



SEVEN NEWS ♦

Volume 26 Issue 3

March 2019

The President's Report by Frank Spathanas

Greetings everyone. No news on the Postmaster search. We will be dealing with acting Postmaster Orozco for the foreseeable future until all the applications are in, weeded out and interviews are concluded for a new Postmaster to be installed. I don't know how much can get accomplished with an acting Postmaster, such as the downtown parking situation, so we are going to have to roll with what we have. He might be hesitant on making any decisions until a new Postmaster is named. I'm asking all CCA's and members with under ten years of service to try to make a union meeting by the end of the year and to see what you're missing. You should come to the meetings with your questions and concerns so they can be addressed. Like I said many times, this is YOUR union and it's time for you to get involved with YOUR union. Do you want to have a say of what goes on or do you want to sit by with your preconceived notions of this union? It's time to step up and get involved. You guys are the future of this Branch. Speaking of the future, I'm not sure how many of you are aware of the Letter Carrier Political Fund. Congress is always attacking the Postal Service and always looking to cut YOUR benefits, wages, retirement, FERS, COLA, to privatize and also strip your collective bargaining rights away. Do you want Congress to decide your pay and benefits if they took away collective bargaining? Think about it. For as little as \$5 a pay period to the LCPF, that money will go to people who fight for letter carrier causes regardless of political affiliation. Think of this as an!



**Be Lucky
@NEXT
Union Meeting
March 13, 2019
7 P.M. Sharp!!**

investment into your future. It's an on going battle to keep Congress at bay and the attacks are constantly coming. Just a little fact for our members that don't know. Only 12.5% of Branch 7 members contribute to the LCPF. Those 12.5% members are paying and fighting the constant battle and attacks on our jobs and benefits from Congress for the other 87.5% of Branch 7. Think about that. The 87.5% are piggy backing on the 12.5% that are paying for the fight. Contribute

WILLOW STREET WHINE

by John D'Amato
How much does safety cost? 2018 was an extremely busy and stressful year for Branch 7. We were undermanned, overworked, over managed. The Boston district failed in our staffing needs, they failed to manage the excess of parcels (Amazon), and they failed to give the local managers the control to run our offices in a safe way. We were told that Boston would not allow us early start times during the hot summer. When the parcels were heavy this fall, again we were not allowed to start early. We've had many floor talks on our poor safety record in 2018, I wonder why...??? Maybe 2019 will be the year that management figures it out and gives the proper resources and controls to have a less stressful work floor, reasonable expectations and a safer year. Then again, this is the Post Office, we know what to expect. Word of the month: **Failure**: lack of success, (see Post Office Management.)

Shorthand

From the Secretary
by Frank Quartarone

7 NEWS-PART I

At the February Meeting, members present decided to keep 7 NEWS as a monthly mailing as opposed to publishing it every 2 months (YEAH). READ IT OR NOT, 7 NEWS has been around since 1995, based on the idea that an Educated/ Informed carrier is a better carrier. WEATHER, it's talking about our job, contractual rights, mismanagement, upcoming events and all things Branch 7. It's mailed 10 times a year to your home address and is written by Letter Carriers For Letter Carriers. SO, Become an INFORMED CARRIER-READ 7 NEWS.

7 NEWS-PART II

The Swampscott Office is voiceless and 7 NEWS is incomplete. 7 NEWS is looking for someone to step up and write a Swampscott Office column. You don't have to be a Shakespeare or Pulitzer Prize winner to write and it's your column to inform Branch 7 members about things in 01907. Contact Me@ (781) 289-0590. THANKS CONFUCIUS WASN'T A LETTER CARRIER/ME BAD

It's not in the national agreement BUT it's your Weingarten Rights, backed by a U. S. Supreme Court decision. As stated in my column last month, ASK for a STEWARD or UNION REP if called into the office by management, ESPECIALLY if it might involve discipline for you. ALSO, you can stop the interview at any time and ask for a STEWARD or UNION REP (if none are present). Branch 7 has business-size cards, explaining your Weingarten (continued on page 3)

Postal Mania

by
Dorothy Curtis

. If you're planning on taking any time off from now until May 5th or after October 27th (Incidental leave time), I want you to listen up. There is a misconception out there that if you book a trip that you can't be denied the time off. What if 50 carriers request off the same week? Like anything else at the post office, there are rules about that. If you need to request time off put in your leave slip 30 days in advance. Local management has 72 hours to get back to you about your request.

There is an exception if you need to know if you have the time off before 30 days. In that instance you would fill out a slip and produce some sort of documentation to show why you need the time off. I urge you not to have documentation that is nonrefundable. To put it another way, do not book a nonrefundable trip until you know you have the time off. I would suggest you price out a trip and show that instead. You also need a steward to sign off on any slip that you need approved over 30 days in advance.

Supervisors have 2 jobs in the morning before us carriers leave for the street. That is to make sure we have vehicles (vehicle keys) and dole out overtime. For the life of me I can't figure out why carriers want to help supervisors figure that all out before they punch on the clock in the morning. It is not a carrier's job to stress about such things. When you punch in grab your keys to do a vehicle check. If you don't have vehicle keys wait in line with the rest of the carriers by the sups desk (and make overtime) to tell your supervisor you do not have vehicle keys. Once you make a supervisor aware of the situation go about the rest of your office duties. If you get your vehicle keys before you are done with your office duties that is great and you should go do your vehicle inspection.

If you don't get your keys and you're all done with your office duties, you should swipe the clock to waiting time (code 354). You should also pull up and stool to sit and wait (hence the code "waiting" time) for a supervisor to notice that you are sitting down and not working. There is nothing a supervisor hates more than a carrier sitting down (and making

overtime) so I'm pretty sure you will have your keys in no time. Now, doesn't that sound like a more pleasant work environment when you put the onus back on them where it belongs?

WEATHERCHECK

Happy Spring To All!, Hopefully mother nature will be cooperating with us, for an early spring! The winter itself, was not unbearable. Only a few snow days, a couple bad icy days, and only a couple cold snaps. You never know, here in New England though! With the loss of all those Amazon parcels, overtime has dropped down, somewhat. It, is a well deserved break, though, after delivering hundreds of thousands of parcels day in and day out! There is still plenty to do on your routes though! Now with the nicer weather approaching, I'm sure management will be out doing, observations! Be aware of your surroundings, and work safely! Conduct your daily duties the way you have been instructed to do so, and you will be just fine. Your branch officers are on the lookout, for a carrier, who recently made regular, or a CCA. This person, would be willing to work with, a branch officer, or steward as to getting more involvement from the newly hired CCA's and newly converted regulars. This branch, will all be handed down to you, someday, and we need your voices and ideas, for the future ahead! You are the next generation of carriers, and need to, and should be involved in it path forward. Talk to anyone of your branch officers, or please come down to the next meeting, we will listen to you. Daylight savings, Spring Forward, Springtime, warmer weather, vacation list, vacations, and St. Paty's Day, all in our future!

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OPINIONS/OFFER your IDEAS



Greetings again from the 01906 kids! As the cold winter months have settled in, its time to reflect on what's been happening around these parts now that snow is on the ground and the mighty winds are blowing magazines out of our arms and into the Saugus River... Day to day business has gotten a little bit easier in the 'Gus with the absence of amazon's death grip, some of the dismount routes have actually become driving routes again, and those of us lucky enough to walk all day have found that we don't really have to cover streets twice in order to deliver all the mail, sweet!

With the shrinkage(it's cold. Get it?) in volume and the holidays over management has once again gotten the stick out to beat the dead horse that is "don't touch the FFS", something I'm sure we all strive to do when the headliners and bed baths and menus (oh my!) are patiently waiting to become a 3rd-5th bundle in our bags and tired arms. Personally, I'd take the extra ten minutes office time and spare the extra 5 minutes putting it all together for every loop on the street, but I'm just a float guy, nobody's walking with me anytime soon, so take that for what it's worth. We've seen two Postal legends, Mark A. Poto and Shawn "the Bomb" Mulcahy, drift off into the sunset, I'd like to wish a heartfelt congrats to both of them on their retirements and wish all the best for them, as I'm sure all you fellow readers do! Wayne Taylor, pick your vacations already and get ready to follow suit, brother! Here's a big congratulations to our man Josh Sanchez on the birth of his first child, a beautiful baby boy! Welcome to the wonderful world of fatherhood my man. It seems the ranks are swelling with new Cca's here at the office, we're practically full-staffed right now, a trend that hopefully holds up as spring approaches and route 6 wants help. Welcome to all you new cats and kittens, do t let anyone tell you to get out while you still can! Okay peeps, that's all the Scribe has for you this time out, we'll see you next month!

Be excellent to each other,
The Scribe

SHORTHAND from Page 1

Rights, for carriers to have. I'll have them at the March Meeting LCPF-THE VOICE OF THE NALC

I'll have forms for carriers to fill out to contribute to the LCPF at the March Meeting (on-line/phone/electronic transfer) as well as pamphlets for 1-time contributions. RETIREES-you can contribute from your annuity-I have forms for that-(781) 289-0590. PROTECT YOUR JOB, BENEFITS AND RETIREMENT !!!

LASTLY

March 17th-HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY !!!

MARCH 20th-WELCOME SPRING !!!

REVIEW OF FEBRUARY MEETING

Prez Frank spoke on a Step B Express Mail Decision/Incidental Leave/Labor-Management Meeting with acting Postmaster/How to carry FSS Flats properly and safely-\$200 donation to AOH-Division 10 5K Road Race-Suzanne Titus received her 30-year NALC Membership Pin-4 new CCAs welcomed into Branch 7-50/50 winner was Steve Hathaway and \$50 Meeting Jackpot winner was Chuck Kelley-Food -Lido Pizza

PREVIEW OF O'MARCH MEETING

Trustee's Semi-Annual Audit Report on Branch Finances-How to handle Amazon parcels placed in mailboxes-Report on latest Labor-Management Meeting-NALC Membership Pins to give out-Materials on LCPF and Weingarten rights- 50/50-\$50 Meeting Jackpot-MDA Irish Cheer Raffle-FOOD-SEE U THERE!!!

WHEN-WEDNESDAY MARCH 13th

WHERE-HIBERNAN HALL-105 FEDERAL STREET-LYNN
TIME- 7 P.M. START TIME



WHO MISSES MAKING LLV PUZZLES ?



MDA REPORT

February Meeting Raffle raised \$110 (THANKS), bringing our 2019 yearly total from them to \$200 (THANKS). Pizza Plus Raffle Winners were Dave Harris and Sarah Hicks. O'March Meeting Raffle-Irish Cheer Raffle.

Q-What's Green or Gold and costs \$2 ???

A-Branch 7's MDA St. Patrick Day's Shamrocks to place on your rack if you want to

To Get One-MDA Reps- Bill Burgess-Main Office/Brian Corbin-Saugus/Paul Nielsen-West Lynn/Doug Mishel-Swampscott

RETIREE NEWS

CONGRATS to Branch 7's newest 50-year NALC member -Brother Stan Penkul. Branch 7 has 18 50-year NALC members

THANKS AND ENJOY RETIREMENT to Jim McManus for remaining a NALC/Branch 7 member in retirement.

Future Meeting Date

April 10, 2019

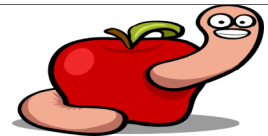
May 8, 2019

June 12, 2019

\$50 WINNER

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

**V
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Q: How is the PO Like the Church?

A: They both Hide the Bad Actors

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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,
\$50 Give Away, Weathercheck and VENT

Inside This Issue

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