

MOUND CITY CARRIER

Official Publication of Branch 343

2020 General Excellence Award Winning Publication



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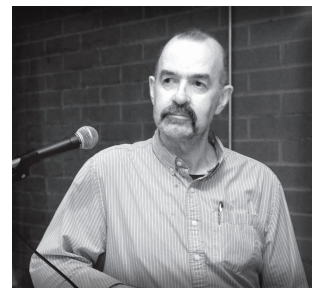
"Diversity is our Strength and Unity is our Power"

February 2026

NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

President's Article ... By John McLaughlin

RALLY: On **Sunday, Feb. 22**, NALC Branch 343 will host a "Fight Like Hell!" rally calling for a fair contract for America's city letter carriers. We'll make our demands known to the Postal Service while reminding our customers that the service we provide every day deserves a fair contract.



It will take place days before NALC is scheduled to open contract negotiations with the Postal Service on Feb. 25. This rally will be very similar to last year's "Fight Like Hell" rally. We will have T-shirts, placards and banners to get our message across to the general public. Details of the rally will be sent out via station bulletin and on our local branch website, branch343.org. You can also go to the NALC website for more details, NALC.org. As events are scheduled, details will be available at nalc.org/feb22.

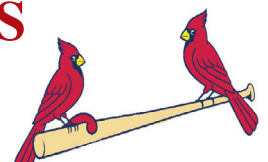
Participation in this rally will be critical. Half of all city letter carriers in the St. Louis Installation have less than seven years in the USPS. This contract will impact the lowest senior carriers more than carriers nearing retirement. So, I would just like to remind the less senior carriers that you need to turn out and make your voice heard.

CARRIER ATTACKS: In two separate incidents, two letter carriers in the St. Louis Installation were assaulted while in the performance of their duties. One was physically beaten up to the point he had to be hospitalized for a time. The other carrier had a gun pulled on her. In both instances, the assailants were looking for a package that they were informed from the USPS website was out for delivery. Remember, carriers' jobs are made more difficult when other postal employees don't do their job, bosses screwing up scheduling, DPS messes up, and packages not arriving at the station before we leave for the street. Unfortunately, other employees' incompetence is not only a nuisance, but it also puts us in physical danger.



BRANCH 343 CARDINALS TICKETS
ON SALE MARCH 12

Immediately Following the Regular Branch Meeting
See Schedule Inside This Issue



Packages are not being screened properly at the plant. Most incidents, where a patron needs their package bad enough to attack or assault the carrier over, contains contraband of some sort. The plant's job is to weed these packages out. They don't. Now they're in the mail stream and headed right to your route.

When these same packages arrive at the station and are incorrectly scanned as "out for delivery" on the USPS website, these assailants believe the website before they do the carrier. If I were naïve and did not know the way the USPS operated, I could simply jot this down to human error. But having been in the USPS for over 40 years, incompetence has ceded to fraud. While you're busy working your mail up and trying to get out in one hour or 40 minutes, management is committing fraud in their reports in hopes that they will not get read the riot act when a number is out of place in one of their reports. Again, I will quote what a 204b stated years ago when they decided to come back to carrying mail. When asked why he came back to carrying, he simply stated he couldn't take all the lying.

POSTMARKS: On December 24, 2025, the USPS revised how postmarks work. A postmark does not necessarily reflect the day the USPS first takes possession of the mail piece and primarily reflects the date the mail is first "processed" at an automated facility, not when it was dropped in a mailbox or handed to a clerk. This will primarily impact areas in the country with consolidation in the form of Sort & Deliver Centers. Manual/local postmarks are still available. If you want to ensure the postmark matches the day you hand in a ballot or other mail, **you can just go inside a post office and request a manual postmark for free.** The reasons for this change are unclear but the impact on vote-by-mail may be substantial.

States that have vote-by-mail often go by the postmark date on the ballot envelope. This is a real concern in many states with postmark-based deadlines. This increases the risk that the ballot's postmark will not match the day it was sent. A bipartisan group of U.S. senators warned the USPS that not reliably postmarking ballots on the day of mailing could disenfranchise voters and urged remedies like restoring more timely postmarks. The USPS said they made these changes to better reflect current postal operations. I'm sure it had nothing to do with our new PMG, appointed recently by our president, coming from a rival company, FedEx.

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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**Send change of address to:
 Branch 343
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR
DON'T SIT ON THE SIDELINES ... GET INVOLVED!

- Feb. 12 Regular Branch Meeting
- Feb. 16 Presidents Day Holiday Observed
- Feb. 28-Mar. 2 Region 5 Rap Session
- Mar. 4 Retiree Meeting
- Mar. 5 Shop Stewards Meeting
- Mar. 12 Regular Branch Meeting (St. Louis Cardinals tickets on sale following the branch meeting)
- Apr. 11-12 The 30th annual Reel in the Cure, Buddy Bass Tournament for MDA (see ad)

Executive Vice President ... *By Brian Litteken*



PROTECT OUR LETTER CARRIERS ACT

A St. Louis letter carrier was assaulted while out delivering the mail. A customer had received notification that a package had been delivered that he had previously called the post office about. Management then informed the customer approximately when the carrier would be delivering packages at the leasing office. When the carrier arrived at the leasing office, he informed the customer he did not have a package for him. The carrier did not have the package because it had already been delivered and was sitting in the leasing manager's office. The customer put the carrier in a choke hold, threw him to the ground and stomped on his head. The carrier was hospitalized.

The postal inspectors opened the package and found contraband.

The assailant was identified by a witness and the carrier arrested, charged with Assault 2 and criminal possession of drugs. The assailant has a court date in March and is facing up to 10 years in jail.

When a carrier experiences a physical assault, it is reasonable to expect the carrier to suffer from psychological damage as well as physical damage and need treatment for both.

The employee support coordinator coordinates psychological services, family support, and trauma recovery after an incident of workplace violence. The employee support coordinator ensures that Employee Assistance Program (EAP) counseling services are activated and coordinates with the EAP vendor for additional services (Publication 107).

EAP provides counseling services at no cost to the employee, and the employee can attend 12 sessions. EAP is considered short term treatment, and the EAP counselor cannot take the carrier on as a client.

Once a supervisor is notified of a traumatic injury, the immediate supervisor must provide the employee the Workers Compensation Form CA-1, complete the receipt attached to the CA-1 and give the

receipt to the carrier (ELM 544.111). The CA-16 Authorization for Treatment is the initiating document to get the carrier both physical medical treatment and psychological treatment, and for the Postal Service to pay for that treatment.

A carrier can include emotional trauma in their OWCP claim for a traumatic injury. Physicians with specialties other than a psychiatrist or licensed clinical psychologist, such as a family physician can submit medical reports to establish initial claims and provide treatment. The carrier can then seek long term treatment for the psychological damage.

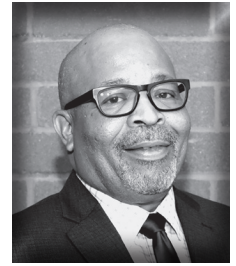
The Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (POLCA) would deter assaults on letter carriers through increased prosecution and sentencing guidelines. Between 2019 and 2023 the number of serious crimes against postal employees nearly doubled. The number of arrests and convictions for these crimes has markedly decreased according to the Postal Inspection Service. These cases often sit on district attorneys' desks, are not federally prosecuted, and the alleged assailants are not held accountable. POLCA would require the attorney general to appoint an assistant U.S. attorney to each judicial district to prioritize any case that involves an assault or crime against a letter carrier

The sentencing guidelines for those found guilty of these crimes are sometimes overly weak and permissive. In 2024, a San Francisco defendant was convicted of robbing a letter carrier a gunpoint and sentenced to only 30 days imprisonment. In Mississippi, a defendant for a similar crime, was sentenced to eight years. POLCA would standardize and strengthen sentencing guidelines for these crimes, ensuring that they are treated in the same manner as assaults on federal law enforcement.

Please go to [NALC.org](https://www.nalc.org) to determine who represents you in the House of Representatives and Senate and let them know you support the Protect Our Letter Carrier Act.

Vice President Financial Secretary

... By Marvin Booker



WHO'S GOING TO DO THE WORK?

Union membership has long been a cornerstone of workers' rights, advocating for fair wages, improved working conditions, and collective bargaining power. However, in recent times, there has been a concerning trend where fewer members are willing to step up and do the work of the union.

We know the importance of organizing letter carriers and getting them to join the union. However, we also know that the process does not stop when carriers sign up. Members must be informed and educated and inspired to participate in day-to-day union activities. The ability to mobilize members in this way is a characteristic of a truly effective branch.

How do we encourage new members and long-term members to take that decisive step from passively paying dues and accepting union services to being active, committed, participants?

There are many ways you can get involved. All you need to do is ask. And it all starts in one simple way: Attend the branch meeting. Branch meetings are a great source of information. You will find out what is happening with other carriers and at other stations in the branch, which appear to operate differently from yours. You will find out when there are trainings and classes to help carriers "work smarter" on the job. The branch meeting also promotes fellowship and solidarity among branch members. I often tell the story about how in the "good ole days" the best training took place after the meeting at the bar.

While it is understandable that members are working longer hours and the membership is much more diverse than in the past. Diversity does not just mean people of different ethnicities, but of different ages, varied work experiences, education levels and family situations. One of the key advantages of a diverse membership is that each person brings a unique outlook to the table. Diversity not an impediment to progress, but rather an opportunity to gather different perspectives on the road to achieving a common goal. It is important to see how each perspective fits into our common goals and how each one contributes to the furtherance of our objectives.

In the past, people came into the letter carrier craft knowing about unions and what they have done for working people. Today, however, many workers may have little or no

information about the history of organized labor.

The history of the NALC is something that every letter carrier should know and value. By no means did the salary and benefits that we have today come as gifts from the USPS. It is essential for members to recognize that the gains achieved through collective bargaining require ongoing vigilance and active participation.

There appears to be a general lack of awareness among our younger union members regarding the continuous challenges faced by the union, daily. Some members may not fully comprehend the difficulty and importance of the union advocating for workers' rights, negotiating fair contracts, and addressing workplace injustices.

Without a clear understanding of the role the union plays in safeguarding their interests, members may underestimate the need for active participation and may inadvertently take their union membership for granted.

The ever-changing dynamics of the current workroom floor also contribute to a sense of complacency among union members. Some members may perceive traditional labor protections as less relevant, assuming that their individual skills and qualifications alone are sufficient to secure their workplace rights. This shift in mindset can lead to diminished appreciation for the collective strength of the union, making it easier for members to neglect their responsibilities within the union structure.

Members must remember that the benefits we enjoy are the result of the collective efforts of the men and woman who have made the choice to represent all carriers conscientiously, thoroughly, and equally.

Members cannot assume there will always be someone else willing, able, and prepared to do the work. Members must not only value their membership, but actively participate in the collective efforts to protect and enhance the rights of all letter carriers.

Until next time stay safe and be professional.

Recording Secretary ... *By Richard Brown*



Happy Valentine's Day and Black History Month. As a piece of NALC history, the first known Black letter carrier was Mr. James Christian of Richmond, Virginia, in 1869, followed a few months later by Mr. William Carney. He was a Civil War veteran and was the founding vice president of Branch 18 in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

In 1895, Mary Fields, known as "Stagecoach Mary," became the first known black female Letter Carrier in Montana. She earned this name for her bravery and reliability, and no one dared rob her stagecoach, which was known to carry a rifle."

For many years, the NALC had segregated branches. In 1960 during the National Convention, delegates were instructed to merge dual charter (black-white) branches. The resolution of the dual charter issue marked the beginning of the full integration of African Americans into the union.

Unfortunately, it appears that the challenges we faced in 2025 — particularly in the final quarter — are continuing into the new year.

Remember, I told you last month that the citywide bidding process was no fault of the union. Management continues to prove just that. The bidding debacle is likely to plague us for some time, as management continues to demonstrate an inability or unwillingness to correct known errors. It is especially frustrating when management is repeatedly shown and told where the problems lie, yet continues down the same path as if no negative consequences will follow.

Management claimed they were addressing some of the bidding issues raised by the union. However, some individual carriers were not made whole, even after local station management alerted them to their errors. I want to commend South County manager Angie Whiteside, who went the extra mile to document and communicate the known issues at her station and pushed the "powers that be" to correct them. Unfortunately, downtown management chose to proceed as they saw fit

anyway. While her efforts were appreciated, they only went so far, and not everyone was assigned the proper role.

Now that the bulk of the citywide bidding process is behind us, we are left dealing with the fallout. Grievances related to these issues are still pending and more may be filed. Additionally, new bid cycles for 2026 are approaching and may present further problems. As of this writing, we have not received a bid calendar for 2026, and it has been suggested that we may not be allowed to bid again until February or later. If that occurs, it will almost certainly result in additional grievances. As always, we are left waiting for the grievance process to play out.

Many of you may recall in August when Congresswomen Ann Wagner called for the firing of postal leadership following OIG reports detailing mail delays and other management failures. It appears that further investigations may be warranted as mail delays have continued at Maryville Gardens, Southwest, and other locations since that time. The postmaster's response has been to pull supervisors and managers from across the city to perform craft work. This is not the solution, and it will likely lead to yet more grievances.

Reports have also surfaced regarding the amount of money the Postal Service has paid in grievance settlements between 2022 and 2024. Nationwide, the total reached an astounding **\$866 million**, stemming from overtime abuse, cross-craft violations, and other contractual breaches. Despite this, management continues to violate the contract while pushing a narrative that blames the letter carrier for their mismanagement.

If you observe management performing craft work, notify your steward or the Union Hall immediately. Regardless of the circumstances, continue to perform your duties professionally.

Who is Responsible

Health Benefits Plan/OWCP ... *By Barry Linan*



February greetings to all the brothers and sisters of NALC Branch 343. Winter is not over yet and you need to **take the necessary time to deliver your assignment safely and accurately!** Complete a Form 3996 requesting assistance if you think you will not be able to complete your assignment on time due to weather, mail volume, or just being assigned an overburdened route. Request whatever additional street or office time you estimate you need. After submission to your supervisor, they should promptly give you instructions and complete their portion of Form 3996. Request a copy of the completed Form 3996, also request a Form 1571 if you are instructed to leave mail in the office or undelivered. **CYA!**

HBP NEWS

As I mentioned in my previous MCC article, the big change for 2026 was that the NALC HBP is no longer offered as an FEHB plan for other federal employees. I haven't seen any numbers yet as to how many FEHB members we lost, but after a cost analysis it was deemed not profitable to continue offering an FEHB plan. With the formation for 2025 of the new PSHB, our plan was able to clearly separate the costs for the remaining FEHB members from the rest of us. Those FEHB claim costs were much higher per capita than our PSHB costs.

The changes to our plan for 2026 are found on page 16 of the brochure. One of the bigger changes to be aware of is the increase in the calendar year deductible from the previous \$300 per person or \$600 per family to **\$350 per person or \$750 per family.** Another prominent change is the increase in the prescription drug costs. Previously you could get a 90-day supply by mail order or the CVS Maintenance Choice Program for a **copay** of \$15 generic/ \$90 formulary brand/ \$125 non-formulary brand. That has now changed to a **co-insurance of 20% generic/ 30% formulary brand/ 50% non-formulary brand of the plan allowance.**

OWCP NEWS

Now back to the basics of filing an OWCP claim Part II.

4. **COP:** Your pay for the **first three calendar days** of disability from work, full day or partial,

are your responsibility. Fill out a Form 3971 Leave Request for your choice of Sick Leave, Annual Leave, or LWOP. Note I said first three calendar days. Sundays, holidays and non-scheduled days all count towards the three days and no leave is needed for them. On calendar day four of disability, your supervisor should begin paying you under Code 071 for Continuation of Pay (COP) for any lost time due to the injury. COP is paid out during the first three calendar days only if it is for medical treatment. COP Code 071 should continue to be paid for up to 45 calendar days of time lost due to the injury. You are also required to give your supervisor a copy of your medical documentation listing your dates of disability and/or medical restrictions within 10 days of your date of injury to continue receiving payment of COP for up to 45 days.

5. **Medical:** Make sure your treating physician specifies any days off work and provides detailed medical restrictions upon resuming work, including the number of hours you can work. Your physician can use their own return to work form or a Form CA-17 (Duty Status Report) can be requested from your supervisor and used for this purpose as well. Make sure the supervisor correctly completes Side A of the CA-17, listing letter carrier physical requirements, before submitting it to your physician for completion. A blank Side A on the CA-17 serves no purpose because it does not list your letter carrier physical requirements for the physician's reference.
6. **Job Offer:** When you return to work with medical restrictions, management is required under ELM 546.142 to "make every effort" to provide you with Limited Duty work within those restrictions. In providing that work, they must also issue you a Form 2499 – Offer of Modified Assignment (job offer) listing your **specific** work location, hours of work, job duties, and the physical requirements needed. You compare your restrictions to the physical requirements listed and then accept, accept under protest, or decline the job offer. Request a steward or call the Union Hall if you are unsure how to respond to the job offer. **Keep copies of all documents!**

Notes from the Managing Editor

... By Tom Schulte

CARRIER ACADEMY 101



Dear new employee, welcome to the U.S. Postal Service. Hopefully, by this time, you have received some rudimentary instructions regarding your job description. No doubt you're overwhelmed at this point. Relax, we've all been there.

You're about to embark on a new career path that seems a little daunting and your anxiety level is probably spiking right now. Relax. You have the next 30 or 35 years to learn your craft. If you've had maybe three days with an on-the-job instructor (OJI) to give you some fundamental instructions of what your job entails, then you're already smarter than every manager and supervisor in that office.

Try to focus on the fundamentals of your job. Take some time to get acquainted with a carrier case. Each one is unique regarding the type of delivery each route has. Numerical patterns will be sequenced with even and odd street numbers. You will find this pattern in most routes. There are several types of routes you'll encounter including park and loop, business delivery, apartment delivery, NDCBU delivery and mounted.

Every carrier letter case should have a green book. This book should tell you the type of route it is, the number of stops and a route map that will show the delivery route sequence. These maps are important. If you are on a new route or given a portion of another route refer to these maps to acquire your orientation. You can ask a supervisor to print you out a copy. This shouldn't be too difficult a task for them, but you never know.

Now, the most important instruction. Join the union. Don't think twice. You will immediately find that the role of management is to coerce, intimidate, and make your life as miserable as they can. You'll be shocked at this, but only for about a week. Then you will see it's the norm. They are not your friend. Don't let them suck the joy out of your career.

Once you join the union, learn what your duties and

responsibilities are. Learn what your rights are. For the remainder of your postal career knowing your rights will dictate how enjoyable or miserable your career path will take you.

Don't allow an abusive supervisor to torment you. Every carrier is different and brings with them his or her own skill sets. Management will always measure your abilities against the fastest carrier in the station. Don't be intimidated. Your demonstrated performance is the only thing that matters. If you find yourself being harassed by management for no good reason, see your shop steward immediately. And remember this, managers and supervisors come and go like unclogged bowels. Whoosh they're gone and another impacted clog comes to take their place. So be steadfast in learning your job correctly and demonstrate your abilities consistently. That's the only thing that matters.

Seek out the senior carriers in your station when you have any questions, and as this is the beginning of your career, you're going to have lots of questions. They will never withhold their knowledge, and most will probably be flattered that you sought out their advice.

The best thing you can do for yourself is to be consistent. Show up for work on time every day you're scheduled. Look professional. You are given a uniform allowance. Use it. Ask a senior carrier how best to spend that allowance to get the most out of each allotment. A professional appearance on the street exudes confidence and identifies you to the public.

Finally, you're a public servant. That is your job. Smile. Leave that constipated expression at home. Show your customers that you enjoy doing your job and are happy to serve them. Build up a rapport with your patrons, chances are once you have your own route they'll become your second family. Enjoy your career.

Region 5 NBA Report ... *By David A. Teegarden*



REGION 5 RAP SESSION

The Region 5 Rap Session is scheduled for Friday, February 27 through Monday, March 2, 2026. A room block of 200 rooms has been set aside at the Downtown KC Marriott. Prices are the same as last year. Once the room block is full, we are subject to hotel availability for a higher rate.

The QR code will be the only way to sign up for the classes. Make your training selections early to ensure that the class doesn't fill up.



We will conduct training from 8-11 a.m. and 1-5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. From 8 a.m. until about noon on Monday a rap session will take place with a national officer.

An NBA reception will be held at KCMO Branch 30 Union Hall located at 6320 Manchester Avenue, KCMO 64132 from 6:30-10 p.m. on Saturday, February 28. Classes offered will be:

1. Negotiating for the union steward/Formal A
2. The difference between JSOV and Dignity and Respect
3. JWIP an avenue into creating a better atmosphere on the workroom floor
4. Grievance preparation from Informal A through Arbitration-Follow a grievance as it winds its way through the Article 15 process and ends up at Arbitration
5. Branch Officer Training (Nicole Rhine Secretary Treasurer)
6. Arbitration Advocate
7. 271G Route Inspections
8. Chapter 2 M-39 Route Adjustment Process Education
9. OWCP Basic and Advanced
10. What exactly is a Labor Management Meeting and how to use them effectively
11. Safety
12. Women's roundtable discussion
13. How to speak Union Effectively
14. Retirement, Community Services

15. EAP
16. Step B
17. Deems Desirable
18. Chat with Region 5 Office
19. Region 5 CAU-An in-depth look at the previous year's settlements and decisions
20. CCA-PTF Contract Updates
21. Writing for Stewards
22. Legislation

RETIREMENT GOING DIGITAL

The NALC has received USPS correspondence notification that effective January 1, 2026, the Postal Service will **require all retirement applications to be submitted online** through the ORA platform in accordance with OPM's mandate. The process will replace the paper-based application process for federal and USPS employee's optional retirement. This new system will be administered by the OPM and will allow applicants to complete retirement applications online, track the application status, and expedite processing time. Any applications for optional retirement submitted prior to January 1, 2026, will continue to be processed using the paper-based process and do not need to be resubmitted. To initiate the optional retirement application process, you can log into the eRetire app through LiteBlue at liteblue.usps.gov. You may also contact the Human Resources Shared Service Center at 877-477-3273 and select option 5. For more information on the process, go to MyHR website and select "Planning for Retirement" from the "Retirement" drop-down menu.

BRANCH LEGAL PLAN

Advice and Consultation on
General Practice and Civil Actions.



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Retiree Report

... By Guest Recording Secretary Nicki L. Prado

Chairman Tom Schulte called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m. Chaplain Lawrence McHaynes lead us in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Tom hoped everyone enjoyed the bratwurst lunch he provided. Tom also thanked Kevin Welby for chairing the December meeting in his absence.

Volunteers: Brother Roy Hatchard Jr. volunteered to provide lunch for the February meeting and Kevin Welby and Sandy Theismann volunteered for the May meeting lunch.

Sick Call: A get-well card was signed and sent out to brother Joe Barnes, wishing him a speedy recovery.

New members: Stuart East, newly retired from Creve Coeur.

Minutes from the last meeting: Guest Recording Secretary Nicki L. Prado read the minutes from the previous meeting. Two corrections were made to last month's minutes:

1. Donations to the Jefferson Barracks Patriots pantry was \$385. Not \$300.
2. The December 50/50 winners were Paul Wagner and Andy Garces. Paul donated \$27 back to the retirees and Andy donated \$47 to the PAC fund.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer Mike Chenot reported a checking account balance of \$958.36 and cash on hand of \$391. Mike suggested that the retirees invite guest speakers such as the Red Cross or local Fire Departments for CPR training or other possible topics of interest. Mike also asked the branch officers if we could bring old shop stewards' documents to be shredded at the Union Hall.

NBA's Report: RAA Patrick Baker was accompanied by Julianna Burton from Br. 201, Wichita, Kansas, who is working out of the NBA's office. He offered greetings from NBA David Teegarden who is spending time between Washington, D.C., and training throughout Region 5.

Presidents Report: President John McLaughlin reported on the assault of a Creve Coeur letter carrier and the investigation into that attack. The carrier is recovering. John

reported on the recent route adjustments and that some time had been added back to the stations. He announced that Maryville Gardens station has the dubious distinction of being the second worst station in the nation. Kudos to Maryville managers and supervisors. The route inspection teams have moved to the Kansas City area. There are no scheduled route inspections in the St. Louis Installation.

Legislative Report: Mike Weir reported on two bills to watch: H.R.1065 Protect our Letter Carriers and H.R. 1522 Federal Retirement Fairness Act. Current administration is floating the idea of cancelling the mid-term elections. Action against Venezuela, threats to take over Greenland and the Epstein files playing a factor. We can't let that happen. Give to the PAC funds.

Health Benefits Report: Barry Linan reported on the prescription costs changing from set copay to percentage of cost in our health insurance coverage. He also reported on the free joint pain mobility issues program offered by Hinge Health. Barry provided fliers regarding how to join the program.

Chairman's Report: Tom reported on the placing of Christmas wreaths on the graves at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery with Geno Iberg on December 6. Tom thanked the retirees for their participation in the funding of the wreaths and Geno requested that members please provide the exact location of their loved one's graves in 2026 as we wasted too much time searching grave locations.

New Business: An announcement was made that you can register online to receive your W-2 form from OPM.

Deceased Members: A moment of silence was observed for Donald Bohnert, Gold Card member.

50/50 Winner: \$19 won by Richard Boien who donated to the PAC fund.

Closing Prayer: Offered by Chaplain Lawrence McHaynes

Meeting Adjourned: 1:30 p.m.

South County ... *By Matt Gleiforst*



Hello from South County. I don't really have too much news to report from here. Honestly, it's just more of the same. Each day the sole focus seems to be getting the packages delivered while the actual first-class mail gets neglected. And it's not just on the delivery end. It seems to be this way on the processing side as well. When I first started 13 years ago, I remember only having a few letters of DPS mishthrows that I would bring back at the end of the day, even on the heaviest of mail volume days. Nowadays we are bringing back handfuls of DPS mishthrows practically every single day. We bring back more letters at the end of the day than we had in the hot case in the morning most of the time.

To make matters worse, we do not seem to have enough clerks to throw all this mail for a speedy turnaround. It just sits in the throwback case for days on end.

God only knows how many bills have been delivered late due to this. It really is no wonder that our customers seem to be losing faith in us. Hell, I'm losing faith. I live in the zip code I deliver mail out of, and I often wonder if I have any mail that's just sitting there, waiting to be cased in the hot case.

Unfortunately, there really isn't anything that we can do about this. We can only do our jobs which is to safely deliver the mail that is ready for us. What I would say though is to be extra kind to our customers. Even if they are upset and taking it out on us, we need to treat them kindly. Although they shouldn't take their frustrations out on us, they have every right to be frustrated. We simply need to be kind and calmly explain what the issues we face are. Tell them that if their service seems bad, they should contact the office, and if that goes nowhere, to contact

their U.S. representative. Maybe if the right people get harassed enough about the delayed mail, upper management will focus more on getting the mail delivered than they do our "stationary time."

Also, a friendly reminder that we are in our NALC presidential election year. If you haven't started hearing about any nominees yet, keep an eye out. We need to look at our union and decide what direction we want to go in and that will start with who we want to put in place to lead us. I strongly suggest everyone learn as much as they can about any and all candidates running for a position this year and decide who they trust the most.

Until next time, keep your head held high and keep surviving!



The following stations were represented at the January Stewards Meeting

Carrier Square	Maryville Garden
Clayton	Normandy
Creve Coeur	Oldham
Des Peres	Sappington
Gravois	South County
Harriet Woods	Southwest
Jennings	Weathers
Kirkwood	West County
MacKenzie Pointe	

West County Retiree ... *By Pam Stepney*



Greetings sisters and brothers of Branch 343. How's everybody doing? Fine, I hope.

As we celebrate **Black History Month, we take time to recognize its significance and reflect on the history, culture, and achievements that continue to shape our nation.**

What are we supposed to do now that Amazon has cut ties with USPS after using us to grow their business? Who is making billion-dollar decisions for this company? The Postal Service has been taken advantage of for years, and management wonders why we're always in the red.

Amazon route owners are paid about \$15,000 per route, yet USPS delivered their parcels at no cost to them. I spoke to a route owner who had five routes collecting about \$25,000 per day, or \$150,000 per week, while USPS paid millions in overtime to deliver those parcels. That money came straight out of Postal Service revenue. Once again, management made bad decisions and workers paid the price.

And now we have electric vehicles sitting around without charging stations. Another big mistake. That money could have been recovered years ago from private contractors instead of being wasted.

A recent USPS Office of Inspector General audit confirmed what we've been saying all along:

Management's failure to follow the contract cost USPS nearly **\$1 billion.**

FY 2022–2024 facts:

- \$866 million paid in grievance settlements
- 3.4 million grievance payments
- Overtime abuse, improper assignments, cross-craft violations
- Repeated violations left uncorrected

Seventy-six employees received over \$100,000 each, not because of abuse, but because management failed to fix problems. Following the contract costs less than violating it.

I visited West County Post Office recently. It looked like a ghost town. Routes are combined, with 600-1,000 deliveries on some, and carriers are out until 8:30 p.m. More bad decisions by management.

And speaking of blunders, **the American flag at the Ferguson Post Office was recently flown upside down — a distress signal that sadly reflects the state of management oversight and accountability.** Attention to detail matters, especially when it comes to respect for our symbols and our service.

Losing Amazon may give USPS a chance to refocus on moving the mail and rebuilding our business. We still need work. That means promoting Customer Connect, Clerks Care, Rural Reach, and Every Door Direct Mail (EDDM). Talk to your customers about saving money with the Postal Service.

In Memoriam

Sister Michele Williams passed away last month. She worked at Vito Reid for years and retired from West County in December 2018. Lord have mercy. Condolences to her family.

Brother Mike Grieshaber also passed away. Lord have mercy and condolences to his family.

Both forgot to sign up as retired union members.

If you are retiring or recently retired, remember to submit Form 1189. For \$4 per month, retirees receive:

- Access to the NALC Health Plan
- Scholarship eligibility for grandchildren
- Monthly meetings and an annual picnic

Join us **February 4 for the retiree meeting, 1600 South Broadway at noon — lunch served.**

Reminders

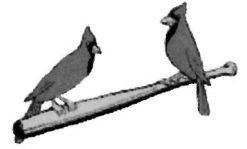
- Use your uniform allowance — take pride in your appearance.
- Scholarships: 16 applications received; members must be in good standing.
- Please give to the Political Action Fund, locally or nationally.

Happy Valentine's Day and Presidents Day.

Do your best, leave the rest, don't stress, God bless. Register to vote. Exercise your right to vote. Thank you for coming.



BRANCH 343 CARDINALS TICKETS



For Sale, Thursday, March 12

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 March 12

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

Payment only by **check or cash** tendered on **March 12**.

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

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

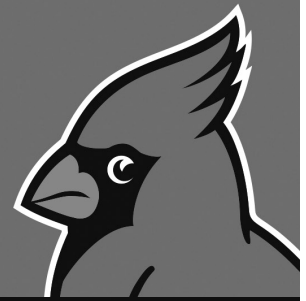
After the first round, the games will be selected in the same order as the first round.

No Sales prior to **March 12** at 9 p.m.

Remaining tickets for sale after **March 12**.



St. Louis Cardinals™



2026 SCHEDULE

MARCH/APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				TB 3:15		TB 1:15
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
TB 1:15	NYM 6:45	NYM 6:45	NYM 12:15		DET 12:10	DET 12:10
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
DET 12:40	WSH 5:45	WSH 5:45	WSH 3:05		BOS 7:15	BOS 6:15
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
BOS 1:15	CLE 6:45	CLE 6:45	CLE 12:15		HOU 7:10	HOU 6:10
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
HOU 1:10	MIA 5:40	MIA 5:40	MIA 11:10			SEA 7:15
26	27	28	29	30		
SEA 1:15	PIT 5:40	PIT 5:40	PIT 5:40	PIT 11:35		

MAY

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

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	TEX 6:45	TEX 6:45	TEX 6:45		CIN 7:15	CIN 1:15
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
CIN 1:15		NYM 6:10	NYM 6:10	NYM 12:10	MIN 7:10	MIN 1:10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
MIN 1:10	SD 6:45	SD 6:45	SD 1:15	KC 6:40	KC 7:10	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
KC 1:10	ARI 6:45	ARI 6:45	ARI 6:45	ARI 6:45	MIA 7:15	MIA TBD
28	29	30				
MIA 1:15		ATL 6:15				

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
			ATL 6:15	ATL 6:15	CHC 1:20	CHC 1:20
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
CHC 1:20	MIL 6:45	MIL 6:45	MIL 6:45	MIL 6:45	ATL 7:15	ATL TBD
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
ATL 1:15	ALL-STAR WEEK 2026				ARI 8:40	ARI 3:10
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
ARI 3:10	LAA 8:38	LAA 8:38	LAA 3:07		CIN 7:15	CIN 6:15
26	27	28	29	30	31	
CIN 1:15	CHC 6:45	CHC 6:45	CHC 6:45	CHC 1:15	TOR 6:07	

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
						TOR 2:07
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
TOR 12:37	NYN 6:05	NYN 6:05	NYN 6:05		COL 7:15	COL 6:15
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
COL 1:15	PHI 6:45	PHI 6:45	PHI 1:15		CHC 1:20	CHC 1:20
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
CHC 1:20	CIN 5:40	CIN 5:40	CIN 5:40	CIN 11:40	PHI 5:40	PHI 5:05
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
PHI 12:35			BAL 6:45	BAL 6:45	BAL 1:15	
30	31					
PIT 1:15					PIT 7:15	PIT 1:15

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
		LAD 9:10	LAD 9:10	LAD 9:10	COL 7:40	COL 7:10
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
COL 2:10	SF 5:05	SF 8:45	SF 2:45		CWS 7:15	CWS 6:15
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
CWS 1:15	SF 6:45	SF 6:45	SF 12:15		WSH 7:15	WSH 6:15
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
WSH 1:15		PIT 5:40	PIT 5:40	PIT 11:35	MIL 6:40	MIL 6:10
27	28	29	30			
MIL 2:10						

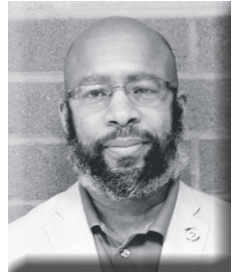
HOME

AWAY

FOR FULL SCHEDULE OR BROADCAST DETAILS,
PLEASE VISIT cardinals.com

Safety & Health

... By Richard Thurman



JOB SAFETY AND HEALTH IT'S THE LAW!

Employers must keep workplaces safe and hazard-free under the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

Responsibilities ELM 814.2

All employees are responsible for:

- a. Complying with all OSHA and Postal Service safety and health regulations, procedures, and practices, including the use of approved personal protective equipment.
- b. Keeping the work area in safe and healthful conditions through good housekeeping and proper maintenance of property and equipment.
- c. Reporting recognized safety hazards and unsafe working conditions immediately.
- d. Safely performing all duties.
- e. Keeping physically and mentally fit to meet the requirements of the job.
- f. Reporting to their supervisors immediately any accident or injury in which they are involved, regardless of the extent of injury or damage.
- g. Driving defensively and professionally, extending courtesies in all situations, and obeying all state, local, and Postal Service regulations when driving a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by the Postal Service.

Employee Rights

- All workers have the right to a safe workplace.
- Employees can raise safety

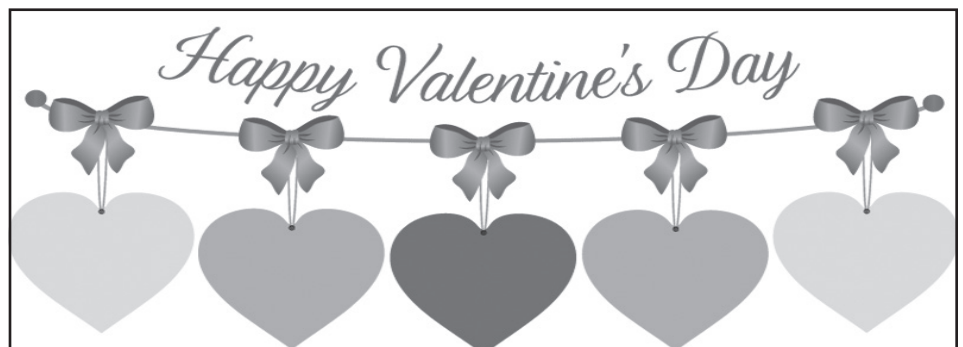
or health concerns with their employer or OSHA, or report work-related injuries or illnesses, without fear of retaliation.

- Workers are entitled to information and training on job hazards, including exposure to hazardous substances in the workplace.
- Employees may request a confidential OSHA inspection if they believe unsafe or unhealthy conditions exist, and they can have a representative contact OSHA on their behalf.
- Participation in an OSHA inspection, including speaking privately to the inspector, is also a protected right.
- Individuals may file a complaint with OSHA within 30 days if they have been retaliated against for exercising their rights.
- Employees are entitled to see any OSHA citations issued to their employer and may request copies of their medical records, tests that measure workplace hazards, and the workplace injury and illness log.

Additional Resources

Small and medium-sized employers can receive on-site consultation services supported by OSHA in every state. These consultations are offered without the risk of citation or penalty, providing an opportunity for employers to improve workplace safety without fear of repercussions. For more information or to request assistance, employers can contact OSHA by calling 1-800-321-OSHA (6742), TTY 1-877-889-5627, or by visiting the official OSHA website at www.osha.gov. Additionally, a poster is available free of charge from OSHA.

Every carrier needs to recognize the significance of their own safety, both in the context of the workplace and for the well-being of their families. Do not assume that accidents or incidents will not happen to you simply because you do not expect them. Safety events can occur at any moment throughout the day. Protect yourself and your loved ones by consistently practicing safe behaviors and making responsible choices at work.



In MEMORIAM

75-Year Member
Roosevelt Harris Jr.



Roosevelt Harris Jr. is presented with his 70-Year Plaque as a member of NALC Branch 343, from (L-R) Retiree Chairman Tom Schulte, Mr. Harris, Br. 343 Vice President Marvin Booker and Region 5 NBA David Teegarden. (The plaque was presented in 2020.)

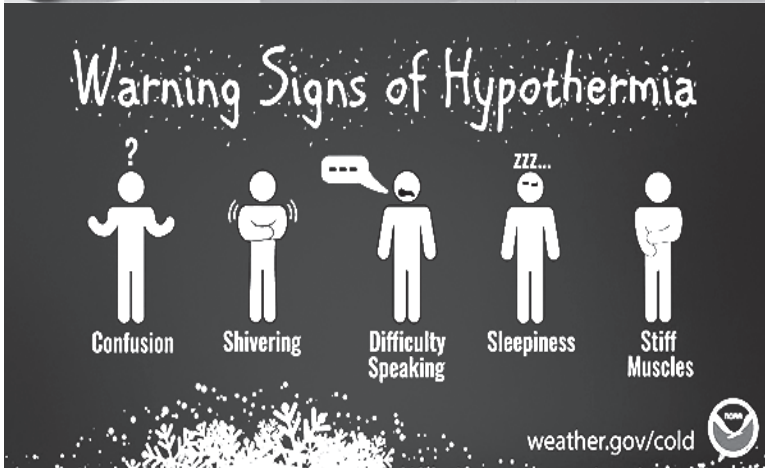
Branch 343 has learned of the passing of Roosevelt Harris Jr. on December 9, 2025. Mr. Harris is believed to be the oldest member of Branch 343 at the time of his passing. He was a 75-year member and 103 years old.

Mr. Harris served as a letter carrier with the U.S. Postal Service for 40 years. He was the eldest of five children. His wife, also a letter carrier, preceded him in death in 2002.

He leaves behind a son and daughter and a granddaughter.

His granddaughter, Roxanne, stated that Roosevelt was an amazing man who lived a very rich life and was deeply loved by his family.

The officers and members of Branch 343 wish to express our sincere condolences to the Harris family. May he rest in peace.



Creve Coeur letter carrier Stuart East receives congratulations on his retirement from Br. 343 V.P. Marvin Booker. Congrats, Stuart. See you at the retiree meeting.

“Brace Yourself” ... *By Retired Letter Carrier Mike Laury.*

My wife and I were in a serious accident back in April of 2025 after a 19-year-old kid tried to make a left right in front of us on a two-lane road. He may or may have not been on his cell phone. There is an odd sound of two cars colliding at the moment of impact, when you're involved in a car accident. Our 2006 Honda CRV, which we owned for 19 years, groaned for an instant then made its way up to that celestial junk yard in the sky. Shortly after the accident, the real sh#t show began. Two police cars, a fire truck and an ambulance were there lickety-split, with a tow truck showing its ugly grill soon after that.

Adrenaline was already coursing through my veins when I gave the first of many installments, my version of the accident to a pretty, polite police officer. My wife, Cathie, was also questioned by a different police officer, giving her version of the crash. Next time I get inconvenienced due to an accident, I'm going to put my profanity in my pocket and save it for the next guy who cuts me off. How come I've never seen the guy barreling down I-270 at 90 mph get in an accident? I have, however, derived some pleasure seeing the same car pulled over by a state trooper 10 minutes later. Maybe his wife was dilated nine centimeters, on their way to the nearest hospital.

Back in November of 2023, I ran over my neighbor's mailbox at the break-neck speed of 11 mph. An hour before that, I had taken an antibiotic and pain pill, ignoring the warning labels on

both prescription bottles. I used to convince myself that warning labels on prescription medication were just a suggestion and “do not operate heavy machinery” meant I couldn't operate the crane anymore in my backyard or take a “joy ride” with the bobcat parked on the street in front of my house. I was never going to drive heavy machinery, so in my mind, the warning didn't apply to me. “Michael,” my wife tells me, “That includes cars too.” “For the “love of God” she continued, “try and use some common sense”

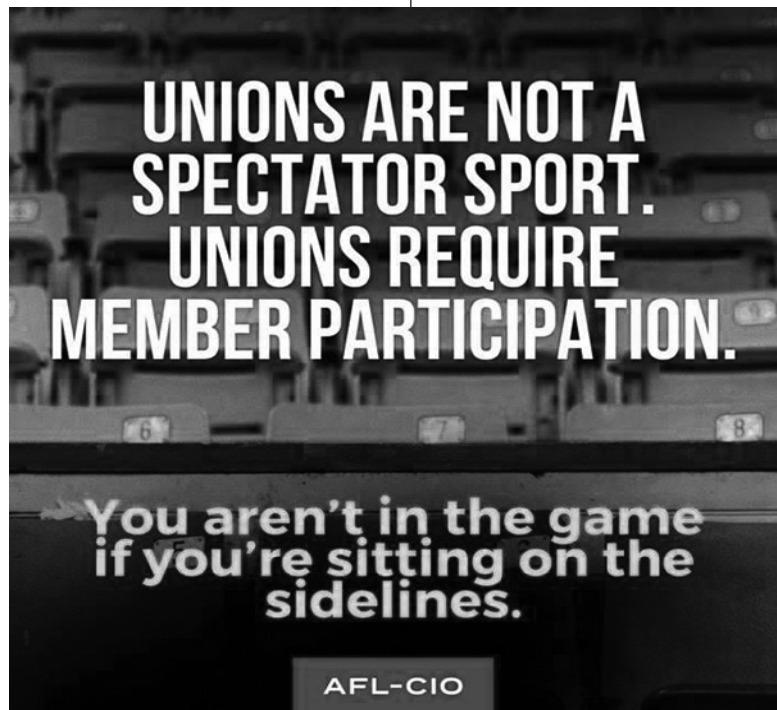
After that little reminder, I began to question the very nature of the “rules of the road,” warning labels, and verbal warnings from a television commercial. Some warnings were ridiculous or absurd. For instance, one warning read: “Don't eat packing peanuts, especially if you have a peanut allergy.” (OK, I made that last part up.) Another label warned, do not ingest Drano.

I'm guessing this warning was necessary so no-one would mistake it for an energy drink.

So, what are you telling me, that stop signs are not pause signs, that posted speed limit signs are just a suggestion? How about posting a sign for potholes, or a warning sign that reads “stupid people ahead?”

The other day, I was listening to the “voice over” talking about the possible side effects of a certain drugs during a commercial between periods of a Blues hockey game. When “Mr. voice-over guy” got to the 10th possible side effect and mentioned “anus issues are not uncommon” it perked up not only me, but also my dog, Levi. Three side effects later, it mentioned anal issues again. I think I would rather take an aspirin and take my chances. That's all for now, folks.

Signed, “The guy that saw both no-hitters.”



30th Annual



Launching from Water



AT LAKE OF THE OZARKS

First Place \$1,500 Guaranteed!
Top teams receive percentage of entry fee.
Entry fee is \$165 per boat.
Includes Big Bass

Tournament
April 11-12, 2026
6:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Registration Dinner and Meeting
Saturday, April 11, 6-8 p.m.
and ...

Meet MDA Ambassadors
and Guest Speaker at the Dinner!

Fun - Barbecue
- Silent Auction - 50/50 Raffle

Social Distancing Observed at Dinner and Tournament

TOURNAMENT TO BENEFIT THE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION - ST. LOUIS

OFFICIAL ENTRY BLANK

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

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

ENTRY BY MAIL ONLY

Entry fee of \$165 must be postmarked by April 6, 2026. 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.

Need Lodging or Have a Question?

Call Ken Young at Southwest Station
314-654-6310
or Check Out
7/24outdoors.com
or
bassbob.com



MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:
MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION
C/O Ken Young
5422 Wilson Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63110



THE PUBLIC POSTAL SERVICE

BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE

Articles of Confederation, 1781

Go all to whom

Constitution of the United States, 1789

We the People

Postal Reorganization Act of 1970

“Chapter 1.—POSTAL POLICY AND DEFINITIONS

Postal policy.
Definitions.

“§ 101. Postal policy

“(a) The United States Postal Service shall be operated as a basic and fundamental service provided to the people by the Government of the United States, authorized by the Constitution, created by Act of Congress, and supported by the people. The Postal Service shall have as its basic function the obligation to provide postal services to bind the Nation together through the personal, educational, literary, and scientific interests of the people. It shall provide prompt,

USPS

EAP

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BRANCH MEETING

BRANCH 343, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
 JANUARY 15, 2026

Summary of Branch Action

- MSC To pay the branch bills.
- MSC That the branch send an additional officer with the branch president to the committee of presidents' meeting in April of 2026 and pay expenses.
- MSC That Branch 343 say thank you by making a \$500 donation to the United Way for their assistance during the food drive for 2025.
- MSC That Branch 343 send two officers to the NALC-branch officer training in March in San Antonio, Texas, and pay expenses.

Deceased Members

- Donald Bohnert Gold Card 12/30/2025
 Roosevelt Harris Jr..... 75 Year Member 12/9/2025
 Bill Kemper Retired 12/3/2025

New Members

- Karel Bishop.....Creve Coeur 12/13/2025
 Sedale Forde Weathers 12/20/2025
 Jacqueline Gonzales...Harriet Woods..... 12/27/2025
 Jenaah Harris Town & Country..... 12/13/2025
 Bryttney Jennings Weathers 12/27/2025
 Charles Johnson O'Fallon..... 12/27/2025
 Collin Leckie South County 12/20/2025
 Denver Mays.....Sikeston..... 11/1/2025
 Lovell McGowan Jennings..... 12/27/2025
 Maurice Miller West County 12/20/2025
 Kendall Montgomery .Normandy 12/27/2025
 Dustin Moore Park Hills 12/27/2025
 Joshua Price.....Fenton 12/20/2025
 Trevor ProfferSikeston..... 8/23/2025
 Shannon RazSikeston..... 11/28/2025
 Aaron Rice.....Normandy 12/27/2025
 Ray Sheetz.....Affton 12/27/2025
 Pepper Stark.....St. Clair 12/13/2025
 Anna Thompson.....Washington..... 1/3/2026
 Alec VigilMackenzie Pointe 12/13/2025
 Brandy WardGaffney 12/27/2025
 David Wells.....West County 12/27/2025
 Preston Williams IISikeston..... 11/1/2025

Recently Retired Members

- Paul BeaudoinFenton 12/31/2025
 Carl BrownSappington 12/31/2025
 Charlene CainCreve Coeur 12/26/2025
 Stuart EastCreve Coeur 12/31/2025
 Margaret StockerFerguson 12/31/2025
 William WatkinsAffton 12/31/2025



**NALC
 Disaster
 Relief
 Foundation**

www.nalc.org 202-423-2443
 DisasterReliefFoundation@nalc.org

BRANCH MEETING ATTENDANCE PRIZES

1. Billikens vs New Richmond Jan 17
2. Billikens vs LaSalle Feb 7
3. Billikens vs LaSalle Feb 7
4. Amazon Gift Card \$25
5. Outback Steakhouse Gift Card \$25

- Marvin Booker, Union Hall
 Matthew Gleiforst, South County
 Nate Markovich, Southwest
 Shonna Randle, Carrier Square
 Barry Linan, Retired
 Adrenia Sargent, Maryville Gardens



Highlights

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Chet Drain and the minutes were read and accepted.

NBA Report, Charlie Sexton: Introduced guests of the NBA office (Ben Hodges, Michelle Paulson, Amanda Beckley). RAP session will be February 28 to March 2, more classes on Sunday now and some will last four hours. National President Renfroe is expected to be there Monday. There will be route inspection training the week prior to the rap session. Rank & file members are back in D.C., giving suggestions for bargaining. Retirement applications are now being processed online only, there is a mandatory stand-up talk on this. Branch 343 has a 70%-win ratio on grievances.

Retiree Report, Tom Schulte: Greetings from the 38 retired members in attendance. Make sure you use your uniform allowance to get the items you need to prepare for the bad weather.

Labor Council Report, Frank Enlow: The Prevailing Wage law passed, now Sam Page must enforce it in the county. Bills have been passed for people who were affected by nuclear and uranium poison. Go to just mom's website for more information. (<https://justmomssstl.org>)

Health Benefit Report, Barry Linan: Join Hinge Health for free if you are an NALC plan member.

OWCP Report, Barry Linan: Please report any accident the same day it happens. Be sure to get medical attention (wherever you choose) that day and file a claim. Management must give you a CA-16, this is how your medical bills get paid. You also need the attending physicians report.

Mound City Carrier Report, Tom Schulte spoke of the many quotations of Dr. Martin Luther King and read the quote from Dr. King in the January issue of the Mound City Carrier. Mike Weir will conduct retirement seminar February 1 at the Union Hall, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.. Cardinal tickets will be on sale at the regular March meeting. Our oldest living Branch 343 union member (75 years), Roosevelt Harris, passed away at the age of 103.

Haake Scholarship Report, Pam Stepney: We have received 16 applications. Tell members who may be interested in their family applying, they must have the dues up to date.

Safety and Health Report, Richard Thurman: A carrier was physically assaulted while on the route, about a drug package. Management knew of this package prior to incident. If you believe a package has contraband in it, don't deliver it. Part of your office time is used to identify hazards on your route, be sure to do so. If you are attacked by a dog, contact Animal Control.

Trustee Report, La'Tecse Litteken: Books were audited and found in good order.

Political Action Committee Report, Mike Weir: Mike read the names of contributors.

Legislative Report, Mike Weir: The projected COLA for 2027 is 0%, apparently there is no inflation. Pointed out legislation that is important to us. PMG has changed how/when mail will be postmarked. Mike believes this is an attempt to affect the vote by mail process. Please contribute to the PAC and LCPF.

Executive Vice President/Treasurer Report, Brian Litteken: The JWIP process is going into effect due to violent behavior at Maplewood. A letter carrier was assaulted at Creve Coeur. The assailant has been arrested and is facing 10 years in prison. Management must complete CA-1, OSHA 300 log and PS 1769 when this happens. You should also request police and postal inspector reports. Consider going to EAP and filing an OWCP claim.

Vice President/Financial Secretary Report, Marvin Booker: We got through the bidding, but it is still a problem. Carriers, check your pay stubs as some are being LWOPed, on their day off. Bids are to open January 17 but no info received yet. Trying to get food drive cards delivered direct to AOs.

Presidents Report, John McLaughlin: No spring route inspections scheduled for St. Louis. SW and Affton reinspected. SW put some time back in and Affton took more time out. Number of assignments did not change for either station. Fenton will lose about 6 routes. Two more carriers were attacked on duty. One was physically attacked and the other had a gun pulled on them. USPS ignored the remedy for a labor charge and now the NLRB is seeking an enforceable court judgement.

Respectfully Submitted, Richard Brown, Recording Secretary

*Letter carriers must be prepared to contact your respective congressmen at anytime.
Below is a list of our representatives and senators with their addresses and phone numbers.*

Keep this information handy when you are called upon to act.

The most effective method to communicate your message is to call your senator or representative directly.

CONGRESSIONAL ADDRESSES MISSOURI AND ILLINOIS

MISSOURI



WESLEY BELL (D)

1st District
1429 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-4206
bell.house.gov



ANN WAGNER (R)

2nd District
2350 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-1621
wagner.house.gov



ROBERT F. ONDER (R)

3rd District
1113 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-2956
onder.house.gov



JASON SMITH (R)

8th District
1011 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-4404
jasonsmith.house.gov

ILLINOIS



MIKE BOST (R)

12th District
352 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-5661
bost.house.gov

U.S. SENATE

MISSOURI



JOSH HAWLEY (R)

381 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-6154
hawley.senate.gov



ERIC SCHMITT (R)

404 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-5721
schmitt.senate.gov

ILLINOIS



RICHARD DURBIN (D)

711 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-2152
durbin.senate.gov



TAMMY DUCKWORTH (D)

524 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-2854
duckworth.senate.gov

Political Action Honor Roll

JOE FITZFARRELL★★★★★
RICH RHYNER★★★★★
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1st Wednesday of the month.
 Lunch at noon, meeting at 12:45 pm

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Deadline for articles for the MARCH issue is FEBRUARY 16, 2026

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REGULAR BRANCH MEETING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026 7:30 pm

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SHOP STEWARDS MEETING THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026 7:30 PM

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