



# SEVEN NEWS ♦

Volume 26 Issue 9

November 2019

## The President's Report by Frank Spathanas

Greetings everyone. I want to thank everyone who participated in the Branch 7 MDA golf tournament on Columbus Day. It was pretty successful with \$320 raised for MDA. Wish we had a larger turnout, please consider participating next year. By now, with vacations being over and everyone back to work, I'm sure you have all seen the overtime dry up. My hope with the Holiday season arriving very shortly, the parcels and the mail volume will increase. Last year we had Amazon pulverize us where we could print our own money. Now, we will be lucky if we have half the parcels. Like all merchants, my thinking is, Black Friday and the holiday season should be prosperous, and we will see more packages arrive. This will bring overtime back to the people on the overtime desired list. We shall see. Also, if you see private delivery companies (Amazon, UPS, Fedex) using USPS mailboxes for the delivery of parcels, bring the parcels back to the Post Office so that the parcels can be processed for postage. The Post Office owns these mailboxes and we have to protect against the privatization in any manner, of the Postal Service. This is one of the battle grounds in Washington, to open up the mailboxes for anyone to use. Can't do it. It will cost us our jobs. Do not let it happen, bring them



**Turkey Theme  
@ NEXT  
Union Meeting  
November 13, 2019  
7 P.M. Sharp!!**

back. I'll will to talk to the Postmaster about the possibility of earlier start times. I will have more on this at the next meeting. Lastly, I want to wish all those that have served our country a happy Veteran's Day. If you see a veteran, thank a veteran. Also, I want to wish all the members of Branch 7 a Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families. See all you turkeys on the 13th.

**Shorthand  
From the Secretary  
by Frank Quartarone**

THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE TO ALL BRANCH 7 MILITARY VETS ON NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>  
THANKS FOR ALL OUR BLESSINGS ON NOVEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>  
XTRA 7 NEWS  
If any member hasn't received their 7 NEWS newsletter for the month, I HAVE extra copies available-Contact your station steward or me at (781) 289-0590. PLEASE notify the branch if you have moved or your address is incorrect-THANKS  
BRANCH 7 WEBSITE  
GET the latest Branch 7 news, updates and happenings in between issues of 7 NEWS. Also, it has a lot of important features-like links to the National Agreement, FMLA, Thrift Savings Plan, NALC Health Plan and CCA rights as well as FMLA and Letter Carrier Political Fund forms. You can view old newsletters, latest seniority lists, a (continued on page 3)

## DELEGATE ELECTION NOTICE

At the October Branch Meeting, held on Wednesday October 9,2019, members present decided to send four (4) delegates at full finding (5 days pay/ 6 night hotel stay/ travel fare) to the 2020 National Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii. The President, by nature of the office, is automatically a delegate to the National Convention. At the October Branch Meeting, fourteen (14) members were nominated and five (5) declined their nomination. After the three (3) day period of acceptance or decline, two (2) members declined their nomination. As follows in the order of their nomination are the seven (7) nominees for delegates to the 2020 National Convention.

DELEGATES-----FOUR (4) TO BE ELECTED

PAT BYRNE  
CHUCK KELLEY  
SUZANNE TITUS  
DOUG MISHEL  
STAN PENKUL  
BRIAN CORBIN  
PAUL NIELSEN

BALOT DUE DATE----- FRIDAY  
NOVEMBER 8,2019

FRANK H. QUARTARONE  
SECRETARY-BRANCH 7, NALC



## Postal Mania

by Dorothy Curtis

The new Postmaster sure is trying to clean house (literally and figuratively) since he got here. The chatter around Lynn is that his numbers show the need for 7 less clerks in the installation. Since I'm not privy to said numbers I cannot vouch for the validity of that but just through my own observations I cannot see how that is possible. Even though numbers don't tell the whole story, it is still important for the numbers to be accurate. That's why if you are asked or see a non-clerk performing clerk work you should let your steward know, who will then forward that information to the appropriate AP-WU official. While we are on the subject of letting your steward know, I also want to remind carriers to let your steward know if you think you see a violation of the contract, if you get any form of discipline or if you are told an improper instruction.

If you have stepped foot inside the Lynn main office in the last few weeks, I am sure you noticed all the changes that were made to the equipment locations and case locations. I like the changes a lot. Who knew that throwing out a ton of sh\*& and moving the cases closer to the wall would open the whole office up. Some carriers lucked out and had their case moved closer to the bathroom and 2 feet away from their hamper. While others lucked out by their cases being hidden in plain sight. The only ones who didn't luck out were the supervisors. Two of their desks including the stool that they used for a filing cabinet have become standing podiums side by side. They have a great view of the FSS which is now in the middle of the workroom floor and a great view of the manager "guarding it".

The installation has had a few retirements in the last month. I want to wish Paul Howell and Brenden McHugh a happy retirement. It's customary that when someone quits the post office to at least give them a shout out at a service talk. Unfortunately, Elianny Luciano didn't get that so I want to wish her luck as well.



**V** Constantly Choosing the Lesser of  
**E** Two Evils is Still Choosing Evil  
 Jerry Garcia  
**N** Don't Vote for the Lesser Evil, Fight  
 for the Greater Good  
**T** Green Party



This month's article is going to be about my job as steward. I have been the steward for about a year now I took over for the steward who, I guess was just sick and tired of getting bashed all the time I took the job knowing that the Saugus office was not in a good place. A vote to not have an inspection and just take a deal from management to add time on routes, really divided the office. So I really didn't know what role the steward played but I was going to find out the hard way. Without any training I took the job head on. I was expected to have the answers for everything that the carriers needed answered such as workroom issues, benefit issues and days off issues. Also, management, I feel, tested me to see what I was going to do with discipline, workroom floor issues, and grievable incidents. I took it upon myself to find out the answers to problems if I didn't know the answers. Everyday I am learning. I have knocked down a lot of things such as disciplines and have worked out things with mgmt. before they became grievances. I have helped people with FMLA issues, benefit issues, etc.. Things that a year ago I had no knowledge about. I have gone to bat for a lot of issues in the year. I helped a carrier get through problems he was having by talking to our last two postmasters and station manager and helped get him moved to another craft that has helped him in his everyday living. I feel that postal management and the Union need to come together and start working together if we are going to keep this company viable. I think we owe it to the people we serve everyday. I have tried to do this but I am getting a lot of pushback. I expected it. But what I didn't expect is that it would come from the people who I am trying to protect everyday, the carriers. I have recently been accused of getting special treatment from management and being too close to them. I am disappointed by this and honestly a little hurt by it. I don't think I have ever done anything as steward that wasn't in the best interest of the carriers in this office. I will not let carriers who can't see this, get me down though. I recently went around and asked all the carriers to become steward in January so that I could concentrate on other things going on in my life and surprisingly (not) couldn't get any takers. I don't mind getting accused of working with mgmt., because I am. As I said, I feel we need to work together to make this job better and for the service to our customers. So I hope that by working together with them will help me to protect the jobs for those of you who need them to support yourselves and your families. If there is anyone who feels that I am not doing the job they expect, please let me know, let's sit down one on one and I will definitely listen. Please do me a favor and come talk to me about your issues. Don't go behind my back to mgmt. and complain about me. I can handle criticism and I like a challenge to correct what I am doing wrong. Just give me that chance.

## WEATHERCHECK

It is in your best interest, to get out of the office, and get to the street! Do whatever is necessary, on office time that you are supposed to do, in the office, and everything else on street time. Vehicle checks, accountable mail, retrieving keys & scanner, and casing of residual mail, and SPRs is all an office function. Get your hamper, pumpkin, pull down your route, load up your DPS, FSS, and head to the street. It is in your best interest, to break down your DPS, and FSS, into your relays, out on the street. It is also for your route times, best interest, that you do it this way! for those of you who haven't figured it out yet, THEY want you out on the street! Fuse in your cased mail, you have into the FSS, and break up the letters and flats, into your relays. It takes a couple minutes, to do this out on the street at the beginning of each relay. If you have 15 relays on your route, at 2 to 3 minutes of prep time, add it up..... 30 to 45 minutes of street work. Racking in the FSS & breaking down the DPS, in the office to make your street time easier, is simply not the way to go! If Consolidated Casing ever makes its way to LYNN, good luck! Protect your routes now, and do the job, the professional way, that you have been instructed to do. Why do you think the DPS & FSS has been moved into, the middle of the floor? So management, can keep an eye on it, so that you do not touch it! There is much more room in the Lynn office now, thanks to the new floor plan. A little more walking, now to get your mail & parcels, for some, but still a welcomed, and fresh new look! Just want to Welcome the Nahant, carriers over to the West Lynn, line. It will be fun! Saturdays are the Best in West Lynn. With the cooler & colder weather coming, prepare yourself, for what mother nature will throw at us! our busy season is upon us, and all the professionals that you are, will be able to handle it! Be safe!

BRANCH 7 WEBSITE IS  
**nalcbranch7.com**  
 All things Branch 7-  
 To Keep Members Informed

**SHORTHAND from Page 1**

-old newsletters, latest seniority lists, a comment /suggestion section and a photo gallery. MUCH THANKS to Webmaster CHUCK KELLEY. THAT'S nalcbranch7.com-for all things Branch 7

**A BETTER BRANCH 7**

I like to speak to those Senior/Junior carriers of the branch, with 10 plus years of service. We need you to get involved in the union and see your faces at a union meeting. You have been there and done that regarding your job and how things are on the workroom floor, NOW, it's time to offer the branch your experience and knowledge as well as your ideas, concerns and voices to make Branch 7 better for its members. Be it a steward, Branch Officer. Activist or workroom floor leader and mentor. LET'S start your involvement -SEE U AT THE NEXT UNION MEETING ON NOVEMBER 13<sup>th</sup> !!!

**LASTLY**

November 3-Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 4- Early Darkness/ Working in the Dark

EARLIER START TIMES would be nice-doubtful management would do the right thing 'cause it's really about safety-your safety.

REMEMBER TTTN-take the time needed to do your job in a safe and professional manner

Our Local Memorandum of Understanding-YOU decide if it's safe to make the delivery

BE SAFE AND WORK SAFE !!!

REVIEW OF OCTOBER MEETING Prez Frank talked about his Labor-Management meeting with the Postmaster-President Emeritus Pat Byrne informed members of his observations as a NALC observer on the Consolidated Case Initiative in Taunton-Members decided to send (4) delegates to the National Convention at full finding-\$210 approved for 1 tix and 1/8 page ad to the North Shore Labor Council Dinner-Dave Harris gave a safety committee report -50/50 winner was Merissa Titus and \$50 meeting jackpot winner was Raubyhan Muhammed (RB)-Food was calzones and pizza.

PREVIEW OF NOVEMBER MEETING (WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>)

Delegate election results to be announced-Workroom floor update-Prez Frank's Report on his monthly Labor-Management meeting with the Postmaster -Latest National News (contract/consolidated casing)-Safety Committee report-50/50-\$50 meeting jackpot-MDA Raffle-FOOD SEE U-----WEDNESDAY November 13<sup>th</sup> -Hibernan Hall-105 Federal Street in Lynn - 7 P.M.

**MDA REPORT**

October Meeting Raffle raised \$50 (THANKS), bringing the yearly total from them to \$910 (THANKS). Dave Harris won the \$30 Gift Card to April's Restaurant in Lynn. November Meeting Raffle-a \$30 Dunkin Donut Gift Card Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Columbus Day MDA Golf Outing raised \$320 (highest total so far). KUDOS to Prez Frank for putting it together and THANKS to all that participated. PRESENTLY-----Branch 7 has raised \$2,423 for MDA in 2019 (THANK YOU MUCHLY).

**\$50 WINNER**

The name of Brother Raubyhan Muhammed was drawn as the winner of the \$50 monthly raffle at the October 2019 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!**

**Future Meeting Dates**

December 11, 2019

January 8, 2020

February 12, 2020

**One T's**  
by Scot Terchiak

Hello, my fellow letter carriers hope everyone is doing well. What I would like to talk about is the Workload Status Report. What's that you may ask? Well it's a report that captures your data for each route on a daily basis for example your DPS, FSS, packages, etc. Carriers should know their base parcels for their route because anything after their base you get an extra minute and half. For example, if your base parcels for your route is 10 and you have 20 packages for that particular day that should create 30 minutes of overtime. If carriers don't know their base parcels you should have their route information sheet by your case. If for some reason, it's not by your case then ask a supervisor for it. This report also captures your office time and street time. Carriers shouldn't be in the office more than an hour, less office time the better. I understand numbers mean nothing to us carriers, but I think it's important to know what management is looking at. This report could be tool to help you protect your route. The most important thing to know if a carrier consistently does their route in less than eight hours and then if our office get route inspected someday, then they would try to use this data against you and add more street time on the route. If anyone has any questions on this, please consult your union reps.

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

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Dave Johansen*

### RETIREE NEWS

CONGRATS to Branch 7's latest "last punch" retirees-PAUL HOWELL (last carrier under old civil service system) and BRENDON MCHUGH (35 year carrier)-BEST WISHES for a LONG and HEALTHY retirement RIP---  
- Long-time Saugus carrier ANDY MURPHY (a 54 year Branch 7/NALC member)  
FINAL 2020 COLA- It's 1.6% for both Civil Service and FERS retirees



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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, Saugus Scribe,  
National Convention Delegate Election Notice,  
Retiree News, MDA Report, Postal Mania,  
\$50 Give Away, One T's, Weathercheck and VENT

*Inside This Issue*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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