



# SEVEN NEWS ♦

Volume 25 Issue 8

October 2018

## The President's Report by Frank Spathanas

. Greetings everyone. Why does management keep disrespecting the carriers of Branch 7. Back in April, management decided to go on a fishing expedition and try to take our re-posting vacation rights away. They tried to prevent us from re-posting just because it would be a hardship for them with staffing. We grieved it and won. After we won, management said to me that they knew they would lose it but had to try. Recently, management tried to do away with an accepted past practice of taking no lunch. Management's assumption was that we needed permission to take no lunch and also cited that it was a "safety" issue if we took no lunch. I like that they are concerned with our "safety" considering we recently had a flash flood and tornado warnings in our area and to my knowledge no one received any messages on their scanner. I digress, we grieved the no lunch and we won a Step B decision that changes to the past practice will be rescinded and WILL reinstate the past practice that existed before. Do you see what's going on here? In example one, management can't staff properly so what do they do? Let's take away carrier's right to a fourth week so we don't have to staff properly. Nope. It ain't happening. Let's take away the no lunch policy because District was alerted to the abuse of the clock ring adjustments of taking no lunch. Let's see. Were they alerted by scrutinizing the many supervisory clock ring adjustments for no lunch or did they stumble upon them when they were looking at supervisors clock ring adjustments that



**Jacks and Jackies  
Get Treats , No Tricks  
@NEXT  
Union Meeting  
October 10, 2018  
7 P.M. Sharp!!**

they made when they were STEALING time from carriers? My point here is that we have to fight for everything that is rightfully ours. They may say "good job, good job", "thank you for doing this", "all we care about is your safety". Bullshit! They don't respect you because they don't care. They will keep trying to attack your rights until you have none and Branch 7 will keep fighting to keep them. Also at the October meeting, there will be nominations for the state convention and nominations for all of the offices of the branch.

BRANCH 7 E-MAIL ADDRESS IS  
nalcbranch7@gmail.com

ONLY a click away to ANSWER  
your CONCERNS/VOICE your  
OPINIONS/OFFER your IDEAS

**Future Meeting Dates**  
November 14, 2018  
December 12, 2018  
January 9, 2019

### NOMINATION NOTICE

Nomination of candidates for Branch Officers and Delegates to the 2019 State Convention will take place at the October Branch Meeting to be held on Wednesday October 10, 2018. Eligibility of candidates will be in accordance with Article 5 of the NALC Constitution, which disqualifies any member who holds, accepts or applies for a supervisory position for any period of time, either acting probationary or permanently. Any member, who has left a supervisory position, is ineligible for a period of (2) years after termination of supervisory status.

Serving a (2) year term (2019-2020), the following Branch Officer positions will be up for election: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Sargent-At-Arms and (3) Trustees. As for Delegates to the State Convention, members present at the October Branch Meeting will determine number of delegates attending it and amount of Branch funding per delegate. The President, by nature of the office, is automatically a delegate to the State Convention.

Per Branch By-Laws, self-nomination is permissible, any duly qualified member may be nominated although absent from the meeting and nominees have (3) days to accept or decline their nomination. Also, Branch By-Laws state a nominee must have attended (8) of the last (10) meetings to be eligible for branch funding. A (3) member Election Committee will be appointed at the October Branch Meeting.

Election of Branch Officers and Delegates to the 2019 State Convention will be by secret ballot, with ballots mailed to the last known address of eligible members. Ballots will be mailed out during week of October 15-20, with a DUE DATE OF FRIDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2018. The Election Committee will announce the results at the November Branch Meeting to be held on Wednesday November 14, 2018. Branch Meetings are held at the Hibernian Hall (AOH Building)-105 Federal Street in Lynn, with a 7 P.M. start time.

Frank H. Quartarone  
Secretary-Branch 7, NALC

## Postal Mania

by  
Dorothy Curtis

To butcher a phrase by William Shakespeare I'm going to start this article by asking the question, to sign or not to sign that is the question? The answer to that is: that depends. Let's start with the question of if a carrier should sign any discipline that they might get. For example, management might give a carrier a letter of warning for not being in uniform or maybe the carrier requested to take a "no lunch" and the carrier still took a 30 minute lunch (hint, hint, don't do that!). In my opinion, I think you should sign and date the letter of warning that management might give you. For some of you that might sound like surprising advice but I want to explain my reasons for that. 1) When you sign discipline you are only acknowledging that you received it and when. 2) It is important if there is ever any dispute on time limits for filing a grievance for discipline it will come down to the date the letter was signed. Do you want the date on the letter of warning to be what you wrote or what management might "mistakenly" write down? 3) Management writes rough drafts of disciplines which are incomplete or incorrect and those copies sometimes have found their way into an employee's file. The only way to know which the correct one is the letter with your signature on it. In case I wasn't clear, sign the darn letter and give it to your steward so they can grieve it!

The second question about if you should sign something is when management asks you to sign anything besides a 3971 and what I just mentioned above. I'll give you an example. If the Postmaster "chats you up" in what appears to be a casual conversation about where you take lunch and then he shoves a piece of paper under your nose to sign regarding what you just talked about, don't sign it, that's your right not to sign it. If he insists you sign it, ask for a steward and/or sign it that you were given a direct order to sign it. To be clear the answer is, **no, don't sign it** and if it ever comes up please see your steward.

As always, if anybody is interested in being steward let an officer know and we will start to train you. Right now is the opportunity if you want to be a branch officer. If you feel you have the guts, curiosity, knowledge, desire to

learn, a "why not" attitude or just feel you can do a better job running this branch this is your opportunity to put your money where your mouth is. I strongly encourage it and will help in any way anybody that wants to give it a try.

To all new CCAs: In the main office we have a space upstairs dedicated to donated uniforms that are free to take. Tony Belfiore on route 47 is nice enough to maintain it so we should all thank him for that.

We've had more conversions to fulltime. Congrats to Anthony Porcher, Brendan Blake and George Marmolejos. Thanks guys for continuing the donut tradition.

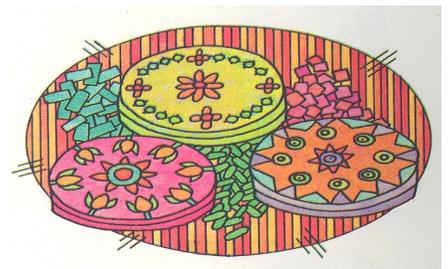
## WEATHERCHECK

Recently I attended the Farm Aid Festival, held down in Hartford Connecticut. Farm Aid works year round to build a system of agriculture that values family farmers, good food, soil and water, and strong communities. These farmers are the backbone of America. Not the big Chain Stores, not the Amazons of the computer world, not the big industries, where no one knows your name. Small businesses, and stores, are what makes this country, what it is. How does this all relate to the Postal Service you ask? Once again, we are hearing Privatizing the Postal Service. No thank you! The Postal Service, is exactly that. A Service to, and for the American people. We do not need big business taking over, and running the Post Office, and making a huge profit, and forgetting about the American people. You as a Letter Carrier, know your customers and businesses, sometimes, better than they know themselves. The Postal Service has the highest approval rating of any government agency. Why? because of you and all of those of you, who work within the Post Office. We do not need the post office to be run, by big business, making \$\$\$\$\$\$. We need it to run as is, a service to the American people, delivered by carriers, who care about their customer, and what they are delivering! In rural parts of the country, the mailman, is sometimes the only person, a customer might see in awhile. These people

depend on us! The cost of mailing a letter or a parcel, is still very reasonable, in these times. Imagine what it might cost, if big business were to take over. Yes the Postal Service could use a little tweaking, for it to run a little smoother, but that's for another column! Back to the Family Farms and Farmers. They along with the mom & pop stores are what built this great country! Let's just leave the Postal Service alone, and deliver to our customers like we have for years and years! This is a good time to give \$\$ to the Letter Carrier Political Fund, to help in the fight to keep the Postal Service from becoming a big business! Hope to see you all at the next meeting. All those of you who were CCA's that became Regulars recently, come on down, your the next generation, we need to take over!

## MDA REPORT

September Meeting Raffle raised \$52 (THANK YOU), bringing the yearly total from them to \$662 (THANK YOU). Prize winners were Scot Terchiak and John Haraden. October Meeting Raffle-a MYSTERY item. NEXT BRANCH 7 MDA EVENT-"Deliver The Cure" Bowl-A-Thon, set for Sunday November 4<sup>th</sup> at the Metrobowl in Peabody, Branch members, family members and friends are welcome. LOOK for flyers on the event. Again, THANK YOU for your support of MDA.



Working Late,  
No Time to Eat Before  
the Union Meeting ?  
No Problem, Branch 7 has  
Something for the Mem-  
bers to Eat at the Meeting.  
So Please Come  
and Join Us

## Shorthand

From the Secretary  
by Frank Quartarone

HAPPY AUTUMN EQUINOX TO ALL AND NO MORE 3 H DAYS OR UNDERSTAFFING PROBLEMS OR EXCUSES FROM NOW ON !!!

LET'S START WITH SOME GOOD NEWS-PART I- King Trumps' special PO Task Force Report-due August 10-remains a MYSTERY.IT's recommendations will be kept UNDERWRAPS until the mid-term November elections. Rumors still abound that it will call for privatizing the PO in whole or piecemeal. GOOD NEWS-PART II- In response to the Office of Management and Budget call for privatization of the PO in June, 2 Congressional Bills (S633 with 27 co-sponsors and HR 993 with 190 co-sponsor and bi-partisan support) were introduced, with both bills saying NO to the privatization of the PO. NOW-THE BAD STUFF-ON September 12, HR6768, co-sponsored by Jody Hice (R-GA) and Paul Mitchell (R-MI) was introduced into Congress. Along with its companion piece S3137 filed by Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI), a proponent of a privatized PO, both bills would give the POTUS and Office of Management and Budget the power to re-organize federal agencies (transfer, consolidation abolishment). CAN YOU SPELL A PRIVATE PO !!!

FYI-other PO's in Europe and Asia have been privatized over the last 25 years or so-BOTTOM LINE-JOB CUTS-JOB CUTS-LESS PAY-LESS WAGES-POORER BENEFITS-POORER SERVICE TO ITS CUSTOMERS. AGAIN, GIVE TO THE LCPF-ONLY \$5 per pay period-to tell Congress-THE US MAIL IS NOT FOR SALE !!!

NEW MEETING JACKPOT- At the October Branch Meeting, we will be starting a new jackpot system, as proposed by President Spathanas at the September meeting. The jackpot will be \$50 at every meeting and a winner will be guaranteed. ALL U have to do is be PRESENT and have the winning tix !!!

HOLIDAY PARTY- KUDOS to Scot Terchiak, who is trying to put a Holiday Party together for Branch Members. Given the okay at the September Meeting, Branch members-active and retirees along with their spouses,

boyfriends, girlfriends and significant others are invited. Saturday January 5<sup>th</sup> is the proposed date and would include food and a DJ. SO- LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN-CONTACT Scot in the Main Office on West Lynn 19 or by phone @ (617) 240-3403. Retirees-CONTACT ME @ (781) 289-0590. SEE U on JANUARY 5<sup>th</sup> !!!

LASTLY, Recently, we seen a number of CCAs converted to regular (YEAH), with more on the way as well as more CCAS being hired. CONGRATS to the latest conversions -Albert Porcher, Brendan Blake, George Marmolejos, Brendan Traux, John Castillo and Joshua Sanchez- as you start your 30-year postal career. PER TRADITION-HOPE YOU BROUGHT THE DONUTS !!!

REVIEW OF SEPTEMBER MEETING-Prez Frank spoke on national NALC and Branch elections-Branch 7/ MDA Golf Outing-PROTECT YOURSELF in this age of cellphones and videos-DO YOU JOB in a SAFE and PROFESSIONAL manner-discussed his Labor-Management Meeting with the Postmaster-\$200 Donation to sponsor Peabody High Football Player-grandson of carrier Suzanne Titus-3 new CCAs to welcome into Branch 7-Scot Terchiak given OK to revive the Holiday Party-50/50 winner was Mark Stevens-progressive jackpot winner of \$175 was Dorothy Curtis, who WAS THERE to collect as its last winner-MDA Raffle raised \$52- Food D'Jour was Lido Pizza.

PREVIEW OF OCTOBER MEETING-WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 10- Nominations for Branch Officers and Delegates to the 2019 State Convention-Members present to decide how many and how much Branch funding for delegates-Prez Spathanas's Powerpoint Presentation-More CCAs to welcome into Branch 7-Holiday Party Report-Safety Committee Report-50/50-NEW \$50 jackpot-MDA Raffle-FOOD. SEE U AT THE HIBERNIAN HALL (AOH BUILDING)-105 FEDERAL STREET IN LYNN-7 P.M. START !!! Fifthly

## RETIREE NEWS

CONGRATS to Branch 7's newest retiree-Kevin Cole

THANKS and ENJOY RETIREMENT to Bob Healey and Cris Miner for remaining NALC/Branch 7 members in retirement

CONGRATS to Retiree Ralph Thorpe on achieving 55 YEARS as a NALC/Branch 7 member

CONGRATS and Hip Hip Hooray (Letter Carrier Cheer) to Retiree Larry Mason on his milestone achievement-70-that 7-ZERO years as a NALC/Branch 7 member as well as being Branch 7's oldest member at 91 years young

ABOUT 3%-projected 2019 COLA for retirees

## Jackpot Winner

The name of Sister Dorothy Curtis was drawn as the winner of the \$175 progressive jackpot raffle at the September 2018 union meeting. Fortunately, Dorothy was in attendance. Therefore, \$50 will be given to the lucky winner at the October meeting. You must sign in to the meeting prior to 7:30pm to be eligible to **win, Good Luck!**



**V**  
**E**  
**N**  
**T** They Say Wear Your Clean Uniform... Meanwhile, the Mail, Trays, Vehicles, Racks, Floor, Lot, etc. ARE **FIFTHLY**, Why Don't They Clean It Up ?

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branch7srt@comcast.net

President's Report, Shorthand,  
Retiree News, MDA Report, Postal Mania,  
\$50 Give Away, Nomination Notice,  
Weathercheck and VENT

*Inside This Issue*

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