

MOUND CITY CARRIER

Official Publication of Branch 343

2020 General Excellence
Award Winning Publication



St. Louis, Missouri
Chartered 1892

Volume 77, No. 8

"Diversity is our Strength and Unity is our Power"

August 2026

2026 - 2027 John H. Haake Scholarship Winners



Back row: Branch 343 officers Executive Vice President Brian Litteken, Recording Secretary Richard Brown, Vice President Financial Secretary Marvin Booker, Br. 343 President John McLaughlin and John H. Haake Scholarship Committee members Pamela Stepney and Tom Schulte.

Front row left to right with family members behind are Jay Isaac Oliver, Olivia Anne Sexton and Briton McNeill.

AC Bonuses

President's Article ... *By John McLaughlin*

Some of you may have recently seen some of the testimony our postmaster general gave at a recent hearing before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs with our own Missouri Senator Josh Hawley at the helm. The St. Louis Installation was front and center. Sen. Josh Hawley then wrote a letter to Postmaster General David Steiner about the hearing in a scathing indictment of upper management's failure to maintain the service's integrity while they reward themselves with "massive bonuses."

Specifically, Sen. Hawley singled out management's failure to protect the mail with the discovery of **thousands of pieces of dumped mail** in North St. Louis on April 29, 2026. While NALC members take pride in the "dedicated service" that has earned them the public's respect, the PMG testimony reveals that PMG Steiner was reportedly unaware of this massive failure during congressional testimony, asking, "What mail?" when pressed on the issue. This highlights a severe lack of accountability and oversight at the top, even as an audit labeled St. Louis the **"worst case of failed on-time delivery"** ever seen in field operations.

THE DISCONNECT BETWEEN COMPENSATION AND PERFORMANCE (AIR-CONDITIONED BONUSES):

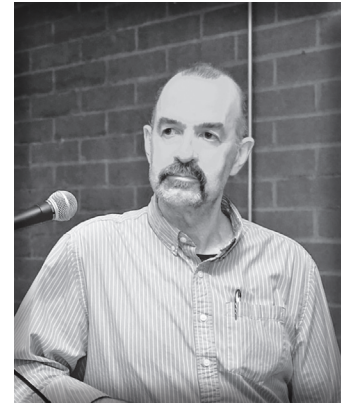
The letter shone a light on a massive disparity in how the Postal Service treats its workforce versus its executives:

- **Executive Payouts:** While carriers are on the front lines dealing with a "collapse of service," Steiner and his team are described as some of the **highest-paid federal employees**, receiving millions in non-salary compensation and performance bonuses.
- **Carrier Realities:** The senator is investigating **carrier vacancies and high turnover** among non-career employees. The NALC has long fought for better staffing and career conversion paths (such as those established in the 2023 National Agreement)

to address these very issues.

MANIPULATION OF DELIVERY DATA:

The union is particularly concerned with the investigation into **"manipulated" delivery scans**. The hearing asked whether employees have been designating mail as "delivered" or "processed" when it was not. As many carriers are abundantly aware, this often happens when management pressures carriers to meet unrealistic targets to justify their own bonuses, despite systematic failures like the **Regional Transportation Optimization (RTO) Plan** causing delays. Carriers are told to commit fraud every day when they are instructed to clock to the street before completing their AM duties or being instructed to skip to the next house when scanning in the number of letters and flats.



THE THREAT OF OUTSIDE "RESTRUCTURING" CONSULTANTS:

Hawley's letter to the PMG revealed that the Postal Service has hired Alvarez & Marsal, a top-dollar New York firm, to "scour for costs to cut." This is a major red flag for the NALC, as the senator specifically asks if this firm has recommended:

- **Workforce reductions** including letter carriers.
- **Layoffs, buyouts, or the conversion of career positions to non-career positions.**
- **Downgrading service standards** or closing facilities.

WHISTLEBLOWER REPRISAL:

The investigation into **potential whistleblower retaliation** is critical. The senator asks if any employee who reported mail dumping or chronic delays has faced "adverse personnel action." Protecting employees who

speak up about mismanagement is a core union value and is consistent with the whistleblower protections outlined in the Employee and Labor Relations Manual (ELM).

I recently personally handled a grievance where a carrier revealed, on local social media, management's directive to city letter carriers to NOT DELIVER THE MAIL. This carrier was disciplined for revealing to the public why they are not getting their mail. Why is the post office afraid of the truth?

This hearing was evidence that while carriers struggle to deliver for the "people of Missouri," management is focused on **masking delays, hiring consultants to cut career jobs, and securing their own executive payouts.**

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

NOTICE NOMINATIONS:

Nominations for branch officers shall take place at the regular branch meeting on September 10, 2026. The term of office for branch officers shall be three years. Elections shall be held in November by mail ballot.

The following stations were represented at the July Shop Stewards Meeting

Carrier Square	Mackenzie Pointe
Creve Coeur	Maryville Gardens
Des Peres	Normandy
Gaffney	O'Fallon
Gravois	Sappington
Harriet Woods	South County
Jennings	Southwest
Kirkwood	West County



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DON'T SIT ON THE SIDELINES ... GET INVOLVED!

Aug. 3-7	NALC National Convention Los Angeles, California
Aug. 12	Retiree Meeting moved from Aug. 5 because of the National Convention
Aug. 13	Shop Stewards Meeting moved from Aug. 6 because of the National Convention
Aug. 20	Regular Branch Meeting moved from Aug. 13 because of the National Convention
Sept. 2	Retiree Meeting
Sept. 3	Shop Steward Meeting
Sept. 7	Labor Day Holiday Observed
Sept. 10	Regular Branch Meeting
Sept. 26-27	Missouri State Convention



WATCH FOR THE 2027 ROTATING DAY CALENDAR IN THE SEPTEMBER MCC

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*

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

The Rehabilitation Act prevents discrimination based on a disability. It imposes an obligation on the Postal Service to find a reasonable way to accommodate qualified individuals with disabilities. The Postal Service is required to consider ways to change the manner of doing a job to allow a qualified person with a disability to perform the essential functions on a particular job.

If a carrier has a note from a doctor stating that they require an air-conditioned vehicle when the temperature rises above a certain limit, the doctor's note does not obligate the Postal Service to assign an air-conditioned vehicle to the carrier. It only obligates the Postal Service to allow the carrier to work that portion of their bid assignment that is within their medical restrictions. The carrier would then need to use their sick leave or annual leave for the remainder of the day. Leave Without Pay may be approved at management's discretion. The Postal Service is not obligated to provide work up to eight hours. A reasonable accommodation has to be requested by the carrier and approved by the Postal Service for the Postal Service to be obligated to provide an air-conditioned vehicle.

The reasonable accommodation process is activated when an employee makes an oral or written request for reasonable accommodation. The request does not have to be made in writing, nor are there specific forms required to request an accommodation. While the individual does not need to request a specific accommodation, he or she must let the Postal Service know that he or she needs an adjustment or change at work for a reason related to a medical condition.

An employee can make a request for accommodation to any of the following:

- His or her supervisor or manager, or any Postal Service supervisor or manager.
- The manager, Human Resources (District).
- The Reasonable Accommodation Committee (RAC) chair.

When an accommodation request is received, whether orally or in writing, it must be processed promptly, using the guidance contained in Handbook EL-307. Management should conduct an informal dialogue with the requestor to determine exactly:

- The accommodation requested.
- The reason for the request.
- The nature of the impairment.
- The major life activity affected.
- The essential functions of the position.
- Whether the need for accommodation is time sensitive.

The supervisor, manager, or selecting official must use the form "Confirmation of Request for Reasonable Accommodation" found in EL-307. The form requires the carrier to complete the form and return it to their supervisor, manager, or any other management official whom they reasonably believe has the authority to implement a reasonable accommodation.

The Postal Service must determine the reasonableness of the accommodation and whether implementation would impose an undue hardship. The general test for reasonableness is a common-sense test: Determine whether the accommodation seems reasonable or normal under the circumstances; or in other words, whether employers, in general, would be inclined to provide the accommodation. The law does not require reasonable accommodations that would impose an undue hardship. Undue hardship does not make an accommodation unreasonable. It excuses an employer from providing an accommodation because of a significant difficulty or expense in providing the accommodation.

The chosen accommodation need not be the best or most expensive, or even the one preferred by the individual. As long as the accommodation is reasonable and enables the individual to perform the essential



functions of the job, it is acceptable. The employer makes the ultimate decision as to what accommodations, if any, it will adopt.

Requests for accommodation must be processed and the accommodation provided as promptly as possible, but should not take longer than 45 calendar days from the date the request is received to provide or deny the accommodation. If referral to the Reasonable Accommodation Committee is required, the RAC must conduct an interactive meeting with the requesting individual within 30 calendar days of receipt of the request.

A denial of a reasonable accommodation request must:

- Be given in writing and in plain, specific language.
- Give the reasons for denial.
- Identify the individual or office that made the decision.
- Provide the following:
 - Notification of the individual's right to file an equal employment opportunity (EEO) complaint.
 - Notification of any other appeal rights to which the individual may be entitled.
 - Description of procedures available for informal dispute resolution.

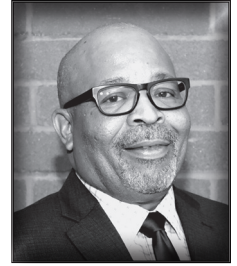
Individuals with disabilities may appeal the decision that denies their request for reasonable accommodation within 10 business days of the denial. The individual or office that denied the request for reasonable accommodation must inform the requestor of his or her right to seek reconsideration from either of the following:

- The next person in the denier's chain of command or
- The manager, Human Resources (District), as appropriate.

The Reasonable Accommodation Process			213
Exhibit 213(a) Confirmation of Request for Reasonable Accommodation			
Confirmation of Request for Reasonable Accommodation			
A. Instructions			
Supervisor, manager, examiner, or selecting official: Use this form to document a request for reasonable accommodation from an applicant or employee. In addition, you may ask the applicant or employee to furnish his or her request in writing along with appropriate substantiating documentation, if necessary. Refer to Handbook EL-307, Reasonable Accommodation, An Interactive Process, and complete the Reasonable Accommodation Decision Guide to document decision making related to this request. Applicant: Complete this form and return it to the examination administration office, selecting official, or local manager, Human Resources. Employee: Complete this form and return it to your supervisor, manager, or any other management official whom you reasonably believe has authority to implement a reasonable accommodation.			
B. Identifying Information			
1. Employee or Applicant Name		2. Employee Identification Number (if applicable)	
3. Position Title		4. Telephone Number	
5. Home Address		6. Office Telephone	
7. Facility Name	8. Facility Finance Number	9. Date of request	
C. Accommodation Requested			
Instructions: Be as specific as possible, e.g. adaptive equipment, reader, etc.			
D. Reason for Request			
E. Time-sensitive Accommodation (If applicable)			
Explain:			
Privacy Act Statement: Your information will be used to decide reasonable accommodation. Collection is authorized by 39 U.S.C. 401, 410, 1001, 1005, and 1206. Providing the information is voluntary, but if not provided, we may not process your request. We may disclose your information as follows: in relevant legal proceedings; to law enforcement when the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) or requesting agency becomes aware of a violation of law; to a congressional office at your request; to entities or individuals under contract with USPS (service providers); to entities authorized to perform audits; to labor organizations as required by law; to federal, state, local or foreign government agencies regarding personnel matters; to an employee's private treating physician and to medical personnel retained by the USPS to provide medical services in connection with an employee's health or physical condition related to employment; to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; and to the Merit Systems Protection Board or Office of Special Counsel. For more information regarding our privacy policies visit www.usps.com/privacypolicy.			
August 2020			15

Vice President Financial Secretary ... *By Marvin Booker*

THE CHALLENGES OF LEADERSHIP ...



The National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) has represented city letter carriers since its founding in 1889. Throughout its history, the union's leaders have negotiated contracts, defended workers' rights, promoted workplace safety, and advocated for a strong and reliable United States Postal Service (USPS). Leadership within the NALC carries significant responsibility because union officials must balance the interests of their members while working with USPS management to resolve workplace issues.

Local branches of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) serve as the foundation of the union's ability to represent city letter carriers across the United States. While the national organization negotiates collective bargaining agreements and advocates for legislative priorities, local branch leaders are responsible for implementing those agreements, resolving workplace disputes, communicating with members, and maintaining a strong union presence within their communities.

Because we work directly with letter carriers and local postal management, branch officers face unique leadership challenges that require dedication, fairness, and effective communication. Successfully addressing these challenges is essential to maintaining member confidence and ensuring the union fulfills this mission.

One of the most significant challenges facing local branch leadership is member engagement. Many union members have demanding work schedules and family responsibilities, making it difficult to attend branch meetings or participate in union activities. As a result, we often struggle to maintain active membership involvement. Low participation can make it harder to recruit stewards, fill elected positions, and gather input on important issues. As branch leaders, we must find ways to encourage participation by improving communication, offering educational opportunities, and demonstrating the value of union involvement.

Another important challenge is the responsibility of handling grievances fairly and efficiently. Local branch officers, particularly shop stewards, represent carriers who believe that management has violated the collective bargaining agreement. Investigating grievances requires careful documentation, knowledge of contract language, and the ability to communicate professionally with supervisors and managers. Because grievances often involve sensitive workplace issues, local leaders must remain objective while vigorously representing members' contractual rights. Delays or inconsistent handling of grievances can reduce confidence in union leadership and create frustration among members.

Communication presents another ongoing leadership challenge. Local officials must regularly inform members about contract interpretations, workplace policy changes, safety issues, upcoming meetings, and union activities. In today's workplace, members often expect timely updates through email, text messages, social media, often overlooking the Mound City Carrier and the branch website which provides information that is accurate and consistent with national union policies. Poor communication can often lead to misunderstandings, rumors, and unnecessary conflict between members and leadership.

Leadership succession is another challenge for many local branches. Experienced union officers eventually retire or step down, creating the need for new leaders who understand labor relations, grievance procedures, and branch administration. However, many members are hesitant to seek leadership positions because they require significant time, training, and responsibility. Local branch leadership must identify potential leaders early, provide mentorship, and encourage members to develop the knowledge and confidence necessary to serve the union effectively. Without careful succession planning, branches may struggle to maintain continuity and institutional knowledge.

Building productive relationships with local USPS management is another complex leadership challenge. While disagreements are inevitable, the lack of an effective labor-management relationship harms both employees and the Postal Service. Local union leaders must advocate firmly for members while maintaining professional working relationships with supervisors and managers. Successful leaders know when to negotiate, when to file grievances, and when collaborative problem-solving can produce better long-term results. Maintaining this balance requires diplomacy, patience, and a thorough understanding of contractual rights and responsibilities.

Finally, local branch leadership has the challenge to foster unity among members with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and opinions. Carriers may have different priorities depending on their work assignments, seniority, or personal circumstances. Leadership must listen respectfully to differing viewpoints while making decisions that reflect the interests of the branch as a whole.

Until next time, stay safe and be professional.

Recording Secretary ... *By Richard Brown*

I guess all of the Postal Service's requests for financial help and its lackluster performance have finally led to them being asked to dance under the lights. The service's continued cries for financial assistance have attracted the wrong kind of attention.

Many of you have seen Congress grilling the postmaster general on YouTube or other media over the Postal Service's poor performance. I'm unsure of the true motive behind the explanations given to Congress by the PMG, but they simply don't add up. How could the head of an organization be unaware of a crisis involving months' worth of undelivered mail being discovered in an empty field?

The postmaster general appears so far removed from the day-to-day work of employees that he cannot see the injustices many of his own managers impose on the workforce. Time will tell how long the claim of "being unaware" holds up, as Congress has now set a deadline for the Postal Service to provide answers regarding its performance — or lack thereof.

FINANCIAL WOES

Meanwhile, the Postal Service has once again raised the price of a first-class stamp to 82 cents. There is nothing inherently wrong with increasing revenue, but are we really in a position to continue raising rates? Probably not.

Today, approximately 60% of the mail being processed is bulk-rate mail. Businesses pay significantly less to mail these pieces than the average consumer pays for first-class mail. Since bulk-rate mail makes up the majority of our letter-sized volume, increasing those rates could generate additional revenue for the Postal Service and help reduce its debt.

We also cannot ignore management bonuses. These bonuses appear to be part of what drives management's obsession with making the numbers. It began with inaccurate reporting up the chain of command. Then came the constant pressure to get more work out of carriers with fewer resources — pushing overtime, insisting carriers leave the office within an hour,

or instructing them to take only parcels and DPS.

As highlighted during the congressional hearings, the postmaster general received the largest bonus while claiming he does not control how those bonuses are awarded. Yet, he also declined to say he would refuse future bonuses or return the most recent one, even while acknowledging that the Postal Service is financially struggling. Imagine how much could be saved if executives voluntarily gave up those bonuses instead of allowing them to continue while employees are expected to do more with less.

Stay tuned for a resolution to our financial freedom.

FREE KNOWLEDGE

On a brighter note, the NALC has made valuable training materials available to all members, especially newer shop stewards. These training modules include instructional videos and accompanying slides covering topics such as the role of a shop steward, identifying contractual violations, and many others. New learning modules are added every two weeks.

You can access these resources by logging into the members-only portal on the NALC website. From the **Members** menu, select **NALC University**, then choose the course that interests you.

I strongly encourage all new stewards to take advantage of these courses. Experienced stewards can benefit as well. You may be surprised by what you learn or discover a different perspective on an issue you thought you already understood.

More importantly, our current stewards should make every effort to attend the stewards meeting held on the first Thursday of each month. It's free knowledge that can make you a stronger advocate on the workroom floor.

Who is responsible!



Health Benefits Plan/OWCP ... By Barry Linan

Hot August greetings to all of the brothers and sisters of NALC Branch 343. Good to see Missouri Senator Josh Hawley grilling PMG Steiner at a US Senate hearing about the poor mail service in our state. Sen. Hawley specifically mentioned the huge pile of undelivered mail found in Saint Louis and PMG Steiner tried to claim it was the first time he heard about it. Sen. Hawley wasn't having that since he had already sent letters of inquiry to the PMG about that mail. Sen. Hawley then asks PMG Steiner why he and his managers deserve performance bonuses while the mail service is getting worse and if he would commit to refuse his bonus. PMG Steiner then just smirks and laughs. Sen. Hawley finally identifies PMG Steiner as part of the problem with the USPS and not the solution. There's a video of the hearing on YouTube if you haven't seen it.

HBP NEWS

I'm continuing to write about the **"Wellness and Other Special Features"** section of our 2026 HBP brochure that begins on page 100. You should take advantage of the many **"Wellness"** programs that the NALC HBP offers **at no cost** to you and your covered family members. Current and former letter carriers should be interested in our **musculoskeletal (MSK) program** offered through **Hinge Health**. This program offers help in overcoming back pain, joint pain, avoiding surgeries, and reducing medication usage. The program is designed to be utilized by members from the comfort of their own home. It includes all of the following:

Access to a personal care team that includes a physical therapist and health coach.

A tablet and wearable sensors to guide you through prescribed exercises

Video visits with your care team through the Hinge Health app.

If you have aches and pains, maybe you need to enroll in this program by calling **855-902-2777** or online at **hingehealth.com/NALCHBP**.

OWCP NEWS

I wrote last month about filing an injury claim with Form CA-1, either in writing with your supervisor or online at ECOMP. Even if you file in writing, you still should then create an ECOMP account with OWCP at

ecomp.dol.gov. You can then monitor your injury claim's progress on ECOMP and upload documents directly to OWCP. This feature alone is a huge improvement over the prior system of mailing in documents to OWCP or, even worse, relying on your supervisor to forward your documents to OWCP.

You can upload documents by going to ECOMP and clicking on the blue **"Upload Documents"** button on the left side of the screen. Once you do that, ECOMP will require your Case Number, Last Name, Date of Birth, and Date of Injury for access. If you have more than one injury claim, make sure you enter the correct Case # and Injury date so those documents go into the corresponding correct file.

As I mentioned last month, **it's best to first scan/save the documents onto your home computer as a pdf file, name each file appropriately** (ie: medical 5/1/26), **and then upload that pdf file onto ECOMP**. For clarity's sake, make a separate pdf file for each date of medical treatment and upload each one separately. You can also take jpeg pictures of documents with your cell phone, but when you upload jpeg pictures onto ECOMP be aware that picture quality can be sketchy and sometimes even unreadable. As each file is uploaded, ECOMP will ask you to select a category for the file (ie: medical, CA-16, reconsideration) and enter the date that document was originally created (ie: date of service). After about 24 hours, you should verify that all of your uploaded documents have been received and are legible. You do this by going on ECOMP and selecting the **"case imaging"** button. There you can review all of the documents in your case file, including phone call logs for all calls you have made to your OWCP claims examiner (CE). You should upload copies of any missing OWCP claim forms (ie: CA-1, CA-16, CA-17), copies of all treatment notes or patient summaries, and/or any other pertinent documents (ie: witness statements, police report, USPS accident report) to your file. Consider ECOMP as another tool to be used and use it to get your OWCP claim accepted.



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

HEAT SAFETY

I know it sounds like a broken record, but please take care of yourselves out in the heat. Look out for one another. If someone is exhibiting the signs of heat illness, please speak up! If you do not get a proper response from local management, please reach out to us at the NBA office immediately so that we can contact our counterparts in the Postal Service and get something done. If your station does not have air conditioning and access to water, please let us know so that we can get it acted upon quickly through our NALC folks on the District Safety Team.

ARTICLE 15 PROCESS-MANAGEMENT INSTRUCTION

The Postal Service recently sent out a position paper of sorts titled, **Instructions and Responsibilities for Grievance Settlements**. This memorandum sets forth instructions, responsibilities, and procedures for settling grievances. At the outset they acknowledge it does not change the collective bargaining agreements and the empowerment of management to settle grievances at the lowest possible level. My bullshit detector went off immediately. There is no doubt in my mind that this memo will only serve to further slow down or completely stop settlement of most grievances by the local supervisor, manager, or postmaster. The reason is simple, it's easier to deny grievances than do all the work to jump through the hoops in the memo. The path of least resistance so to speak. Let's hope this isn't the result, but if the backlog is any indication, I think we can look forward to an even bigger delay.

Undoubtedly you will hear front line management tell you they can't settle for that amount of money, but the memo makes clear they can seek approval for remedies that exceed their spending authority and be granted the authority to make the agreement.

Most troubling is the fact that they must avoid cease and desist and precedent language, escalating or compounding settlements, remedies that are described as penalties, incentives or motivation and recurring or "per day" payments, and payments made directly to unions. Instead of spending the amount of money and resources in trying to avoid remedies, the logical thing to do would be to teach your management team how to comply with the National Agreements. After all that is free!

I will discuss this in further detail with the branch presidents at the National Convention and at a virtual meeting afterwards.

REGION 5 TRAINING

We just recently completed the last of our steward college courses in the region. Twelve participants attended year one steward college training in Rolla, Missouri. Next year we will have year one through year four classes. Thank you to all the participants and we look forward to adding the final course next year which will be contractual grievances.

Our fall schedule includes training in Missouri, Iowa, and Nebraska.

We will also try to get our Region 5 arbitration advocate training up and off the ground. I have spoken to many of you that have expressed some interest in attending this training. This first class will have eight participants. If you have an interest in attending, please reach out to us at the NBA office. Most slots are full, but we still have a few available and we will consider everyone who applies.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

In just a few weeks the NALC National Convention will be convened. Delegates will discuss and debate resolutions, ideas, constitutional changes, and the direction our great union will take during contract negotiations. There will be multiple training opportunities for those interested in learning a new skill or brushing up on the contract. I have always believed that our union should be as transparent as we can with our bargaining goals and our direction. This includes collective bargaining goals, legislative needs and how collective bargaining works at the national level. We have not devoted enough time and resources into teaching our membership how things work as we should have. Now is the time to rectify that and bring the weight of all letter carriers to bear. We have a fight ahead of us that requires all our attention politically and contractually. What happens will be up to all of us in the NALC family. See you at the convention! Travel safe. I look forward to seeing all of you.

Until next time stay safe out there.



Retiree Report

... By Guest Recording Secretary Nicki L. Prado



JULY 1, 2026

Chairman Tom Schulte called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m. Tom suspended the agenda of the meeting and introduced guest speaker Bernie Ryan from the AFL-CIO who addressed the retirees regarding Missouri Amendments 4 and 5 and the reasons to vote **No** on both amendments.

Returning to the agenda, Tom asked Chaplain Lawrence McHaynes to lead us in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Tom thanked Rich Rhyner for providing the Hodak's lunch and to Geno and Glenda Iberg for the delicious desserts and Pamela Stepney for the watermelon. Tom reminded everyone that the August retiree meeting would be moved to August 12 because of the NALC National Convention the first week of August.

Volunteers: Kevin Welby and Sandy Theismann will be providing lunch for the August Retiree Meeting.

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

Treasurers Report: Mike Chenot reported a checking balance after expenses of \$1,078 and cash on hand of \$502.

Branch 343 Presidents Report: John McLaughlin reported on the ongoing contract negotiations. Aside from pay raises and retention of COLA, we need to hold management accountable for compliance under Articles 8 and 15. John spoke about Missouri Senator Josh Hawley's grilling of Postmaster General David Steiner, who seemed to have no clue what was going on within the Postal Service. The OIGs reported that St. Louis has the worst delayed mail problem in the U.S., but nothing is being done to correct the problem.

Legislative Report: Mike Weir introduced to rousing applause, reported that for now, the 14th Amendment regarding birthright citizenship is protected. The current administration continues to try to prevent voting by mail. The Citizen's United decision by the Supreme Court allows millionaires and billionaires to give unlimited amounts of money to influence election results. The justice department is run by crooks, and the courts are bought and paid for. And, by the way, the postmaster

general sat on the board of directors of Federal Express, but no conflict of interest. Right? Do your job and vote these criminals out in the August primaries and the general election in November.

Health Benefits Report: Barry reported that if you have NALC High Option Health coverage you can sign up for their Wellness Reward Program and their Healthy Rewards Program at mycigna.com.

Chairmans Report: Tom reminded everyone again that the August retiree meeting is moved to August 12 from August 5 because of the NALC National Convention. Tom asked the membership to support our own Safety & Health Director Richard Thurman who is running to be NALC Director of Safety & Health at the NALC National Convention.

50/50 Winner \$17 won by Tom Becnel who donated back to the retirees.

Closing Prayer: Offered by Chaplain Lawrence McHaynes.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:30 p.m.



Former Branch 343 President John Haake recreating his original signing of the Declaration of Independence at the July Retiree Meeting

RETIREE PICNIC AT CREVE COEUR MEMORIAL PARK

LOCATION: GREENSFELDER SHELTER OFF OF DORSETT AND MARINE DR.

Top of the hill overlooking the lake.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2026

TIME: 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

LOCATION: Creve Coeur Memorial Park

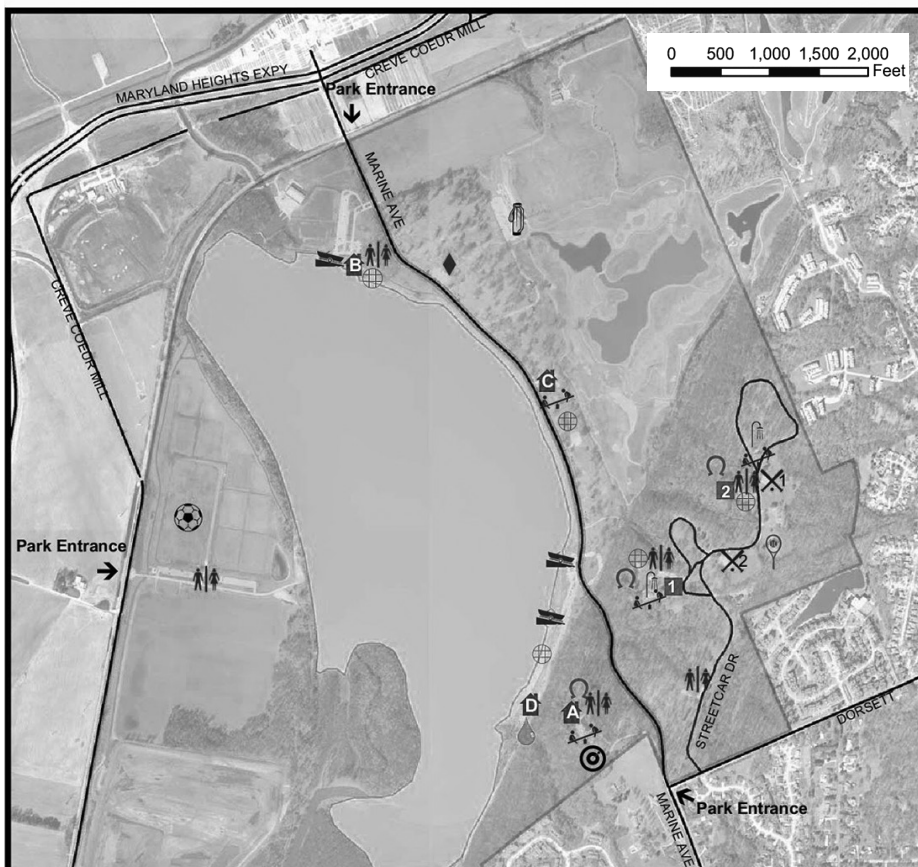
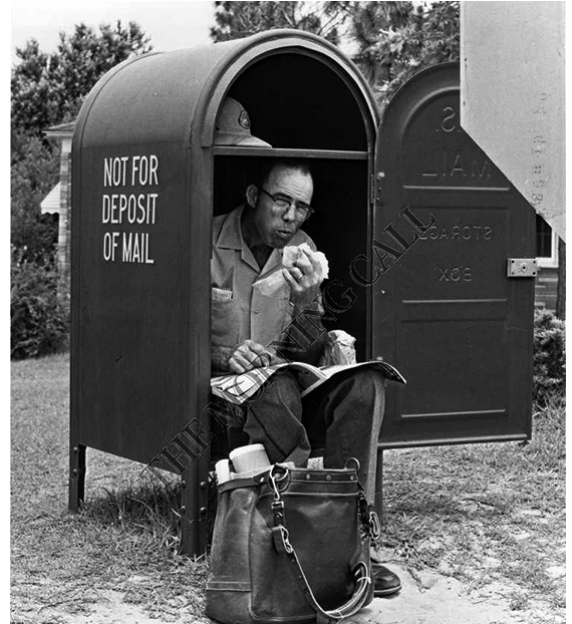
2348 Creve Coeur Mill Rd.

Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Greensfelder Shelter "A" off of Dorsett Rd. and Marine Rd.

From Hwy. 141 (Maryland Heights Expressway) turn on Marine Dr. past the Tremayne Shelter we've used the last several years. Drive past the lake, up to the top of the hill. Greensfelder Shelter is on the right before the Dorsett Rd. stoplight.

From Hwy. 270 take the Dorsett Rd. exit west to the end of Dorsett and Marine Dr. Turn slightly right then left to the Greensfelder Shelter.



St. Louis
COUNTY
PARKS

Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park
2348 Creve Coeur Mill Rd
St. Louis, MO 63146

SHELTERS

- (A) Greensfelder
- (B) Tremayne
- (C) Heldman
- (D) Taco Bell
- Corporate Picnic Site

- Park Boundary
- Creve Coeur Lake
- Crystal Springs Golf Course
- Restroom
- Athletic Field

- Soccer Field
- Tennis Courts
- Sand Volleyball
- Horseshoe Pit
- Disc Golf Course
- Spray Fountain
- Archery Area
- Dripping Springs
- Boat Launch
- Playground



2026 – 2027 John H. Haake Branch 343 Scholarship Report



... By Pam Stepney and Tom Schulte

We are pleased to announce the three 2026-2027 John H. Haake Scholarship winners. They are:

Briton McNeill

Jay Oliver

Olivia Anne Sexton

2026 marks the 36th year the John H. Haake Scholarships have been awarded to deserving sons, daughters and grandchildren of active, retired and deceased letter carriers from Branch 343. We congratulate not only the students who participated in this year's competition, but also their proud parents and grandparents.

As in previous years we have secured the services of Dr. Barbara Anderson, ex-officio from National Education Association - St. Louis, who has served as the chairperson of our independent selection committee since the inception of the scholarship program back in 1990. She, along with her committee, evaluates the credentials of each of our applicants and selects our three John H. Haake Scholarship winners. As in all previous years, the decision of the judges is final.

Over the course of the last several years, there has been a dramatic decrease in the number of scholarship applicants. We attribute this to the postal hiring freeze in the early 1990s into the early 2000s. This created a huge gap between older letter carriers, whose children have already graduated from high school and the newly hired, who may not have high school aged children. To that end, we modified the brochure in 2020 to include the grandchildren of active, retired, and deceased members and changed the four \$1,500 college scholarships to three and added a \$1,500 scholarship to a student interested in attending an accredited vocational/trade school.

Many of the professional trades are desperate to find interested individuals seeking to learn a skill working with their hands. We believe that earmarking one of our scholarships to an accredited trade school would be beneficial to a son or daughter learning a skilled trade that requires a shorter time period, at less cost than a college degree, and offers a lucrative opportunity for financial success.

Our awards presentation took place at the regular branch meeting on July 9, and we were very pleased that all three of our awardees were present along with their parents and family members. Each of the scholarship winners were presented to the branch membership and a brief profile was read highlighting their accomplishments and their aspirations. (See profiles on the following pages). The recipients were then presented with a certificate from Branch 343 President John McLaughlin.

The scholarship committee was very impressed with the academic credentials of all our applicants, as well as the leadership qualities exhibited in their extracurricular activities and the hopeful tone and insightful nature of their essays. Although only three of the students have been awarded scholarships, all the applicants are to be commended for their accomplishments.

The scholarship committee would like to thank John Haake for his leadership and vision in establishing this program 36 years ago. The scholarship program had been a dream of John's for many years, and we cannot think of a more fitting recognition of his efforts to bring his dream to fruition than the fact that it bears his name.

Thanks also to Branch 343 President John McLaughlin, Executive V.P. Brian Litteken and V.P. Financial Secretary Marvin Booker for their ongoing support and guidance in continuing the scholarship program. On a personal note, I would like to recognize the dedication and commitment of my fellow scholarship committee member Pam Stepney who keeps the membership apprised of the applicants and all the critical deadlines our students must meet in her monthly branch reports.

Each year, we reevaluate the criteria we require to participate in the next year's scholarship awards. This year will be no exception as we will take a hard look at the requirements necessary to make the selection process competitive. Over the last three years, there has been a significant uptick in the number of applicants, due, no doubt, to the decision that was made by the scholarship committee to include the grandchildren of active, retired and deceased members. In fact, this year, many of our applicants were the grandchildren of our membership.

To this year's applicants, we would like to extend our best wishes in your personal academic endeavors. Judging from the excellence of our candidates each and every applicant was aptly qualified, and we wish you all success in your college careers and beyond.

In the September issue of the Mound City Carrier, we will publish the application for the 2027-2028 John H. Haake Scholarships. For now, please spread the word to any Branch 343 union member who will have a son, daughter, or grandchild entering their senior year in high school in the fall. The deadline to apply for next year's John H. Haake Scholarship is December 31, 2026.



BRITON L. MCNEILL is the son of Jeremy and Kimberly McNeill and the grandson of retired letter carrier Charlie Heppe, whose other grandson

Charlie Heppe the 6th won the John H. Haake Scholarship award last year. Briton is a student at Oakville/South Technical High School. Briton is only the second student to apply and receive the vocational scholarship.

There are very few high schools in the St. Louis area that continue to offer vocational training courses as part of their curriculum. Oakville High School is one of those exceptions.

While Briton attends Oakville High School, he is currently enrolled in the Precision Machining Program at South Technical High School in Sunset Hills, Missouri. His instructor, Bob Arcipowski, has had the opportunity to observe Briton's participation and interaction in class and to evaluate his academic abilities and work ethic. "Briton is a hard-working young man and always has a great attitude. He works independently and with little supervision required. He always asks great questions when faced with challenges in the shop. This school year, when Briton was making a set of V-Blocks, he ran into several obstacles, yet he was able to overcome them because of his problem-solving abilities and positive attitude. I am confident saying Briton will be successful in pursuing a machining/manufacturing career in the future. I am proud to say I am part of Briton's high school education." Briton is currently working as a machine operator at Wilson Manufacturing Company in South St. Louis.

Briton recalls asking himself while still in grade school, "What do you want to do when you grow up?" He found his answer when he got accepted into the Precision Machining Program his sophomore year at South Technical High School. Briton recalls that when that happened, "I found my niche and had a plan."

What he's learned in the last three years, he's been able to apply working for Wilson Manufacturing Company as a computer numerical control (CNC) operator for the past year, while still attending South Technical High School and Oakville High. Briton says, "It has given me experience and helped me apply the knowledge that I have received from South Technical."

As part of his extra-curricular activities, Briton has also successfully completed an A+ tutoring scholarship by tutoring elementary students for 50-hours. He stated, "This has provided me with leadership skills that will be useful throughout my schooling and career. The John H. Haake Scholarship Award will prepare me for the future by setting me up for financial success. I will not have to take out additional loans to pay back when I graduate and begin my career."

For now, Briton is excited at what lies ahead. "I expect to achieve my goals by completing two years at State Technical College in Linn, Missouri, and earn my associate's degree. I am motivated to become a computer numerical control, (CNC) programmer. I aspire to use the skills obtained to be a successful leader in the precision machining community. I will use my training and education to benefit my community and society by making and repairing parts that keep machines and businesses running. My work will support local jobs, improve productivity, and help important industries like healthcare and transportation. By using my skills and sharing knowledge with others, I will contribute to a stronger, safer community and society.

"I would be honored to be selected as one of the John H. Haake Scholarship recipients. This scholarship would help me focus on my education and reach my goal of becoming a CNC programmer. It will reduce my financial stress and prepare me for a successful career. With my training, I plan to support local businesses and give back to my community."



JAY ISAAC OLIVER is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ricket Oliver of Hazelwood, Missouri. Ricket is a letter carrier at the West County Post Office. Jay is a recent graduate of Crossroads

College Preparatory School in St. Louis, Missouri.

Brenda Brown, retired administrator at Crossroads College Prep had this to say about Jay. "As a retired teacher with over 30 years of experience in the field of education. I have had the privilege of learning alongside thousands of young scholars. I have had the pleasure of witnessing Jay's growth and dedication firsthand.

"His academic pursuits are complemented by his ability to be dependable, reliable and loyal. He utilizes his problem solving, critical and analytical thinking skills, as well as his ability to communicate effectively. These traits not only make him a valuable team player, but also an independent thinker who is energetic and driven to succeed.

"His leadership capabilities are evident in his involvement in various organizations and activities at his school, in his church as well as in the local community. As a participant in the National Society of Black Engineers, Jay has demonstrated a keen interest in civil engineering and leadership. He enthusiastically volunteers his time to help others in the community.

"I am confident that Jay Oliver embodies the values and Ideals of your scholarship program. His aspiration to become a Civil Engineer is a testament to his ambition and drive to make a significant impact in our global society. Jay is not only a promising student but also a compassionate leader who is poised to make meaningful contributions in his community."

For Jay, higher education represents an opportunity for growth, independence, and preparation for a meaningful career. "This scholarship would allow me to focus more fully on my studies, my academic development, and community involvement rather than the stress of financial obstacles.

"Education is more than a degree; it's about developing the ability to think critically and contribute meaningfully to society. I plan to use my education to support and mentor others, particularly younger students who may face financial or personal challenges similar to those I have experienced."

In addition to Jay's academic pursuits, he has also found time to be involved with the White Birch Bay Aquatic Center and Blossom Wood Day School, showcasing his commitment to community service and development. His impressive list of accolades includes certificates of completion for the National Society of Black Engineers, the Accounting Career Awareness, Summer Residence Program, Midwest Sharks Baseball Youth Team and the Young Adult Choir at Hopewell MB Church. Each of these accomplishments speaks to his dedication, hard work, exceptional ability to lead and inspire others.

Jay's involvement in sports activities, which include soccer, baseball, track & field, and martial arts, along with his participation in chess and various choir and mission groups, highlights his versatility and commitment to holistic development. His role as a student member of the National Society of Black Engineers and work he has done with the Blossom Wood Day School is a testament to his leadership qualities, as well as his ability to motivate and guide others.

"Through my major in civil engineering, this scholarship will help me to achieve a meaningful step forward to obtaining my degree and becoming a construction engineer. I understand that achieving this goal will require discipline, patience, planning, and time. I plan to take full advantage of academic resources, seek mentorship from professors, participate in extracurricular activities and internships, and remain actively involved in campus organizations."

"This scholarship is not simply financial assistance, but it is an investment in my ability to hopefully build my future. With determination and opportunity, I am confident that I can use civil engineering education to make a lasting and positive impact on society."



OLIVIA ANNE SEXTON

is the daughter of Charles and Mindy Sexton from Arnold, Missouri. Charles is a regional administrative assistant for Region 5, NALC. Olivia recently

graduated from Seckman High School in Imperial, Missouri, where she graduated 21st in a class of 454 and carried a weighted GPA of 4.44.

Lisa Matzker, a teacher at Seckman Senior High School has high praise for one of her favorite students. "Olivia is the ideal student. She is an active participant in class, often sharing insights that contribute to the topic at hand, and the understanding of those around her. She excels in project-based learning, immersing herself in the topic to gain a real understanding and applying that by creating projects of the highest quality. Olivia's enthusiasm reflects a mind that is both creative and intellectually engaged.

"In my experience, Olivia consistently demonstrates a high degree of ethical integrity. This is evident in her exemplary classroom conduct, strong work ethic, and determination to succeed in all areas. She does not allow obstacles to stand in her way. Her drive and ambition are apparent to everyone around her. While she is involved in multiple activities, she always prioritizes her academics. Olivia is mature beyond her years and exhibits a rare depth of character. She works diligently and earns the respect of both her teachers and peers through her steady and principled leadership.

"Olivia does not seek to control others-she leads. She has a remarkable ability to guide others toward discovering their own solutions and making thoughtful decisions, all while offering consistent support. She strives to approach situations objectively, carefully considering multiple perspectives before drawing conclusions. This ability allows her to see both the larger goal and the detailed steps required to achieve it.

"Her commitment to academic excellence, strength of character, and natural leadership have defined her success. She is a role model who gives her very best in all pursuits."

For Olivia uncertainty provides opportunity. "Choosing a lifelong career is probably the hardest decision I have ever had to make. I know I wish to pursue a career that irrevocably changes people's lives for the better, but how on earth am I supposed to figure out what that is and handle the monetary side of that search?

"But one thing I do know about myself is my sense of curiosity. For instance, I've never had anchovies. Honestly, I probably would not like them. However, if a plate were placed in front of me, I know I would still try them. I am like that with a lot of things in my life because trepidation keeping me from discovering something I might love is a petrifying thought.

"While being an undecided major is daunting, it will allow me to discover my passions without feeling trapped in a pathway. I have always worked hard towards what I believe is the right path for me, but I have only been able to learn what that path is through the redirection of failure. My goals and aspirations are constantly changing as I discover what I am passionate about. Though it will take hard work and determination, college will be the environment where my self-discovery and purpose can thrive. It will also be the place where I can learn how to take my experience with my higher education and bring it back to those in my community.

"Many future students, similar to me are unsure of what they want to do with their lives and deserve to get the direction I was never able to have. I aspire to be an advocate for kids who see their future as something overwhelming rather than exciting. I hope the experiences I gain in college will reassure them that not knowing if you like anchovies or not can be a chance for redirection or even potentially discovering a new favorite food. Opportunity awaits!"

South County ... By Matt Gleiforst

Hello from South County. After years of anticipation, the new NGDV (Next Generation Delivery Vehicle), has arrived at our station. I, like many others, have already been trained on it and there are definitely pros and cons to this vehicle. The most obvious pro is that, yes, it does have air conditioning. This is a big deal for all of us working out in the heat. However, the mail side window does not roll down, so if the AC ever goes out on your vehicle, you have to write it up and refuse to drive it. The same goes for any of the cameras on the vehicle. We have backup cameras and side view cameras. This vehicle is very hard to see out of without the cameras and there is no rear mirror, so if any cameras go out, you must write the vehicle up and refuse to drive it. All in all, the NGDV is very spacious, and you can fit much more in it because it is much taller and longer than the LLV or FFV. Because of this you need to use extra caution when driving this vehicle. Never rush, because I can assure you, you don't want to be responsible for damaging one of these new trucks. Especially since district management is already so gung-ho on putting carriers on emergency placement for any accident.

Just the other day we had the MCSO in our station on a particularly heavy volume day. He accompanied the supervisor while walking around trying to get carriers to commit to leaving the office within an hour. This created a tense environment where carriers were arguing with the supervisor and the MCSO. This goal was unrealistic and the MCSO was adamant that it wasn't. In this situation, never argue with the bosses. I know that can be difficult because they are trying to rush us and bully us, but getting heated and arguing with them just makes matters worse. Simply tell them that like you always do; you will do the best that you can. If they are trying to get you to commit to a time to be out of the office, tell them that you will be out when all of your mail is cased and pulled down, unless they want to give you different instructions. If they say you have to be out by a certain time, stop casing and leave at that time, but be sure to fill out a PS form 1571 (curtail mail form) stating that you were told to leave early by management.

I have also heard of some bullying by management at other stations. If you feel that your supervisor or station manager is bullying you, get witnesses to see the behavior and have them write a statement. Some usual suspects in management will never change and will continue to bully carriers no matter what. If a boss is attempting to tell you that you need to do better or move faster, stay calm and tell them that you will do the best you can. If they are giving you impossible instructions (some places are issuing two hours of undertime!), ask for a specific instruction if you are unable to complete all of the work you are assigned in the time allotted. If they fail to give you a specific instruction, get a witness to hear what they tell you and write a statement. Always remain calm and professional and document everything. You have to stand up to a bully in a professional way in order to make the behavior change.

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



REMINDER!!!

Because of the NALC National Convention the week of August 3 – 7 **ALL** August meetings will move to the following days.

Retiree Meeting moved to **August 12.**

Shop Steward Meeting moved to **August 13.**

Regular Branch Meeting moved to **August 20.**

HAPPY LABOR DAY!

West County Retiree ... By Pam Stepney

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

What's going on with Congress siccing the FBI on the Postal Service? Congressmen Wesley Bell and Josh Hawley stood up to fight for letter carriers and our customers. People are complaining about not getting their mail delivered or picked up from their mailboxes. Letter carriers are being instructed to deliver parcels only and stop delivering mail by 7 p.m. so they can clock out by 7:30 p.m.

Why? Delivering mail is our business, right? UPS, FedEx, and Amazon deliver parcels all day until they finish their routes. Isn't delivering mail our business? I see FedEx, UPS, and Amazon delivering on Saturdays and Sundays. Years ago, you would never see them out on the weekends.

And what's this I hear about the NALC sending surveys to certain letter carriers asking if they would like to work four 10-hour days each week, with U-people working two days on one route and two days on another? If this were to go into effect, how would that help you drop off or pick up your children from daycare or school? What about inclement weather? How would delivering after 7 p.m. work when it gets dark around 4:30 p.m. in the winter months?

Why would we give up any delivery days and allow our competitors to deliver mail on those days? I hope your answer is **NO WAY** to giving up any days of mail delivery. How many letter carriers would lose their routes? What happens when other companies begin delivering mail on the days we gave up?

Sometimes you have to come to the union meeting to hear what's best for our union. Download the NALC app and visit Branch343.org to read what they're fighting for to ensure you have a great career and retirement. Stop looking for ways to give away what our union has fought so hard to secure for us.

As letter carriers, we need to stop taking shortcuts or looking for the easy way out of this great job our union helped create. Being a letter carrier is the best job in the Postal Service, and if the Postal Service were ever to close,

letter carriers would likely be the last to go.

I've said it before: **Invest in your company.** Stop paying all your bills online. Buy some stamps and put them to use by mailing letters.

I'm frustrated with the Postal Service too. I mailed five first Mother's Day cards to my five great-nieces. Two were going to Texas, and three were local. I mailed them at the O'Fallon Post Office on Monday, May 4, hoping they would arrive by Mother's Day on Sunday, May 10. Only three of the five made it to their destinations.

So where are the other two? Did an in-house thief take them, or were they misdelivered by a letter carrier? At first, I thought maybe I had addressed them incorrectly and they would be returned to me. But no, they're simply lost in the mail.

This has been a lesson for me, but I still believe in the good old USPS, and I still send letters every month.

Did you vote in the August election? If you did, good for you. If you didn't, shame on you. We are fighting for our livelihood, and we need to elect candidates and vote on issues that affect our union and middle-class workers. Please contribute to the political action fund, locally or nationally. Mike Weir will gladly accept your contributions.

There will be **no Labor Celebration Parade** in Florissant this year because the AFL-CIO president resigned, and they were unable to obtain a permit. Happy Labor Day, sisters and brothers! Enjoy your holiday with your family.

Safety first. School will be back in session soon. Watch for the children getting on and off the school buses.

Lord, have mercy on our brother Robert Trupiano, who lost his fight last month. He is now an angel in Heaven with his family. We will truly miss you, brother. Robert was the letter carrier who started Watermelon Wednesdays at West County Station. May you rest in peace, brother.

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.



"Nothing lasts forever ... stamps."

... By retired letter-carrier, Mike Laury.

Let me begin with saying that I'm not suggesting we give in to the opposition, which is management. I don't "adhere" to the letter of the law(s) that management seems to be sticking with, based on their boardroom magic eight ball advice. Management attempts to shake up both letter carriers and the public, with postal rate increases while the quality of service decreases. A first-class stamp increase occurred on July 12 from 78 cents to 82 cents. What was the presidentially appointed PRC, (Postal Regulatory Commission) thinking? Are you people high? Spit balling ideas with the help of a plastic Mattel toy (Magic 8-ball) has now evolved into a more dangerous form of eight-balling from this apparent "drug induced" commission's decision to nickel and dime the public for which it stands, once again.

I may very well begin to choke on the following statement that I'm about to propose, but the Postal Service hierarchy is not entirely responsible for the current deficits that have caused them to hemorrhage money for the past 20 years. As you may already know, we can thank George W. Bush, who signed the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (APEA) of 2006 into law, mandating that the Postal Service pre-fund **retiree health benefits**, which amounted to roughly \$5.5 billion to \$5.8 billion per year, for the next 75 years. By the time that this ludicrous law was repealed in 2022, the long-term damage had already been done. There are no mulligans or do-overs for this game that the government teed us off with so many years ago. Like taking a bad caddy's advice, we have been buried even deeper into the woods, where we have no shot of ever getting out. This has again left carriers and clerks "holding the bag," while management cruises by in a cart, focused on the 19th green. And make no mistake, the financial course of the Postal Service was designed and signed by Mr. Bush and his cronies, so many years ago, for us to fail in both the short and long game. When you can sign your own scorecard without any repercussions, then the rules don't apply to you. Getting double-teamed and constantly "bitch-slapped" by the government and postal management,

can give the best of us the "yips" when the game has been rigged against us since the first hole.

My 95-year-old dad asked me what the current price of stamps was the other day, so I could purchase for him a few sheets of "forever stamps." I was caught off guard with this "postal pop quiz" and nervously blurted out some random price, reducing me from a 69-year-old man to the unprepared childhood of my youth. "Don't buy me anything with penguins or giraffes on them. See if they still have the bald eagle stamps." I believe he was referring to the bicentennial stamps that they issued in 1976. But then again, what's 50 years here or there when you are about to turn 96 years old? Then a less than profound thought occurred to me: After the last of my dad's generation finally dies off, what happens to the next generation that is supposed to purchase stamps in the future? I guess nothing truly lasts forever.

I hope everyone out there is having a "tolerable summer." I suggest that you keep cold packs of some type in a small cooler in your vehicle. Or, maybe go "old school" and keep a 50/50 mix of ice and water in that cooler, and stick something the size of a "rally towel," to resoak, and put under your cap after finishing each relay. Finally, I would like both Cardinal and Postal Service fans out there to remember that this is just "another rebuilding year." So enjoy the ride while you can, because before too long it's going to get awfully bumpy. RIP Mr. Forsch.

BRANCH LEGAL PLAN

Advice and Consultation on
General Practice and Civil Actions.

G
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ROLLING HILLS GOLF CLUB

REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!



**39th NALC Br. 343
Golf Tournament for
Muscular Dystrophy
ENTER NOW!**

WHEN: 8 A.M. OCTOBER 11, 2026
WHERE: ROLLING HILLS GOLF CLUB
5801 Pierce Ln.
Godfrey, IL 62035
COST: \$100 PER PERSON (\$400 PER TEAM)
Price includes 18 holes of Golf, Electric Cart,
Prizes, Refreshments, Buffet Lunch
FORMAT: Best Ball Four Man Scramble
"Shot Gun Start"
HOW TO ENTER: A check or checks totaling \$400 with the
names and addresses of team members must
be received ASAP (Please list at least one
phone number and email)
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
MDA Branch 343
1600 S. Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63104

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

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

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

Brian Litteken
Letter Carriers Hall
314-241-4297, Ext. 2

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.....
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BRANCH MEETING

BRANCH 343, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
JULY 9, 2026

Summary of Branch Action

- MSC To pay the branch bills.
- MSC That the branch purchases the usual black and white 1/8 page (3 5/6" x 5") ad in the 2026 Labor Day Issue of the Labor Tribune at a cost of \$439.

New Members

- Michael Burgdorf.....St. James.....6/27/2026
Daniel Campbell.....Union.....6/13/2026
Tyler WrightPark Hills.....6/13/2026

Recently Retired Members

- Robert AlexanderClayton..... 6/29/2026
Michael Carranza.....Des Peres 5/29/2026
Dino Dimercurio.....Des Peres 6/30/2026
Sharon GardnerSappington 6/30/2026
John RohlfingKirkwood..... 5/29/2026

Deceased Member

- Donald DoebberGold Card7/4/2026

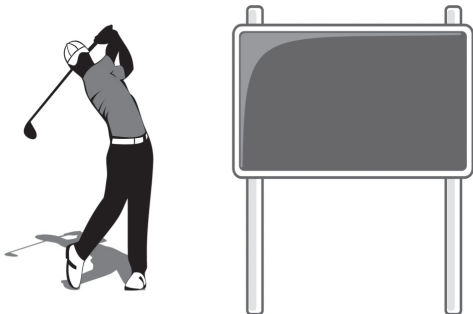
2026 Branch 343 Calendar Correction:

Please be aware of a correction to the Pay Periods in the month of December.

Pay Period 01 on December 12, 2026, should be Pay Period 27.

Accordingly, December 26, 2026, should be Pay Period 01.

MDA GOLF TOURNAMENT



THIS HOLE SPONSORED BY:
DON'T YOU WANT YOUR STATION'S NAME HERE?
COLLECT \$100 FOR MDA

NEVER



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Branch Meeting Attendance Prizes

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Cardinals vs Colorado Rockies | Aug 9 |
| 2. Muny: Newsies | July 21 |
| 3. Muny: Ain't Too Proud | July 28 |
| 4. Muny: Meet Me in St. Louis | Aug 11 |
| 5. Muny: Something Rotten | Aug 18 |



\$72

- Michael Goheen, Des Peres
Charles Kell, Des Peres
Frank Enlow, U-City
Brian Gray, Southwest
Pamela Stepney, Retired

Deon Littejohn, Gravois

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.

Retirees Report, Tom Schulte: There were 38 in attendance. Bernie Ryan from AFL-CIO spoke about Amendments 4 & 5 in Missouri and the importance of voting no on both. All August meetings will be moved back one week due to the National Convention.

Labor Council Report, Frank Enlow: There is still no decision on who is going to run the Labor Council in St. Louis. Republicans have raised \$8 million dollars to give to those who want to learn a trade, but only if the trade school is not supported by unions. Labor Day festival probably will not happen this year as they did not secure a permit. Data Centers are real and there seems to be no regulations against them.

Mound City Carrier Report, Tom Schulte: Retirement Seminar will be Sunday, July 23, at the Union Hall hosted by Mike Weir. Nominations for branch officers will take place at the regular branch meeting September 10. The term for officers shall be three years. The 39th Annual Golf Tournament for MDA will be October 11 at Rolling Hills.

Haake Scholarship Report, The three scholarship winners were announced and their bios were read. They were also presented with their award along with photo ops for each.

Safety and Health Report, Richard Thurman: This past weekend we had another fatality. A rural carrier in Springfield, Missouri, was driving an LLV with no seat belt on and the doors open. She was hit on the left side of the vehicle while making a left turn and killed on impact, being ejected from the vehicle. Another rural carrier was hit from the left side and ejected from the vehicle, and he is paralyzed from the chest down. If you are injured and not wearing a seat belt, it will void your insurance claim.

Trustees Report, La'Tecse Litteken: The books were audited for May and June and are in good standing.

Political Action Committee Report, Mike Weir: Read the name of contributors. Inflation has not gone away. It started at 2% in March and now it's at 3.6%.

Legislative Report, Mike Weir: The Supreme Court struck down the executive order eliminating Birth Right Citizenship, upholding the 14th Amendment. Trump refuses to sign the bipartisan bill geared toward improving housing affordability, unless they enact the Safe Act. Vote no on Amendment 4 and 5 on August 4. Contribute to the PAC and LCPF.

Executive Vice President/Treasurer Report, Brian Litteken: Delegates to the National Convention can vote in mid-term election in person starting July 13 with an excuse, and July 21 without an excuse. All branch officer's nominations will be on September 10. There will be a 31-day Moratorium starting July 25 due to the National Convention. No medical note obligates the post office to provide you with an air-conditioned vehicle nor to give you eight hours of work. If you can't complete your assignment, management could tell you to go home after doing what you can, unless you have been approved for Reasonable Accommodation or light duty.

Vice President/Financial Secretary Report, Marvin Booker: Read his report for June. He was contacted by Wesley Bell's office regarding their viewing of the dog out video. We will see where it goes.

President's Comments, John McLaughlin: Management claimed they could no longer buy water at the stations. Contact Richard Thurman if this is happening at your office. Take breaks as needed and stay hydrated. The NALC website has training videos mostly useful to new stewards, located in the members only portal. Josh Hawley wants answers by July 21 regarding investigations into St. Louis mail issues. If you see mail piled up at your office, take pictures in case investigators come in and it's cleaned up. That way you can show them what was there.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard Brown, Recording Secretary

Introducing: NALC University

Union launches online learning system

July 2026 **The Postal Record** 5

NALC has launched NALC University (NALCU), a new online learning system designed to deliver training to union representatives and members across the country. As explained in the March edition of *The Postal Record*, NALC has been developing NALCU in conjunction with Vocalmeet, a company that helps organizations like NALC build online education programs.

In addition to the development of NALCU, the union has created a standardized Informal Step A Training program to help shop stewards represent members on the workroom floor. The modules created for this program vary in length from 15 to 60 minutes and cover a variety of subjects NALC members and union representatives will find helpful. These modules include:

- **National Agreement** modules, which explain the articles of the contract. Some are covered in multiple modules.
- **How to Grieve** modules, which explain how to take the contractual language and file a successful grievance.
- **Grievance Procedure** modules, which explain how a steward can use the grievance-arbitration process effectively.
- **General Education** modules, which include other subjects a shop steward may need to be effective in their job.

A preview of the online training was presented at the Collective-Bargaining Conference on June 2.

"While our union has an excellent history of education—we do an absolutely great job around the country at all levels education-wise, and it's something that we continue to try to



improve—we thought that it was important for us to utilize all the means that were available to us to provide those educational opportunities to our members," President Brian L. Renfroe said. "The idea from the beginning was not in any way to replace what we do in the classroom, it was to supplement it, to augment, to offer more opportunities to our members."

The nationwide launch of NALCU began on May 19 and rolled out weekly to more regions so the system wasn't overwhelmed at any given point. It was available to every region by June 16.

NALCU is available at no cost to every member of the union. Members interested in taking the online courses just need to log into the Members Only portal of the NALC website. Once logged in, NALCU is found in the Members Menu. Simply bring up the menu on your device and select "NALC University" from the drop-down menu. You will be automatically directed to the NALCU website, where you can view all the modules available and begin taking classes.

Starting July 1, NALC will begin adding new modules every two weeks, so members should log in regularly to view any new content. **PR**

NALC University uses the same training modules as in NALC's in-person training, but allows members to go through the training at their own speed and in the comfort of their own homes.



Clayton letter carrier Robert Alexander receives congratulations on his retirement from Br. 343 V.P./Financial Secretary Marvin Booker.

MDA GOLF TOURNAMENT
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2025

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Retiring Des Peres letter carrier Dino Dimercurio receives a proper send off from his fellow letter carriers and Br. 343 President John McLaughlin.

John H. Haake BRANCH 343

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RETIRED MEMBERS MEETING

LETTER CARRIERS BUILDING

1600 S Broadway

AUGUST 12, 2026

Lunch at noon, meeting at 12:45 pm

Tom Schulte, Chairman 636-255-3057
 Kevin Welby, Vice Chairman..... 314-398-4802
 Mike Chenot, Treasurer 314-779-3356
 Nicki L. Prado, Recording Secretary..... 314-241-4297

Deadline for articles for the SEPTEMBER issue is AUGUST 24, 2026

★ ★ ★

REGULAR BRANCH MEETING THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026 7:30 pm

★ ★ ★

SHOP STEWARDS MEETING THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2026 7:30 PM

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