



SEVEN NEWS ♦

Volume 25 Issue 9

November 2018

The President's Report by Frank Spathanas

. Greetings everyone! First I would like to thank everyone for nominating me and the rest of the executive board to another term. All of the officers ran unopposed and I would like to thank them and congratulate them for their service. I am also honored to serve the letter carriers of Branch 7 as your President for another 2 years. There is an election for the three Trustee spots. We will have three new Trustees decided by the Branch. I would like to thank Terry Daigle, Bill Burgess and Steve Sheppard for their service as Trustees the last two years. Those three have stepped up to serve their members like the new Trustees will. It will be good to have "new blood" injected into the Branch and hopefully more of the members would like to get more involved in the future. Thank you to those who stepped up to be nominated as Trustee. Like I said before, this is your Union. Recently converted carriers, CCA's and members with under 10 years should start getting involved in their Branch to have more of an input for the future of the Branch and what direction you would want the Branch to go. If you are not aware, we feed you at every meeting, and we have a new jackpot that pays \$50 to someone that is present at the meeting. A winner at every meeting so it might pay for you to go to a meeting and you might learn something too that might affect you as a letter carrier. So come check us out if you haven't attended a meeting. Next the Postmaster is attacking our no lunch past practice again. He didn't like the Step B's ruling in our favor so he is



Cornucopia of Info @NEXT Union Meeting November 14,, 2018 7 P.M. Sharp!!

ending the no lunch practice on November 17, 2018. The Postmaster wants more (ALL) control of who (how many) takes no lunch and how often they take it. I will discuss this at the next meeting and give an update of our "negotiations". Lastly, I would like to wish our veterans a happy Veteran's Day. So if you see a veteran, thank them for their service because without them, we would have nothing. Hope to see you at the next meeting.

DELEGATE ELECTION NOTICE

At the October Branch Meeting, held on Wednesday October 10,2018, members present decided to send four (4) delegates to the 2019 State Convention (Cape Cod) at full funding (Hotel Stay and one (1) Days' pay). The President, by nature of the office, is automatically a delegate. At the October Branch Meeting, eight (8) members were nominated. After the three (3) day period of acceptance or decline, five (5) members declined their nomination. Being unopposed, the following three (3) members were elected to the 2019 State Convention, listed in order of their nomination.

2019 STATE CONVENTION DELEGATES

Frank Quartarone
Patrick Byrne
Scot Terchiak

FRANK H. QUARTARONE
SECRETARY-BRANCH 7,NALC

TRUSTEE ELECTION NOTICE

At the October Branch Meeting, held on Wednesday October 10,2018, Nominations for Branch Officer positions was held (Term 2019-2020). After the three (3) day period of acceptance or decline, per Branch By-Laws, the Three (3) Trustee positions were contested. At the October Branch Meeting, eight (8) members were nominated. Two (2) members declined their nomination, after the three (3) day period of acceptance or decline. As follows, in order of their nomination are the six (6) nominees for Trustee.

TRUSTEES- (3) TO BE ELECTED

Suzanne Titus
Brian Corbin
Craig Rourke
Scot Terchiak
Paul Nielsen
Dave Harris

Being unopposed, the following members were elected to their respective positions

President-Frank Spathanas
Vice-President-Dorothy Curtis
Secretary-Frank Quartarone
Treasurer-Doug Mishel
Sgt.-At-Arms-Dan White

BALLOT DUE DATE-FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 9,2018

FRANK H. QUARTARONE
SECRETARY-BRANCH 7,NALC

Future Meeting Dates

December 12, 2018
January 9, 2019
February 13, 2018

Postal Mania

by
Dorothy Curtis

I wouldn't hold my breath that the Lynn installation will get inspected. Months ago the Postmaster requested inspections for all routes (except 01905) and all we've heard back is crickets i.e. nothing. My feeling is that unless we lose Amazon parcel delivery we are not going to be inspected. The reason for that is that if they inspect us right with the amount of residual mail to case in the morning and parcels to deliver that we will gain routes. In other words inspections teams are loathe to add routes and that carriers are working more overtime than they ever had. Some carriers like the OT and the dough, some carriers don't. If you like overtime and want to keep working 60 hours a week, I suggest you stop reading this article now.

I had a carrier approach me about requesting a special inspection to adjust his route to eight hours. Remember routes are supposed to be adjusted to the regular carrier and as close to 8 hours most days, imagine that. The carrier was interested in doing a SI but didn't want to be the only one to request one. If anybody is interested in a SI and are prepared to do their route by the book, they should see me for more information. From the M39 regarding SI:

271g. If over any six consecutive week periods (when work performance is otherwise satisfactory) a route shows over 30 minutes of overtime or auxiliary assistance on each of three days or more in each week during this period, the regular carrier assigned to such a route shall, upon request, receive a special mail count and inspection within four weeks of the request. The month of December must be excluded from consideration when determining a six consecutive week period. However, if a period of overtime and/or auxiliary assistance begins in November, and continues into January, then January is considered to be a consecutive period even though December is omitted. A new consecutive week period is not begun.

WEATHERCHECK

I just left the main office, and there was a crew there, installing new lights in the parking lot!! Perfect timing, as it is fall back an hour. At O-Dark-thirty, there will be no more daylight! The main office is a lot brighter inside also, with all new lighting. Really wakes you up in the morning! Recently there was a big wig from the district, in the Main Office, and he was asked, if by any chance we could start at 7:30, as daylight savings was approaching. Darkness is a safety issue. The answer was, NO. Mainly because they can't get the mail to us in the morning early enough. The mail is already delayed, most collection boxes get picked up before mail is even placed in them during the day. Plus, we are told the volume is still dropping. SO why does it take so long to sort all the mail that isn't there? GO figure!! What about the multimillion \$\$\$ machines that sort the mail, that can't seem to sort it anymore. Missorts everywhere! Making more work for the clerks & carriers. How many letters and flats go by you with uncanceled stamps? How about the new prompts on the scanners to choose from? Where is the one though that says, delivered to the back door..... been asking for that one for years. Not only are there a lot of mailboxes at back doors, also quite a few carriers leave packages at the back door, as it is a lot safer to leave, than out front. Especially if the customer works all day. Any parcel or spur that fits in the mailbox, or front door, leave it there. Do not throw it on someone's porch, especially a bag of pills, or the like.... and always CLOSE the mailbox! it's kinda easy!!! Especially if it's raining out!! It's coming to that time of the year, when there will be a shit-ton of parcels! Be careful, and Take The Time Needed to do your job correctly. The holiday seasons are upon us, and with them come more work. Just make sure you take some time for yourself, and with your families and friends to enjoy them!!! See you all at the next meeting! Be safe!



Alright alright alright!

The Scribe is back after taking a month off kids, sorry there was no report last month, your boy lost a sweet job bid and decided to boycott. Better than being gone 3-5, I guess. So, what's been happening in the Mighty 'Gus, you ask? SSDD I'd say, except that isn't exactly true. Some bidding done happened, with the deck shuffling and some guys deserving of nicer routes grabbing said nicer routes. October has come and gone without the inspection we heard rumors about, all of our CCA's have either made regular (congrats to Jahn and Josh!) or been stoled off to Lynn, and we're getting ready for Christmas mode by already being in Christmas mode. The parcels are piling up and the political mail makes us want to vote no on delivering anything else related to anything political! 3rd, 4th, and 5th bundles (looking at you rt. 5) abound, and the globe inserts are heavier than a plate of rt. 10's breakfast.

We've had some changeover in branch Steward with the silver haired wonder Chuck Kelley stepping up, the natural progression from Scribe perhaps? You're the man Chuck, thank you for the service! One more thing to talk about in this article as pertains to us kids in the 01906 (any zip code really), and I think it's important to any of you carriers busting your asses day in and day out. Lately there have been way too many rude and bullying comments tossed around our office. Plenty of people are doing it (yours truly included), the intended targets span the racks, and it seems everyone is fair game. Maybe it's the stress we've endured throughout the summer with prime time, maybe it's just a locker room mentality that's been built up over the years, but it has to stop. We are all family here in branch 7, and instead of scoffing at people that are going through tough times maybe it's time to man up and empathize with what folks are going through instead of bashing them. Just food for thought.

Well that's it for the Scribe this month, I hope you and yours have a fantastic Thanksgiving, Santa is right around the corner, and we'll talk about that later. Until then, be good to yourselves, and each other.

-The Scribe



Shorthand

From the Secretary
by Frank Quartarone

Early Darkness on November 5th. Working in the Dark-SAFETY IS IN YOUR HANDS-TTTN-TAKE THE TIME NEEDED AND WORK IN A SAFE MANNER !!!

FYI-MEETING JACKPOT

To be eligible to win the new \$50 meeting jackpot, you must have signed the attendance roster by 7:30 P.M. as well as BE PRESENT

CONGRATS to Retiree Bob Mason-1st winner of the new \$50 jackpot
POSTAL MISMANGEMENT

In 2011, the ties in DC, to save \$\$\$ and address declining mail volume (???) came up with the Network Rational Plan. The plan was to close and or consolidate processing plants in the network (141 were closed in the 1st phase) as well as slow mail delivery, by riding overnight with 2-3 day delivery. The projected savings for fiscal 2016-2017 was to be \$1.6 BILLION, BUT the PO's Office of Inspector General stated that ONLY \$ 90 MILLION was saved (1/20 the of the original estimate or ONLY 5%). NOW, a little detail-most savings were to be captured by productivity gains (\$1.3 million) BUT ONLY \$200 MILLION was saved and mail processing costs ROSE \$153 MILLION. \$65 million was projected to be saved by changing employee shifts from night to day, BUT ONLY \$15 million was saved and OT was up \$8.4 million. Transportation costs were to save \$268 million, BUT in realty costs increased by \$1 billion. NOW, the ties in DC say the data is skewed-mail volume is still declining-doesn't distinguish between operational or service components-full savings will be reached at a later date. By the way, Phase 2 was to close 82 more plants (only 17 closed and 21 were consolidated) and is NOW ON HOLD. WHATEVER, another bottom-line decision, that costs jobs, provided poorer service to our patrons and didn't save \$\$\$.

THANK YOU NALC

On November 24, Letter Carriers and CCAs will receive a 2.1% contractual raise. Letter Carriers in Grade 1&2 will be consolidated into 1 group, with floaters still getting extra \$\$\$ Also, CCAs will get a 1% raise for a total of 3.1%. WELL DESERVED !!!

REVIEW OF OCTOBER MEETING-Nominations for Branch Office and Delegates to 2019 State Convention were held-Members decide to send 4 delegates (including President) to State Convention at full funding- President Spathanas talked about being careful of what you say about the PO on social media-Labor-Management meeting with the Postmaster- Holiday Party-new steward in Saugus- VP Curtis spoke about the US Mail Not For Sale rally, that she attended- \$200 donation request approved for World Bowling Tournament and \$100 donation approval for Bikers Against Drugs Ride-Scot Terchiak gave a Holiday Party update-50/50 winner was Jeff Marcheterre-\$50 jackpot winner was Retiree Bob Mason- MDA Raffle raised \$65- Food d'jour-Calzones
PREVIEW OF NOVEMBER MEETING (WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 14)- Results of Trustee Election-Holiday Party Update- Safety Committee Report-Latest on NO LUNCH situation-Booklets on Retirement from National-50/50-\$50 meeting jackpot MDA Raffle-FOOD-SEE U AT THE HIBERNIAN HALL (AOH BUILDING) -105 FEDERAL STREET IN LYNN ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 14-7 P.M. START

MDA REPORT

October Meeting Raffle raised \$65 (THANKS), bringing the yearly total from them to \$727 (THANKS). Mark Stevens won the \$25 gift card to the Olive Garden Restaurant. November Meeting Raffle Dunkin Donut Gift Cards.

The 2nd annual Columbus Day Golf Outing on October 8 raised \$243 (THANKS). KUDOS to President Spathanas for putting it together and THANKS to the 16 golfers that par-took

RETIREE NEWS

THANK YOU AND ENJOY YOUR RETIREMENT to Dave Perreault and Kevin Cole for remaining NALC/Branch 7 members in retirement.

I'll have materials on retirement from the NALC at the meeting for those members thinking about retirement in the near future as well as to start planning for it.

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

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

\$50 WINNER

The name of Brother Bob Mason was drawn as the winner of the \$50 monthly raffle at the October 2018 union meeting. \$50 will be given to the lucky winner at the November meeting. You must sign in to the meeting prior to 7:30pm to be eligible to **win, Good Luck!**



V
E
N
T
The Old Joke, How Do You Know When MGMT is Lying? When Their Lips Are Moving. However, the PM Revealed at the Latest Service Talk That He Was Actually Telling Us The TRUTH? What Can We Actually Believe?!

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Seven News will be published ten times annually for the members of Branch 7, NALC. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Branch 7, but of the writers. Any comments, suggestions, news about coworkers, retiree news, story ideas or anecdotes are welcome and should be in by the 15th to be in next month's issue. The editor retains the right to edit, delete or reject an article for the good of the Branch. We look forward to your contributions. In the interest of solidarity, permission is granted to other labor publications to reprint material in this publication. Suzanne Titus, Editor

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President's Report, Shorthand, The Sanguis Scribe,

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