



# SEVEN NEWS ♦

Volume 26 Issue 1

January 2019

## The President's Report by Frank Spathanas

Happy New Year everyone. I would like to begin this report with a quick look back at 2018. Let's begin with how local management has treated us this past year. Back in February management, with their wisdom, changed all installations start times. This was done because of a mail flow issue. So, later start times means later end times. This brought us to the next issue of the "WOO". Management wanted us back with all mail delivered by 6:30 to meet the window of operations. Which brought us to the summer and vacations and the lack of staffing by management. Which in turn destroyed the "WOO" to get the mail delivered. So, to try to get the mail delivered, management offered "no lunches" at the end of the day to give carriers a chance to at least see their families at the end of their tour. Then the OIG, while looking into clock rings that management was stealing time from carriers, stumbled upon all the no lunch punches in the Lynn district that has been a past practice for years. Guess what? There will be no more "no lunches"! It was grieved. We won. Postmaster says it's a safety issue and was stopped again. It was grieved again and now will go to arbitration. Speaking of safety, our installation had 11 accidents in the first month of the quarter. This led to increased street supervision to crack down on carriers because we all must be working in an unsafe manner. Forget that we have tons of volume and packages to deliver in darkness with the increased pressure from management and to their lack of proper staffing. The Postmaster



**Installation of Branch Officers With Coalition @NEXT Union Meeting January 9, 2019 7 P.M. Sharp!!**

wondered and asked me how much did the no lunch attributed to all the accidents we had. I asked him how many accidents we had at this time last year. He responded only 2. I responded there was a direct correlation, last year when we had a "no lunch" policy we had only 2 accidents and when you took away the "no lunch" the accidents increased. He was not amused. My hope is in 2019 results in better treatment for our letter carriers with dignity and respect. I really don't want to hear his disingenuous compliments of how he appreciates how hard we work and then continues to make our job more difficult than it has to be. I will try to hold the Postmaster to his word that we will not have to go through another summer we just had and to have the installation properly staffed. Looking forward to 2019, our National Agreement is going to expire. With the economy and legislation being so volatile my hope is that we don't lose anything in the next contract. For those who don't, consider contributing to the Letter Carrier Political Fund. Only \$5 a pay period. The

money goes to elect non-partisan candidates for their support of letter carrier causes. It's your future. See you at the January meeting for the installation of your branch officers.

## Shorthand

From the Secretary  
by Frank Quartarone

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY-HEALTHY-PROSPEROUS 2019 TO THE MEMBERS OF BRANCH 7 !!! KUDOS & THANKS TO THE LETTER CARRIERS OF BRANCH 7 FOR AGAIN DELIVERING FOR OUR PATRONS -THIS HOLIDAY SEASON OF 10-12 HOUR DAYS-MUCHO PARCELS-EARLY DARKNESS-YOU ARE THE FACE OF THE PO !!!

### YEARLY REMINDERS

If you have moved or changed your name, notify your station steward or me, as to update our files and notify national. P.S.-We don't share that info with anyone or group. If you want a NALC Membership Card-SEE ME-If you want a NALC Membership Pin (starting at 25 years to 75 years at 5 year intervals)-SEE ME

The Branch offers a memorial to deceased members and their immediate family members (Husband/Wife, Son/Daughter, Brother/Sister)-Notify your station steward or Me. Your privacy or non-disclosure is honored and respected. SEE ME AT (781) 289-0590

### TRUMP'S PO

On December 4, 4 months past its release date, Prez Trump's Task Force Report on improving the PO was released. It didn't call for complete privatization, BUT let's say it made it closer. Some "recommendations" were: reducing days of delivery, opening the mailbox to private companies, end collective bargaining for our wages and benefits, centralized delivery and didn't end that 2006 pre-funding requirement for future retiree health costs. What does that mean for Letter Carriers in the future- (continued on page 3)

# Postal Mania

by  
Dorothy Curtis

Happy New Year everyone!

I'm sure you guys have heard the term Administrative leave banded about in the last month. Let me clarify a couple things for you about that. Administrative leave is where you get paid leave, but it does not come out of you annual or sick leave balance. Only full-time employees get it. Administrative leave can be part of a grievance settlement, cancellation of work (snow storm etc.) or for a national day of observance.

On December 5th, 2018, we had a national day of mourning for President Bush. If you were a full-time carrier you got paid to have to day off to mourn. Of course, in the USPS it is never that simple because as Newman said in Seinfeld, "The mail never stops". Some carriers decided to come to work on December 5th, so we wouldn't get behind on parcels. Not to be captain obvious, but those carriers that came in on that Wednesday, they did not get paid to have the day off. You guys got paid for the number of hours you happened to work that day. What that means is that by September 30, 2019 you must put in a request for a day off using 8 hours of Administrative pay. Local Management will not remind you of this, so I am reminding right now that if you don't put in for those 8 hours you are going to lose it!

If your day off happened to December 5th, 2018 you also get 8 hours of admin leave to use by September. To take your admin day you need to fill out a 3971 time off slip. You need to do that at most 30 days in advance. You should check the box that states "other" leave and write in admin leave. The request must be put in for 8 hours. Local management has up to 72 hours to get back to you if you got the day off or not. Congrats to Kristen S and Peter O on their conversion to full time.

# WEATHERCHECK

W H A T E V E R!!!!!! Whatever happen to a clean route is a happy route? Whatever happen to, racking the residual mail for the day? Whatever happened to taking the scanner that goes with the route..... the scanner recharging station, is all numbered..... Whatever happened to, hanging up your keys every night? Whatever happened to attempting and noticing, accountable mail? Whatever happened to at least attempting to take part of a set, instead of letting it sit there, especially on the lite days? Whatever happened to starting early, and getting the mail out to the customers before night fall? Whatever happened to parking your postal vehicle in the same spot, so someone doesn't have to find it for you? (like looking for a needle in a haystack). Whatever happened to (no lunch)? Whatever happened to carriers actually taking their allotted lunch? Whatever happened to carriers taking their allotted breaks? Whatever happened to carriers attending the monthly union meetings? Whatever happened to CCA's and new regular carriers, attending union meetings, and learning about their future with The Postal Service? Whatever happened to an eight-hour route? Whatever happened to getting help on your NS day? Whatever happened to getting parcel help during the holiday season, (or any type of help) Whatever happened to the help? **WHATEVER happens, HAPPENS! Just pondering thoughts.....**  
**WHATEVER.....**  
**GO                   FIGURE!.....Oh**  
**Ya                   ..HAPPY           NEW**  
**YEAR!.....WHATEVER!**



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## WILLOW STREET WHINE

As the 2018 brutally, hot summer was winding down, we had floor talks on how things were going to get better, carriers were coming back from vacation, CCA's were going to be hired, we would be fully staffed for the Xmas season. I call it fake news. How can the district crack down on us for our safety record, when they are forcing carriers to work 6 10-12 hour days per week, constantly leaving our office under staffed, and refusing our pleas for earlier start times to avoid the late afternoon sun and this past fall working through rush hour and into darkness. Apparently, we were told at a service talk, that the PO has been delivering in the dark for years. Well, 18 years ago when I started, the hours of operation were 7-3:30. I've asked more Senior carriers (30+ years) regarding their start times and they recall having a 6-2:30 time. But then again, there was only 20ft of mail manually sorted per route. Now with our diminishing volumes, and crackerjack DPS/FSS operations, district has mandated 8:00 start times. Where is the safety and efficiency in this mandate?

Word of the month

**Fake News:** refers to false information or propaganda published under the guise of being authentic news (in other words) typical information from the Boston district.

## Future Meeting Dates

February 13, 2019

March 13, 2019

April 10, 2019

**SHORTHAND from Page 1**

LESS PAY-LESS BENEFITS-JOB LOSSES-PAY MORE FOR YOUR RETIREMENT. On a positive note, the NALC has sponsored HR 993 and S663 in Congress with bi-partisan support, calling for the PO NOT to be subject to privatization as well as Democratic control of the House of Reps for the next 2 years-WE COULD STALL these dangerous improvements. WHATEVER-Prez Trump and some members of Congress want to privatize the People's PO and cut your pay, benefits and jobs !!!

JANUARY INSTALLATION MEETING-WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9  
The January Monthly Meeting will see the installation of new Branch Officers to run Branch 7 for the next 2 years. CONGRATS TO THEM !!!

THANKS for your service as Trustees to Bill Burgess, Terry Daigle and Steve Sheppard and WELCOME Suzanne Titus, Paul Nielsen and Brian Corbin as new Trustees. NOW-LET'S SUPPORT Prez Spathanas and the Branch Officers and Stewards in fighting mismanagement, making a better workroom floor and making Branch 7 work for its members, who are Branch 7. We'll celebrate with food and refreshments. SEE U ON WEDNESDAY JANUARY 9 !!!

REVIEW OF DECEMBER MEETING-Prez Frank spoke on his recent Labor-Management meeting with the Postmaster and the Holiday Party was cancelled-Donation Requests approved -\$100 to Lynn Classical High Girls Winter Track Team and \$60 to NALC Branch 55's MDA Raffle-20-\$25 Gift Cards to Stop&Shop were raffled off-50/50 winner was Suzanne Titus-\$50 meeting jackpot winner was Doug Mishel-MDA Raffle raised \$276-Food (calzones) and Refreshments were enjoyed to celebrate the Holiday Season

PREVIEW OF JANUARY MEETING (WEDNESDAY JANUARY 9)- Installation of New Branch Officers-Prez Frank's Report-Latest Workroom Floor News-CCAs to welcome into Branch 7-Committee Reports-50/50-\$50 meeting jackpot-MDA Raffle-FOOD & REFRESHMENTS-SEE U ON WEDNESDAY JANUARY 9 AT HIBERNAN HALL (AOH BUILDING)-105 FEDERAL STREET IN LYNN- IT ALL STARTS AT & 7 P.M.

Dear Mr. Costin,  
Congratulations for the naming of Lynn's PO in your honor. Fortunately this ceremony is scheduled this spring, which hopefully will be enough time to bring the building up to the condition that you left it in. Right now, it is a shameful pit, that you surely wouldn't want to be associated with. In your time here, floors and walls glistened, the yard spotless, etc. Will a couple of months be enough time to undo years of neglect? Let's hope so for your and the current compliment's sake. We truly look forward to celebrating with you and hope that we are indeed invited to participate in this momentous, historical event.

Best Wishes,  
Your Past and Current Employees of the Lynn Installation



**MDA REPORT**

December/Holiday Meeting Raffle raised \$276 (THANK YOU MUCHLY), bringing the yearly total from them to \$1,088 (THANK YOU MUCHLY). THANKS to Matt Titus for donating some cheer prizes. January Meeting Raffle-Food & Cheer-Kelley's Gift Card and a BIG Bottle of Cheer.

In 2018, Branch 7 raised \$2,911.00 for MDA (THANKS), about \$350 less than in 2017. THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO ALL that donated in many ways to MDA in 2018.

If any member have item(s) to donate to the monthly meeting raffles or any fund-raising ideas-GREATLY APPRECIATE IT- SEE ME

**RETIREEE NEWS**

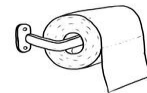
To Branch 7 retirees, especially those living out-of-state, could you please have your spouse or family members notify the branch or me upon your passing, as we can send a memorium or sympathy card. Also, if any of your family members have passed on, the branch sends a memorium for immediate family members (Husband/Wife, Son/Daughter, Brother/Sister). ALWAYS, your right to privacy or not tell us is honored and respected. You can reach me at (781) 289-0590.

Retiring in 2019-Think about remaining a NALC/Branch 7 member-ONLY \$10 a year/84 cents a month from your annuity. Get 7 NEWS to keep up-to-date on what's happening at the PO and your former co-workers as well as receive The Postal Record. Also, I have booklets from the NALC on retirement, with info on the preparing for it. Again, (781) 289-0590.

**\$50 WINNER**

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

**V** Bathrooms  
**E** filthy conditions,  
**N** some working off the clock,  
**T** no water in the frig, etc..  
Yet your socks or shirt are on the boss's radar



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branch7srt@comcast.net  
Weathercheck and VENT  
\$50 Give Away, Election Results, Dear Mr. Costin,  
Retiree News, MDA Report, Postal Mania,  
President's Report, Shorthand, Willow Street Whine,

*Inside This Issue*

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