe so we can go home to our families. He's going to be hard to replace because I don't think anybody can fill his shoes. The Postal Service should offer him a part-time job right now until he can train someone else. He's an upstanding, real talk, what you see is what you get type of brother. Chris Rock said when you meet people, you meet their representative. When you meet Richard, he's an honest, nice, smart Superman.

Brother Chet Drain retired from Des Peres on December 29, 2023. He's going to be missed. He was a Formal Step A, steward, and an OWCP specialist. He does the prayer every month at the



meeting on the second Thursday of each month. He always wins the door prizes and goes to the mic to accept his winnings with his Elvis Presley or Johnny Cash voice ☺.

Brother Phil Winkler retired from West County on January 26, and he will truly be missed. He had his retirement party at the Train Wreck in Westport, and once again the letter carriers came out to celebrate with him. It was good to see retiree Eugene Voightman, who's route Phil bid on 10 years ago after he retired. I'm sure hunting, fishing, bowling, and traveling are in his future. Enjoy your retirement, brothers, and make sure you come to the retirement and branch meetings.

Brothers and sisters, are you ready to vote in the elections coming up? I'm sure you know the last day to register to vote in the upcoming election is **Wednesday, March 6**. So, what are you waiting for? Go and take some friends and family with you.

John Haake/Charles Coyle Scholarship: We've received 18 applications with one complete packet sent back as of February 8. Make sure all the completed packets are back by March 1. Good luck to all applicants.

Happy St. Patrick's Day and remember to do your best, leave the rest, don't stress, GOD bless, register to vote, exercise your right to vote and thank you for coming.



NALC

**National Association
of Letter Carriers**

BRIAN L. RENFROE President

100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144

202.393.4695

www.nalc.org

February 1, 2024

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of the 285,000 active and retired letter carriers represented by the National Association of Letter Carriers, I write to you once again to urge you to take executive action directing the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to accurately value the Postal Service's pension assets and liabilities.

As stated in a previous joint letter from all four postal unions in March 2021 (attached), this is an urgent matter and time is now running out for you to take action. The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 created a mechanism to more fairly allocate postal pension liabilities and to transfer the resulting surpluses in the postal portion of the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund (CSRDF) to the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefit Fund (PSRHBFB) at designated intervals. The next transfer under the law is scheduled for 2025 and the one after that, in 2030 is too long to wait.

Our union is currently near the end of the collective bargaining process with USPS. Directing OPM to accurately value the Postal Service's pension assets and liabilities would have a direct and immediate positive impact on our collective bargaining process as we seek an agreement that will fairly reward hundreds of thousands of hard-working and dedicated letter carriers. Executing this action would support our union, our members, and our collective bargaining efforts. **Continued failure to execute this action harms these efforts.**

Given the positive steps Congress has taken to restore financial stability to the agency through the 2022 enactment of the Postal Service Reform Act, we urge your administration to fulfill its promise to take action to achieve postal pension fairness, a step that will save USPS several billions in annual amortization payments to the CSRDF and bolster the long-term solvency of the PSRHBFB.

Americans rely on the Postal Service for lifesaving medications, Social Security checks, essential packages and to cast their votes. Executive action is necessary to secure the financial future of the Postal Service, the essential agency that employs the hundreds of thousands of dedicated public servants we represent.

Sincerely,

Brian L. Renfro
President

BR/MA/jg



Affiliated with the AFL-CIO & UNI Global Union



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

BEGINS MARCH 10

Change your clock.

Change your battery.



SOUTH COUNTY ... BY MATT GLEIFORST

Hello from South County. At the end of last month, we welcomed the Arnold Station's carriers, clerks, and supervisors here at South County. They were forced out of their building in Arnold and temporarily relocated here until their new building is ready to be occupied. I would like to say welcome to all of these carriers and clerks. Although this has most certainly created a bit of chaos at the station, we must all acknowledge that this is not the fault of any of the employees, but rather poor decision making above our paygrade. I look forward to getting to know each of the city and rural carriers that have joined us here.

One thing that I have been hearing about from carriers at other stations is the return of the one hour or less office time. I have even heard that one station in our area has been told they are only allowed 45 minutes. This is completely against the handbooks that we and management are supposed to go by. If you are being told this by your supervisor, know that they are being told by their bosses to try and enforce this upon you. I have even heard that at least one boss was threatening discipline for not adhering to this completely arbitrary instruction. Be sure to remind your bosses that this is not contractual by any means.

Office time is decided by the mail volume that you have to case for the day. Since this volume changes daily, so does your office time. Also, it seems that it is necessary to remind our supervisors that we also have 33 minutes of fixed office time that includes all of our duties besides casing mail. That means for the station that is trying to force a 45-minute office time, they are truly only allowing you 12 minutes to case your mail. If you are ever given this instruction, I would recommend asking your supervisor for the report that shows you only have 45 minutes or one hour of office time. If they present DOIS it will most likely show a number that is neither 45 nor 60 minutes, which will show that even their own report is contrary to the instruction they have given. If they produce PET, remember that the 33 minutes of fixed office time is not included so you will need to add 33 minutes to whatever time that report shows. Oh, the games we have to play!

CARRIER SPOTLIGHT

Since we have been joined by our new friends from Arnold, I decided to interview the OJI from Arnold, Taylor Sikes. Taylor started with the Postal Service in July of 2016 at the St. Charles Station. She then came to Arnold in April of 2023. Taylor's favorite part of the job is getting to spend the majority of the day on her own and managing her own workload. Her least favorite part of the job is working on Saturdays because she has to miss out on many of her kids' activities. Outside of work she enjoys spending time with her children and playing in a volleyball league once a week with her husband. When I asked her about her fondest memory of the job, she recalled when her coworkers threw her a baby shower at the station when she was working in St. Charles. As far as advice for new carriers goes, she wants them to stick it out. The first couple of years are going to be tough, but it does get better.

It was nice getting to know Taylor and I look forward to getting to know all of our new brothers and sisters here more. Until next time, keep your heads held high and keep surviving!



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Tournament
April 13-14, 2024
6:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Registration Dinner and Meeting
Saturday, April 13, 6-8 p.m.
and ...

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and Guest Speaker at the Dinner!

**Fun - Barbecue
- Silent Auction - 50/50 Raffle**

Social Distancing Observed at Dinner and Tournament

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 ADDRESS: _____
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 STATE: _____
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 PHONE: _____

B. BUDDY'S NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____
 STATE: _____
 ZIP: _____
 PHONE: _____

☐ YES, I will be attending the dinner.

Total attending _____

☐ No, I will not be attending the dinner.

ENTRY BY MAIL ONLY

Entry fee of \$160 must be postmarked by April 1, 2024. Checks, money orders and cashiers checks will be accepted. All entries received after deadline will be subject to a \$25 LATE FEE, accepted in cash only during check-in.

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SHE'S MY LITTLE RUNAWAY ... BY RETIRED LETTER CARRIER MIKE LAURY

It's been about 10 years since my last article when I was an active carrier. I wanted to share two or three safety tips for some of the newer carriers who may find this article helpful. Or at least slightly entertaining. So here goes:

Some of the newer carriers probably never heard of the term "up and away" along with "down and in." Those two memory cues described how to safely park your postal vehicle. If your vehicle was being parked going up on a hill, turn your wheels away. If your vehicle was being parked on a downhill slope, turn your wheels down and in. Easy to remember, right? Not so much for yours truly.

Many years ago, I was chit-chatting with a patron on his front porch when suddenly the next-door neighbor yells rather

deadpanned, "Don't look now mailman, but there goes your truck." The worn-out emergency brake must have released as it first started to roll slowly down towards the next vehicle parked a few car lengths away. I blasted out an F-bomb, dropped my pouch and sprinted towards my vehicle, which was now beginning to pick up speed.

Visions of a safety training class momentarily danced through my head along with the two packs of Twinkies and a large Mountain Dew recently consumed, which was slowing me down. Luckily for me, there was no traffic coming either way as my little runaway was only a couple car lengths from hitting the parked vehicle in its path. I quickly slid open the door and

hopped in, hoping to stick the landing. Slamming on the brakes, my vehicle stopped about 5 feet short of its intended target. A small bead of sweat had formed from near nervous regret on my right temple. It was one of my body's last reminders of the close call which had almost befallen me. Oh, and by the way, always have a spare pair of clean, tighty whiteys in your vehicle. Skid marks on the pavement wasn't the only reminder of the near miss that day in May of 2003.

So folks, turn your wheels the correct way, put on your emergency brake, and always lock your vehicle.

Sincerely, a Cardinal fan who was in the house to witness BOTH of Bob Forsch's no-hitters. (And some of the crowd groans.)



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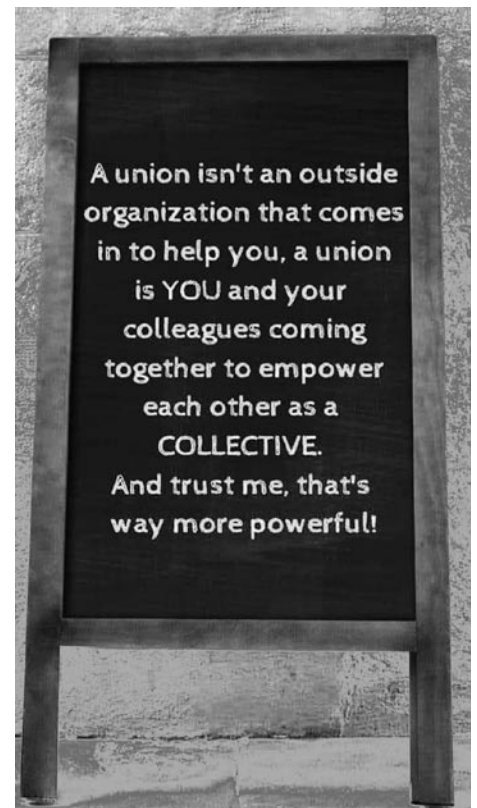
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SUICIDE

AWARENESS & PREVENTION

Look, Listen and Be Aware:

Signs of Suicide

Sometimes people let us know through their actions that they are having severe difficulties coping with the stress, anxiety and/or depression in their life and may be choosing death by suicide as a way out. Being aware of these actions and signs of suicidal ideation may help save someone's life. The below signs are examples of what you might see or hear from those contemplating suicide.

Giving away valuable or meaningful possessions.

"Julie has had her dog, Buddy for over 3 years and just recently she asked me if I could take him because she doesn't feel able to care for him right now."

Speaking of not being around for the future.

"'I just can't take it anymore.' or 'I just can't do this anymore.' Brian mentioned this in passing and then said nothing more about it. I didn't know what he was talking about, so I let it go."

Talking, discussing, fixating on death or suicide

"Amy shared with me some of her writings and discussed her interest and fascination with death. One of her closest friends committed suicide last month."

Additional signs:

- Having reckless and dangerous behavior
- Increasing the use of alcohol and/or drugs
- Sleep issues; too much or too little
- Not taking basic care of self
- Having a history of suicide attempts
- Putting personal business in order
- Neglecting doctor's orders
- Increased anger & intensified mood swings
- Withdrawing, isolating, disconnecting from others
- Decline in personal appearance
- Rapid improvement in mood; the decision has been made which relieves the internal struggle

If you or someone you know has these thoughts, actions or signs do not ignore them. Get help for yourself or that person. Call your EAP to discuss your concerns or visit EAP4YOU.com to get more information and resources.

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BRANCH MEETING

BRANCH 343, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

FEBRUARY 8, 2024

Summary of Branch Action

- MSC To pay the branch bills.
- MSC The branch have sealcoat and line striping applied to the parking lot at a cost of no more than \$1,100.

Recently Retired Member

Rickie Pattin Creve Coeur 1/06/2024

Deceased Members

James E. Barbee Sr..... Gold Card..... 12/28/2023
 Denis Toler..... Retired 02/02/2024

New Members

Whitney Austin..... Gravois 1/13/2024	Erika Johnson..... North County 1/20/2024
Matthias Backer IV Town & Country 1/13/2024	Mikeedra Johnson..... Jennings..... 1/20/2024
Tylicia Baskin South County..... 1/13/2024	Devonte Jones Coyle..... 1/20/2024
Willis Bibbs III Gravois 1/20/2024	Brian Kimbrough Chouteau 1/6/2024
Dashon Brownlee Kirkwood 1/6/2024	Rayonna Lewis..... Chouteau 1/13/2024
Hannah Broyles..... Jennings..... 1/20/2024	Demetrius McNutt..... Jennings..... 1/13/2024
Eric Campbell..... West County 1/13/2024	David Mercer Coyle..... 1/6/2024
Shaun Cannon Gravois 1/20/2024	Shantavia Moore Weathers..... 1/20/2024
Nathaniel Casey Normandy..... 1/20/2024	Tremone Moore..... South County..... 1/13/2024
Isha Cauley..... Jennings..... 1/13/2024	Christina Morris Sappington 1/6/2024
DeCarlo Champion..... Oldham 1/6/2024	Zakiyaah Muhammad X . Normandy 1/20/2024
Sabrina Clark..... Jennings..... 1/6/2024	Demisha Nettles Des Peres 1/20/2024
LaToya Clincy..... Clayton 1/6/2024	Shalon Parker West County 1/13/2024
Justin Cobb Gravois 1/13/2024	Corey Pottard Jennings..... 1/13/2024
Haleigh Daleo..... Jennings..... 1/6/2024	Andrew Radentz..... Gravois 1/13/2024
Kaylin Douglas..... Gaffney..... 1/6/2024	Drew Silva Sappington 1/20/2024
Patricia Eiland Normandy..... 1/20/2024	DeAnthony Simmons Southwest 1/20/2024
Jerry Ellis Jr..... North County 1/6/2024	Derrick Stokes Southwest 1/13/2024
Candance Finney Gravois 1/20/2024	John Thacker Washington..... 1/13/2024
Albert Givens..... North County 1/6/2024	Andrew Tucker..... Oldham 1/6/2024
Jewell Gladney Weathers..... 1/13/2024	Darius Ward Gravois 1/20/2024
Precious Gleason Oldham 1/6/2024	Darius Washington Jr. Oldham 1/6/2024
Pamela Graham..... Fredericktown..... 1/18/2024	Charles Weinstock Mackenzie Pointe 1/20/2024
Teresa Hall Coyle..... 1/20/2024	Khamaron Wheeler Maryville Gardens 1/20/2024
Justin Hamblen..... Gravois 1/20/2024	Breezy Zielinski..... Maryville Gardens 1/20/2024
Darius Harris..... Weathers..... 1/6/2024	
Sheila Harris Fenton..... 1/20/2024	
Darrien Hawkins..... Gravois 1/13/2024	
Beverly Heidbrink Weathers..... 1/6/2024	
Luke Howard Sr..... Weathers..... 1/6/2024	
Keshia Hudson Gaffney..... 1/13/2024	
Asia James..... Gaffney..... 1/6/2024	
Brendon Johnson..... Mackenzie Pointe 1/13/2024	

Scholarship Deadline

Charles J. Coyle - March 31



Highlights

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Chet Drain and the minutes were read by Recording Secretary Richard Brown and accepted.

NBA Report, Dave Teegarden: Dave reported that the food drive registration is due by March 24 to guarantee post cards. NALC e-Activist has been reactivated. The first electric charging stations have been installed in Atlanta S&DC. Headquarters has three new initiatives; a virtual learning option on NALC website, a women's mentoring program is being developed-to expand more diversity, and an emergency response support program (guided by EAP professionals).

Legislative Report, Mike Weir: The House was trying to impeach President Biden but instead went after the homeland security advisor and failed. He stated we must get the right people elected during this upcoming election.

Retiree Report, Tom Schulte: Nice meeting, 30 in attendance at the retirees meeting. The 93rd annual Ole Timers Day is May 4.

Labor Council Report, Pam Stepney: First meeting was last month (January), Missouri state trustees are running the meetings. They are monitoring who signs in. They gave updates on audit to their books. Update on bills that state legislation is coming up. Anheuser Busch may be going on strike.

MBA Report, Saronda Sutherland: Offering disability insurance, the younger you are the cheaper the policy is. You can get paid even if you are on OWCP.

Health Benefit Report, Barry Linan: He is dealing with Silver Scripts (prescription drug program for retirees). Spoke to Frank Enlow about the Postal Service not providing Union Health Plan brochure.

Mound City Carrier Report, Tom Schulte: February edition of MCC has been delivered to some already. Reel in the Cure Buddy Bass Tournament (Kenny Young) is April 13-14. February issue of Postal Record is out, lists names of contributors to LCPF. Legislation coming up that we need to address. Deadline for the March issue of MCC is Feb. 12.

Haake Scholarship Report, Pam Stepney: Received

18 applications, reminder letters sent to applicants to remind them information is due by March 1.

Safety and Health Report, Richard Thurman: Letter carrier at Jennings Station struck a pedestrian and that pedestrian died on site (we don't know the circumstances).

OWCP Report, Barry Linan: File injury report on ECOMP, or management can give you a paper CA-1. If management wants you to file online, they must allow you to use the postal computer.

Trustees Report, La'Tecse Litteken: Books audited and found in good standing.

Political Action Committee Report, Mike Weir: Read names of contributors. Talked about COLA for next year. Talked about Branch 343 PAC Fund.

Reading of Bill, Recording Secretary Richard Brown. Motion to pay bills and properly seconded and passed.

Executive Vice President/Treasurer Report, Brian Litteken: Management is telling carriers to leave in one hour or 45 minutes (violation of M-39). Complete proper forms if auxiliary assistance is needed, told to curtail mail or you need to bring mail back.

Vice President/Financial Secretary Report, Marvin Booker: Read report for January. Food Drive is May 11. (One shirt color, no Family Circus kids on the shirt)

Moment of silence for deceased members: (two) James Barbee (retired), Denis Toler (retired)

New members - (58) one present - Hannah Broyles

Newly retired members - (one) Rickie Pattin (Creve Coeur)

Unfinished Business - Richard Thurman spoke on being chosen to select three disinterested parties to address the two Article 10 charges (regarding 2023 branch officer election) that were tabled from January meeting. He explained what Article 10 charges are, and specifically that the charges were against the officers.

- One of the disinterested parties (Joe Canman) named the other members of the committee then gave a report on their findings.

Continued on page 22 ...

... Continued from page 21

- Discussion by makers of the charges and rebuttal from those charged and the membership.
- Motions made, properly seconded. Vote to accept investigating committees' findings of both charges (no violation) (both motions passed)

New Business – Barry Linan gave summary of executive board reason to get involved, and their findings after review of the five charges. Packet of emails and text submitted by makers of charge, handed out to membership.

- Evan Garcia spoke to the appeal of the executive boards decision to concur with the election committee decision on the election process appeal. (five charges)
- Discussion took place **for each charge**, by the

makers of the charge, along with the three charged and the membership.

- Membership voted on the acceptance of executive board findings for each motion. (no violation on either motion/charge) **All motions passed.**

President's Comments, John McLaughlin: No report /comments

Prizes: Blues tickets (two sets), Billikens tickets (two sets),

50/50: (\$51) Tina Hunt

Benediction: Chet Drain

Attendance Prize Winners: Germain Anderson, Chet Drain, Nate Markovich, Dan Brauchle

Ended: 10:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Richard Brown, Recording Secretary



Shop steward Charlie Kell, Br. 343 Recording Secretary Richard Brown and alternate steward Dallas Mitchell offer congratulations to retiring West County letter carrier Phil Winkler.

Richard Thurman, Br. 343 safety & health director and Creve Coeur letter carrier, joins the Last Punch Bunch receiving congratulations from Branch 343 President John McLaughlin with Richard's wife, Chandra..



Political Action Honor Roll

RICH RHYNER★★★★★

JOE POLITTE★★

SAMUEL GOODMAN★

In Memory of JOSEPH P. REGAN★

ART BUCK★★★

LYNN RAY PRATT★★

JOHN HAAKE★

TOM SCHULTE★

JOE FITZJARRELL★★★

MIKE WEIR★★

GENO IBERG★

DARLENE TATE★

DAN BRAUCHLE★★

CATHERINE CIARAMITARO★

LAURA KEIM★

DAVID TEEGARDEN★

JOE CANMAN★★

In Memory of KURT ECKER★

BILL LISTER★

DEAN WERNER★

In Memory of TIFFANY HAGER★★

ROBERT EVERS★

NICKI L. PRADO★

ROBERT EVERS

GARY ROBERTSON

SARONDA SUTHERLAND

MIKE WEIR

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

Richard Boien

John Haake

Andre Hayes

Laura Keim

James Goheen

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BRANCH MEETING ATTENDANCE PRIZES

FEBRUARY 8, 2024

1. Blues vs New York Islanders

Feb 22

Gemaine Anderson, Maryville Gardens

2. Blues vs LA Kings

Mar 13

Nate Markovich, Southwest

3. SLU Billikens vs VCU

Feb 16

Dan Brauchle, Retired

4. SLU Billikens vs G. Washington

Feb 24

Chet Drain, Retired



\$51

Tina Hunt, South County

John H. Haake BRANCH 343

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 Brian Litteken Executive Vice President/
 Treasurer
 Marvin Booker Vice President/
 Financial Secretary
 Richard Brown Recording Secretary
 Frank Enlow Sergeant-at-Arms
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 Barry Linan ... Health Benefits Representative

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Tom Schulte

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DELEGATES TO THE ST. LOUIS LABOR COUNCIL

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 Barry Linan William Lister
 Marvin Booker Mike Weir
 Richard Brown

MOUND CITY CARRIER

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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 Chairman573-358-5266
 Mike Chenot/Kevin Welby, Treasurers.. 314-779-3356
 Tom Schulte, Recording Secretary636-255-3057

Deadline for articles for
 the APRIL issue is
 MARCH 18, 2024

★ ★ ★

REGULAR BRANCH MEETING
 THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024

7:30 pm

★ ★ ★

SHOP STEWARDS MEETING
 THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024

7:30 PM

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