



# SEVEN NEWS ♦

Volume 26 Issue 2

February 2019

## The President's Report by Frank Spathanas

Greetings everyone. Dawn of a new era. As most of you know, the Postmaster announced his retirement for February 1st. What does this mean for the letter carriers of the Lynn district? Is it the devil that you know is better than the devil you don't? That remains to be seen. We are all going to have to see who District appoints to Postmaster and in the meantime we will all have to deal with acting Postmaster Carlos Orozco. He already sent out signals to his floor managers that all letter carriers should be in proper uniform. There was also a stand up talk of no touching the FSS. I imagine they will be enforcing these rules so please don't be made an example of. Just do your job the way it is supposed to be done. With a new Postmaster coming in, I'm sure he or she will want to put a stamp on how they want to run their office. I will have to sit down with the new Postmaster and address issues that were left unaddressed by the previous Postmaster. Maybe it will be wishful thinking that the new Postmaster might be able to resolve the parking issue and the staffing issues that the previous Postmaster couldn't do over the last couple of years. We will have to see who we get and how they are going to work with us. Are they going to work with us or against us? We'll see. I also want all members who read this newsletter to approach their stewards or myself or email me at [nalc-branch7@gmail.com](mailto:nalc-branch7@gmail.com) and tell them that they read it. I will explain at the next meeting. See you at the next meeting.



Love to See You  
@NEXT  
Union Meeting  
February 13,, 2019  
7 P.M. Sharp!!



Sup my people? It's time for another pop-up article from the Saugus Scribe, been a lil bit since you got some news from the gulch, so I figured I'd hop in and let y'all know how everything is going in the 01904 now that the puddles have frozen and we can get around again without swimming.

First off, what a holiday season! Didn't even have to be on the list to take 2 hours of OT every day on even the shortest route in the place. I actually feel bad for management for having to stick around till 5:30 most nights. Ok so the big news is there may be a couple heavy hitter retirements happening this month, if so look for route shakeups galore when that goes down.

Bunch of dudes got off the OTDL for the winter months, can't blame them. Craig Rourke went to Disney for a mini vacation. Sweet.

Ok, that's it this time around, till next time keep it cool, wear the shoe covers and bear claws, and tip your waitress!

The Scribe

## Shorthand

From the Secretary  
by Frank Quartarone

CONFUCIUS SAY: ALWAYS have a Steward or Union Rep PRESENT, when called into the office by management, especially if might involve discipline- IF DENIED-ask to speak to a Steward or Union Rep - IT'S YOUR CONTRACTUAL RIGHT UNDER THE NATIONAL AGREEMENT

COA-FYI

Recently, several members, who changed their addresses, informed me that they did it on Postal Lite Blue, which is fine for notifying the PO-BUT NOT THE UNION. If you have moved-notify your station Steward or me-as to update branch files-THANKS

7 NEWS ADS

Simon's Uniform and Massachusetts Family Credit Union have placed paid ads in 7 NEWS-SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION by making use of their services (PO Clothing/Banking Services)-THANKS LCPF-LETTER CARRIER POLITICAL FUND

\$5 a pay period for Job Insurance to protect your Job, Wages and Benefits

\$5 a pay period to have the NALC's voice/agenda heard by our elected officials in Congress

\$5 a pay period to STOP Trump and those in Congress who want to PRIVITIZE the PO

\$5 a pay period to STOP UPS and FedEx, who want our Parcel business

\$5 a pay period to ensure the PO will be around for a while

\$5 a pay period to PROTECT your retirement/benefits by stopping those that (continued on page 3)

## Postal Mania

by  
Dorothy Curtis

A few weeks ago, one of our fellow letter carriers, Jesse Karonis unexpectedly passed away. At this point in time I do not know any definitive details so I will not speculate as to what happened. For those of you that didn't know Jesse, he started as a CCA in Swampscott in May 2017 and was converted to a full time regular in August 2018. I think he was also the only carrier to wear his postal ID every day. Jesse was going through some hard times lately and he was grateful to his fellow carriers for helping him out. He will be missed.

The biggest issue we have in Lynn right now is staffing which of course means that local management is doing nothing to fix it. Instead management is spending their time doing observations on carriers and giving out PDIs (Pre-Disciplinary interviews) on the workroom floor. That is completely unacceptable for two reasons: 1) The supervisor isn't giving the situation the respect it deserves by NOT having an interview in private. 2) You, the carrier did not ask for a steward. If I see what could be a PDI happening I usually ask the carrier about it later. When it is confirmed that the carrier did indeed have a PDI and no they did not ask for a steward, the excuse usually is that the carrier didn't realize a PDI was happening until it was too late, or they are used to the supervisor automatically providing a steward as a courtesy. Depending on the Sups mood, the steward courtesy is over, you got to ask for one. You can stop the interview at any time and ask for a steward. What qualifies as a PDI, you ask? In my opinion, that is anytime a supervisor asks you a question of any kind.

A very wise person once said, "Don't raise your voice, improve your argument". That's sound advice and will keep you out of trouble.

## WEATHERCHECK

It's getting to be that time of year, when the Postal Service will really be watching how you perform, your everyday duties. The upcoming months are usually the lightest months of the year. How to ensure that your route is as close to eight hours as possible, is totally UP TO YOU! Performing your office duties, such as checking your vehicle, withdrawing and racking your mail, getting your scanner, signing for accountables, and keys. Safely pulling down your route, are all office duties. (working off the clock to make your day easier, IS NOT one of them!!) (just saying) After all these morning duties are performed, then you, load up your hamper, (if there is any room, (AMAZON), and punch out to the street. Do not overload your hamper, make as many trips as it takes, to work safely. Do not load anything into your vehicle on office time, it is all a street function! Street performance is no different. Return empty equipment and scan out to the route. Most carriers handle upwards of 50 parcels a day, plus all those annoying SPR's. Some carriers have 100 or more scans daily, (way more during the holiday season.) This all takes time. Take the time needed to deliver, all the parcels & the mail, SAFELY! Take the time to scan Also, take your two 10-minute breaks & your half hour, lunch. Also, stop for your comfort stops, it's all part of your route evaluation! All your BAD mail, MIS-SORTS, A-Z, UNK, MLNA, and whatever else you may have, should all be sorted out, on the street, into your sluff trays. If you follow the same routine daily, you will have no problem, in the event you are walked with, or inspected! Your performance daily, is your time, for your route. Every carrier, carries, their route, to their ability, and their daily performance to the duties and instructions assigned. Perform your job, to the duties assigned to you, every day, and you will be a model carrier!

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## WILLOW STREET WHINE

by John D'Amato

Load leveling, fact or fiction? Since the advent of DPS and FSS, management has promoted to the workman floor that the mailers in conjunction with the plant will evenly distribute the mail throughout the week, so each day has the same volume. Hogwash! A little history lesson on the original load leveling for all the pre FSS employees. Every route had a daily reference volume (residual flats and letters). If you had more volume than the referenced amount, you got OT or help, if you had less, you got pivoted. The point is, we took out the same amount of mail each and every day. Management's job was to walk around with a ruler and get an "actual" "measurement of your mail. They would empty buckets of mail, filling up the tubs to the top as to make sure they would get every inch. Presently, we get what we get. Mondays, the day after holidays, snow days or short help days, the choice of what we bring out is out of our hands. Of course, that is just for this region of the country, as there are no FSS machines west of the Mississippi. So as the eastern region takes a beating for the expensive cost of running these FSS machines, the carriers will continue to pay the price with long days, delivering an unreasonable amount of mail in managements version of load leveling. Word of the month: Hogwash-nonsense, foolishness, falsehood, basically BS

## Future Meeting Dates

March 13, 2019

April 10, 2019

May 8, 2019

**SHORTHAND from Page 1**

want by stopping those that want to eliminate or lessen them \$10 a month-RETIREES- to protect your retirement benefits and COLAs

I have forms (on-line/phone/electronic transfer) and 1-time contribution pamphlets on giving to the LCPF-SEE ME (781) 289-0590

**NEW POSTMASTER**

Will he/she be a GOOD witch or a BAD witch? We'll soon find out-COME ON Good witch !!!

**LASTLY**

Happy Valentine's Day on the 14<sup>th</sup> ENJOY your day off on President's Day on the 18<sup>th</sup>

KEEP THE MILD WINTER GOING-Mother Nature/Postal Gods REVIEW OF JANUARY/ INSTALLATION MEETING

Prez Frank talked about his Labor-Management Meeting with the Postmaster-number of carriers off in Prime Time Vacation Period-workroom floor and grievance issues-some work-related do's and don'ts-Swearing In of newly elected Branch Officers-Donation Request Approved-\$200 to the Shriner's Hospital-Dave Harris gave a Safety Committee Report-50/50 winner was Paul Nielsen-\$50 meeting jackpot winner was Matt Titus and MDA Raffle raised \$90-A Food and Drink collation to celebrate the Installation of Branch Officers

PREVIEW OF FEBRUARY MEETING (WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>)

Prez Frank's Powerpoint Report-Latest workroom floor and grievance update-LCPF Report-New CCAs to welcome into the branch-Safety Committee Report-50/50-\$50 Meeting Jackpot (MUST SIGN IN BY 7:30)-MDA Pizza Plus Raffle-FOOD-SEE U ON WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 13 AT THE HIBERNIAN HALL OF THE AOH -DIVISION 10-105 FEDERAL STREET IN LYNN-ALL THE 'GOOD STUFF' STARTS AT 7 P.M

**BOOYAH**

The sudden retirement of the PM appears to be the result of your *Seven News*. Our words about the impending building naming, the no lunch arbitration, awful conditions, (short-staffed, weather related, filth, etc.) and more, must have driven him out the door. Will someone be a leader and organize the disarray left behind? Will anyone provide parking, healthy atmosphere and environment, safe equipment and surroundings, etc.? Or will it be the usual, with us struggling to get the mission accomplished without any true support? The reality is near. Wouldn't be surprised if it ends up status quo. You also know of the 3 year and out method. Please surprise and sustain us with a real, positive future. Booyah !



**MDA REPORT**

January Meeting Raffle raised \$90 (THANK YOU), to start off the 2019 monthly meeting raffles. Prize winners were John D'Amato and Dan White. February Meeting Raffle-Pizza Plus.

AGAIN, if any member has an item to donate to the meeting raffles or any fund-raising ideas-APPRECIATE IT-SEE ME-(781) 289-0590.

**RETIREE NEWS**

CONGRATS to Branch 7's newest retirees-Long-time Swampscott Carrier-Jim McManus and Long-time Saugus Carriers-Mark Poto and Shawn Mulcahy. With their retirements, 3 members hired under the old Civil Service system remain on our rolls.

AGAIN, I have booklets from the NALC with info on preparing for your Last Punch-THEY'RE FREE-SEE ME-(781) 289-0590.



**\$50 WINNER**

The name of Brother Matt Titus was drawn as the winner of the \$50 monthly raffle at the January 2019 union meeting. \$50 will be given to the lucky winner at the February meeting. You must sign in to the meeting prior to 7:30pm to be eligible to **win, Good Luck!**

**V**  
**E**  
**N**  
**T**



He was a cook. He is still a cook. But will the books be cooked, while the pot is stirred? This too, We Shall See

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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

branch7srt@comcast.net

President's Report, Shorthand, Willow Street Whine,  
Retiree News, MDA Report, Postal Mania, Saugus Scribe,  
Booyah, \$50 Give Away, Weathercheck and VENT

*Inside This Issue*

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