



SEVEN NEWS ♦

Volume 26 Issue 6

June 2019

The President's Report by Frank Spathanas

Greetings everyone! With summer approaching us and vacations starting to arrive, my hope is that the overtime will also. I know from having "carte blanche" of overtime to minimal overtime since the postmaster arrived is a big change for some with the standard of living that you were used to. Maybe some of the financial burdens that people accumulated can be relieved with the overtime. I know when Amazon was here the last few years it was easy to depend on overtime. Now you can't. The only thing you can depend on is your base salary. It has also been brought to my knowledge that some people are not working their eight-hour guarantee. The newly converted regulars, both recent and in the past couple of years, please be aware that you are guaranteed eight hours and do not clock off ten or fifteen minutes earlier than your end tour. Management may be taking your annual leave away or putting you in leave without pay (LWOP) status without you knowing it. Not only are you draining your vacation time but if you are in LWOP status frequently you may hurt yourself and not be able to accrue annual leave. Work your eight hours! We also have a Branch 7 family outing at the Navigators baseball game on June 30th at 3:30. For \$10 you get all you can eat BBQ and 2 drink tickets. (See



**Bring Your Questions For
Our GUEST NBA
@NEXT
Union Meeting
June 12, 2019**

flyers posted in all offices for more info). See your stewards to sign up and make this a great branch outing. Lastly, something important. Our National Business Agent for Region 14, Rick DiCecca, will be attending the last meeting before summer break. I'm asking all members who routinely don't show up, if you only attend one meeting, make it this one and hear what he has to say about the latest issues that are affecting our jobs. I'm hoping for a strong Branch 7 showing. Did I mention it's free pizza and beer night also? See you there! P.S. I want to thank everyone who participated in the food drive and thanks to coordinator Frank Quartarone for his efforts in collecting 33,000 pounds of food.



**Branch 7 Family Outing
Navigators Baseball Game
on June 30th at 3:30. For
\$10 you get all you can eat
BBQ and 2 drink tickets**
Sign Up at Meeting or
See Your Steward

Shorthand From the Secretary by Frank Quartarone

2019 Stamp Out Hunger
Food Drive
33,000 Pounds-DELIVERED
THANK YOU

Despite the lack of reminder postcards, Letter Carriers of Branch 7, through the generosity of our patrons were able to collect 33,000 pounds (up 1,000 from 2018) to help feed those families and individuals experiencing hunger in the Greater Lynn Area. Mary Magner from the Lynn Hunger Network wanted me to relay to the Letter Carriers (1) THANKS for your efforts that day and (2) how appreciative the recipient food banks and pantries were our food drive. THANKS go out to those carriers that delivered the plastic bags-IT INCREASES the amount given-ASK the Nahant and Saugus Carriers. THANKS go out to Scot Terchiak, Matt Titus and Matt Proodian (and any one I missed) for using their own vehicles to transport the food to Lynn Ladder. A SHOUT-OUT to Retiree Neil O'Donnell, who runs the St. Stephen's Church Food Pantry for assuring the Homeless Vets Shelter got some of the food. Again, MY THANKS LETTER CARRIERS for making the Food Drive a success.

MEETING REMINDERS

Our National Business Agent-Rick DiCecca will be a guest at the June Meeting-A MUST ATTEND UNION MEETING-It's a chance to hear from a national officer and ask any questions on your mind-SEE U WEDNESDAY JUNE 12 !!!

(continued on page 3)

Postal Mania

by Dorothy Curtis

Maybe against popular opinion, I have filled out the Postal Pulse survey in the last few years. If postal management wants to pay me up to 15 minutes of overtime to have me reflect on how I have been treated by them for the last year that's okay by me. I give each question a lot of thought. I have to separate how they have treated me as steward and separate how they have treated other letter carriers behind their backs that I have observed when I'm in a steward capacity. I have to dig out my work observations for the last year (two of them) and reflect upon those interactions. I have to think about what kind of suggestion I'm going to write about in the comments section. If you choose to take part in the survey make sure you list it on your 3996 as a reason for needed overtime.

Hopefully this is the last time I have to mention the "no lunch" policy. It is back in full effect in the Lynn installation, due to an arbitration decision in our favor. Across the country management has been trying to get rid of the no lunch policy. Ironically (In my opinion) this is because higher level management doesn't trust lower level management to go into the computer and make sure we are paid appropriately for taking a "no lunch". As far as I'm aware, in the Lynn installation before July 2018 all carriers were paid appropriately when taking a no lunch.

The "no lunch" policy is as follows: Any letter carrier, including CCAs who is scheduled to work over 6 hours gets a half hour lunch. At the carrier's discretion (not management's discretion!) the carrier may opt to work without taking a lunch and notify management that they took a "no lunch" so management can make sure the carrier gets paid for that 30 minutes that would have been automatically taken out if they took a lunch. The carrier can make a choice every day whether or not to do a "no lunch". If you take a "no lunch" every day that does not constitute abuse, that means you are partaking of a benefit. If fact in the arbitration our very own Manager of Customer Service testified under oath that in his view there had been no abuse of "no lunch punch" in the Lynn installation. I didn't personally witness him say this but I picture it like a scene in the movie "liar liar" with Jim Carrey as it had to be dragged out of him.

One last thing for CCAs. As you guys know Amazon on Sundays is no longer being done out of the Lynn installation. Lynn CCAs have to now go to Peabody (which sucks) or Haverhill (which really sucks). If Peabody or Haverhill is further than your current commute, you are entitled to get paid millage for the difference. Management will not put this in for you automatically, you need to request it every time or have your steward request it for you. If you have any questions about that, let me know.



Well, times sure have changed. At this time last year, Saugus was shorthanded and working, at times, 60 hour weeks. Management was asking for volunteers to pick up the slack almost daily while management was using 204b's so they could go home early. Funny, but with a new Postmaster, our manager has found her seat at a desk till 6 instead of the partial days she used to work. Well, this year, we are being made to pivot, get out of the office, hit all your scans in the street, and god forbid you make a mistake, discipline is sure to come. Now comes the threat of changing start times because Carriers aren't getting out by 8:30. If someone can tell me how the change of start times is going to get us out of the office quicker, let me know! This, in my opinion, is an attempt to get rid of the canteen truck for the third time. I guess the third time is a charm. Just last week out of the mouth of management I was told that we should be bending over backwards for customers. So let's get them their mail later in the day by changing start times, right? I guess while we bend over backwards, our customers will be bent over in another direction. With summer vacations approaching, I'm sure more inventive ways will come to make us carriers conform to what will help management with their

numbers. If there is any time, we, as Union members, should be getting to our meetings for information about how to combat the micromanagement that is going on, it is now. I always say, when you come to a meeting, bring a co-worker. If everyone does this, we will pack the house. See you at our June meeting.

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WEATHERCHECK

The last meeting before the summer break, is upon us, and it would be great to see you all there! Any new CCA, or a carrier who recently, made regular, come on down! I will personally buy you a cold beverage, after the meeting! Summer is upon us, so make sure you stay hydrated!!!! Vacation season is also here! Everyone take the time to enjoy your well-earned vacations, with your families & friends! Recently West Lynn, had a carrier retire. We want to wish Chris Burkinshaw, a happy and well-deserved retirement, after 30 plus years, Enjoy! Please take the time, to work safely out there on your routes. Do not put yourself in any type of dangerous situations. Do your job, just as you have been instructed, to do, and you will make out just fine! Take the time to enjoy your summer, everyone needs a little break, now and then! See you all at the meeting!

SHORTHAND from Page 1

Any UNSOLD tixs for the New England Pats Tix Raffle WILL BE available at the June Union Meeting-\$20 a Tix or 3 for \$40 (Such a bargain).

FUTURE OF BRANCH 7

At the May Meeting, Prez Frank started the conversation about Branch 7's future, as several senior/older members will be retiring (including this fossil) from the Executive Board. IT'S TIME for junior/younger members to step up and carry this union on. At the May Meeting, I saw some newer faces there and voicing their opinions-KEEP COMING AND KEEP SPEAKING UP-Be U a CCA/recent CCA Convert/ Junior Carrier/Senior Carrier. IT'S time for the next generation of union leaders and activists. BE IT a Branch Officer/Steward/ Activist/Voice on the Workroom Floor. As Prez Frank says-IT'S YOUR UNION AND THE UNION IS IT'S MEMBERS !!!

LASTLY

STAY Hydrated and take the TIME and MEASURES needed to avoid heat-related illness this summer and MOST IMPORTANTLY-ENJOY your "Well Deserved" Summer Vacations

REVIEW OF MAY MEETING

Prez Frank spoke on Labor-Management Meeting with Postmaster-No Lunch Grievance-WE WON-Food Drive-Future of Branch 7. Members approved Trustee's recommendation to pay \$10 of the \$20 cost for food at the Navigators game. -5 members attending the Rap Session gave a report on it-Food Drive update-50/50 winner was CCA Merissa Titus and \$50 Meeting Jackpot winner was Peter Orfanos-MDA Raffle raised \$120-Food-calzones and pizza

PREVIEW OF JUNE MEETING (WEDNESDAY JUNE 12)

NBA Rick DiCecca -guest speaker - Prez Frank Labor-Management Meeting with Postmaster Report-State Convention Report from delegates-Food Drive Report-Safety Committee Report-Latest Union and Workroom floor news 50/50 -\$50 Meeting Jackpot-MDA raffle-New England Pats Tix Raffle Drawing. As per Branch 7 tradition for the June Meeting-PIZZA&BEER. SEE U ON WEDNESDAY JUNE 12 AT THE HIBERNIAL HALL ON 105 FEDERAL STREET IN LYNN. IT BEGINS AT 7 P. M.

RETIREE NEWS

Q-WANT to preserve and protect your retirement benefits ???

A-GIVE TO the LCPF thru your annuity check

You can choose any monthly amount you want-ALSO-a 1-time donation option is available. Contact ME for those forms (781) 289-0590 FYI-The White House Task Force on the PO recommended cutting Civil Service retirement benefits by 5 % a year as well as ELIMINATE COLAS and the Social Security Supplement for future FERS retirees.

Future Meeting Dates

September 11, 2019

October 9, 2019

November 13, 2019

MDA REPORT

May Meeting Raffle raised \$120 (THANKS), bringing the yearly total from them to \$595 (THANKS). Retiree Bob Mason won the Bertucci's gift card. June Meeting-SOMETHING TO -Raffle-Something to wear/eat/drink/carry. Overall total raised for 2019 is \$802 (THANKS)

Saturday August 31 (Labor Day Weekend)-Cool'n Casual T-Shirt Day -Colors-Black & Gold-Flyers with all the details-Late June.

\$50 WINNER

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



**V
E
N
T**

Bad Mgt is Like a Bad Penny That Keeps Turning Up. Apparently Lynn Has A Lot of Loose Change

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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, Branch
Family Outing, Saugus Scribe,
Retiree News, MDA Report, Postal Mania,
\$50 Give Away, Weathercheck and VENT

Inside This Issue

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