



SEVEN NEWS ♦

Volume 26 Issue 8

October 2019

The President's Report by Frank Spathanas

Greetings everyone. I would like to remind everyone of what I spoke about at last month's meeting. For those who were not at the meeting I discussed what transpired at last month's labor/management meeting. The Postmaster informed me that he was going to develop a record keeping system for all carriers. He is going to create a record for each and everyone of us. What is going to be in this record? Let's start with the carriers being late and how many times. Not filling out the 3996's properly. Being out of uniform. Missing MSP scans. Not making the proper clock rings. Not scanning packages. Late Express Mail. Safety violations (Earbuds, not holding handrails, no seatbelts) Probably how much sick leave you use and how many injuries you have. (Already being documented). Do you see where this is all heading? He will be building a case on you to try to discipline you down the road. Typical Post Office bullshit! Make sure you are doing your job the way you are supposed to. If you are not sure of what to do on certain things or have issues, see me or your stewards or senior carriers. Some of us will screw up but try to keep the screw ups to a minimum. At this month's meeting we will be having nominations of delegates for the National Convention in Hawaii for next August. If you have an opinion on this, please come to the meeting. It's your money. We have the MDA golf outing on Columbus Day (10/14/19) at Hillview Country Club in North Reading. It costs \$80 to play with part of it going to MDA. I'm hoping for a better response that I'm receiving at press time. See me or



FRIGHT NIGHT @ NEXT Union Meeting October 9, 2019 7 P.M. Sharp!!

your stewards. Lastly, I want to thank the CCA's or anyone else that was at last month's meeting for the first time. Hope you all come again and bring someone else with you. GET INVOLVED AND STAY INVOLVED. KNOWLEDGE IS POWER. Hope to see you all.

Shorthand From the Secretary by Frank Quartarone

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!!
TREATS FOR ALL THE CARRIERS AND RETIREES OF BRANCH 7
I GOT A ROCK FOR THOSE BLOCKHEADS TRYING TO PRIVITIZE THE PO

WANTED-LETTER CARRIER HEROS

KUDOS to LEE MORRISON for aiding a fallen elderly patron on his route. At the September Union Meeting, National Business Agent Rick DiCecca made a special presentation to Brother Morrison for his heroic actions that day. Also, He was recognized in the September Postal Record-Proud to Serve section

If any Letter Carrier has gone above and (continued on page 3)

DELEGATE NOMINATION NOTICE

Nomination of delegates to the 72th National Convention of the NALC (Honolulu, Hawaii-August 17-21 2020) will be held at the October Branch Meeting on Wednesday October 9, 2019. Eligibility of delegates will be in accordance with Article 5 of the NALC Constitution, which disqualifies any member who holds, accepts or applies for a supervisory position for any period of time, either acting, probationary or permanently. Any member, who has left a supervisory position, is ineligible for a period of two (2) years after termination of supervisory status. Per Branch By-Laws, self-nomination is permissible and any duly qualified member may be nominated although absent from the meeting. Nominees have up to three (3) days to accept or decline their nomination. Branch By-Laws state a nominee must have attended eight (8) of the last ten (10) meetings to be eligible for branch funding. The President, by nature of the office, is automatically a delegate to the National Convention.

At the October Branch Meeting to be held on Wednesday October 9, 2019, members present will determine the number of delegates to attend the National Convention as well as the amount of branch funding per delegate. Also, a three (3) member Election Committee will be appointed.

Election of delegates to the National Convention will be by secret ballot, with ballots mailed to the last known address of eligible members. Ballots will be mailed out during the week of October 14-19 2019, with a due date of FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2019. The Election Committee will announce the results at the November Branch Meeting to be held on Wednesday November 13, 2019. Branch meetings are held at the Hibernian Hall-105 Federal Street in Lynn, with a 7 P.M. start time.

Frank H. Quartarone
Secretary-Branch 7, NALC

Postal Mania

by Dorothy Curtis

It's really starting to annoy me that management keeps on putting the ball back in the carrier's court. For example, if you end up missing a MSP for any reason, they want you, the carrier to report it to the closing supervisor. That may seem like an innocuous thing for them to ask you to do but trust me it's not. First off, if like me you have a 100 things you have to remember to do and finding a supervisor to inform them about skipping an MSP due to construction or whatever does not top your to do list. If you can't scan an MSP, use the text function on your scanner on street time as soon as you miss an MSP.

This next part is important so listen up. The scanner is not infallible. If computers were perfect we would not have any miss sorts in the DPS at all, would we? You could scan an MSP and the scanner could not register it. Since the scanner is not perfect there are numerous decisions out there that start that a carrier cannot be disciplined on MSP data **alone**. Translation: The reason they want you to inform them about missing a MSP is to make their job earlier and to discipline you. If you're in a PDI for a missed PDI, it's going to go like this:

Supervisor: Why did you miss the MSP at 123 Smith Street? Carrier: "There was a loose dog out"

Supervisor: Did you inform the supervisor yesterday of this? Carrier: "no". Do you see how the above conversation could lead to discipline? I do.

If you inform the supervisor of any missed MSPs, in theory that means that if any MSP show up as missing on their paperwork that means you scanned it because if you didn't scan it you would have told them, correct? Take to time on the street to use the scanner text function for missed MSP etc..

I know we are all still getting used to filling out a 3996. If a supervisor denies your request for overtime based on their flawed DOIS numbers, that's ok as long as you call later if you still need overtime. Remember at the end of the day it's the carrier who proves who is correct with how much overtime is needed.

Congrats to Jaden and Melissa on their conversion to full time!



Now that summer is over, it is time to move into what I think is the most dangerous time of the year for carriers. It is the fall. Unfortunately, it is not only the leaves that will fall but carriers have been known to also fall. With the leaves falling it creates some obstacles that are sometimes hidden. We have leaves that cover up sewers and holes in the sidewalks. The leaves also become wet and cause slipping and sliding making footwear so very important. Also, the vehicles slide when stopping on these leaves making it sometimes impossible to brake when needed. Sometimes under the piles of leaves maybe dangers we are unaware of, such as a powerline taken down by a fallen branch or hidden rock to trip over but worst of all children playing in piles of leaves. Let's not let our guard down. Pay attention to your surroundings, hold on to handrails in case of wet leaves on staircases. In Saugus we have had a good year so far with being safe and not having accidents. Let's end the last quarter in good health.

Also, we had a good turnout at the last Union meeting by Saugus Carriers. I think we can do better. Bring a co-worker and get involved, the future of our craft is your hands. If you don't think your Union is doing enough, come to the meeting and call them out. I think some of you will be amazed at how much they really are doing for you and your jobs. Your ideas on how to make your job better need to be shared so why not take them to the people who can help you bring them to light. See you at the meeting!!!

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All things Branch 7-
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Are You a Triple S ?
Suspect Scan Scofflaw

He Who Does Not Trust
Enough , Will Not Be Trusted
Lao Tzu

WEATHERCHECK

Fall is upon us, please use caution, watching where you step & walk. There are plenty of acorns, already, soon to be followed by an overabundance of colorful leaves! Take the time needed to be safe, because if you hurry and hurt yourself, it could be your fault, until you can prove yourself, not guilty! Just want to wish Shirley Fesseden, a warm welcome to West Lynn, route 7. Shirley started on route 7, back the beginning of the summer, just as our Branch 7 break for the summer months started, and I forgot last month to welcome her! West Lynn for life Shirley? Did any of you ever notice that on Mondays, Saturdays, and usually the day after a holiday, that none of the A-Zs, FWD, CFS, COA, or whatever else you might call them, are all in the DPS. None of the good forwards are removed. Why is that? Who is in charge of them, being removed, and who is overseeing, that they are removed, and properly sent on their way to their new address? In the end though, it is more work for the carrier to do, so, \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$! Thank you all who attended last month's meeting! It was great to see a big crowd, as well as some new faces! Please try to keep attending, as this is your Branch, and union, and you all need to be informed, and interested in all that happens. To all you newcomers, CCAs, listen to the advice of the seasoned carriers, they are trying to help you, as well as protect your career, well into the future. We have been there, and through it all, and are only trying to help you! You can learn some pointers and tricks to the trade, if you listen. You can breathe a lot easier in the main office, as the building just went through an, extensive cleaning, that was long overdue! That's all from the Weathercheck, until next time. Stay healthy and be careful!

RETIREE NEWS

Final retiree COLA for 2019 will be announced in mid-October. SO FAR-it stands at 1.6%. Indications point to it remaining about the same, with a small rise or fall percentage-wise.

SHORTHAND from Page 1

beyond to help our patrons or within the community, notify President Spathanas or me. SO, we can notify the NALC and get him or her recognized and honored. If any member wishes to not be recognized-it will be respected.

DELEGATE ELECTION REMINDERS

Make sure the branch has your current address to ensure that you receive a ballot to vote-NOTIFY your station Steward of Branch Officer Be sure to SIGN & PRINT YOUR NAME on the Return Ballot Envelope-it's located at the TOP LEFT CORNER of the envelope.

INFO ON UNION FINANCIAL PRODUCTS

At the meeting, I'll have brochures from the Mutual Benefit Association of the NALC. It offers life insurance plans and annuities for members and their families.

FINAL THOUGHT

GOOD to see some CCAs and newer carriers at the September meeting. Hoped you enjoyed the meeting and mingling with fellow carriers. Spread the word about learning the "union way" of doing your job or getting info on what's happening in Branch 7 and the NALC or offering your voices and ideas to make Branch 7 better for its members. Also, mention there's food and drawings for some \$\$\$.

See u AGAIN on Wednesday October 9 and try to bring another 1st timer !!!

REVIEW OF SEPTEMBER MEETING

Trustee's semi-annual audit of Branch Records Report-National Business Agent Rick DiCecca made a special HERO presentation to Lee Morrison-Prez Frank spoke on attending National Rap Session in August and labor-management meeting with Postmaster-6 new CCAs to welcome into Branch 7-50/50 winner was Bill Burgess-\$50 Meeting Jackpot winner was Chuck Kelley-FOOD was calzones and pizza.

PREVIEW OF OCTOBER MEETING

Nomination of delegates to the 2020 National Convention-Members Present to decide number of delegates to attend and how much branch funding per delegate-materials on the Mutual Benefit Association of the NALC-

Latest update on National Contract negotiations and Consolidated Casing Initiative-More CCAS to welcome into Branch 7-50/50 and \$50 Meeting Jackpot-FOOD.

WHEN: WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 9,2019

WHERE: HIBERNIAN HALL-105 FEDERAL STREET-LYNN

TIME: 7 P.M.

MDA REPORT

September Meeting Raffle raised \$105 (THANKS), bringing the yearly total from them to \$860 (THANKS). Paul Nielsen won the \$40 Gas Gift Card. October Meeting Raffle-\$30 Gift Certificate to April's Restaurant in Lynn.

Next MDA event-"Deliver The Cure" Bowl-A-Thon on Sunday November 3, 2019 at the Metrobowl in Peabody. Flyers with all the details will be posted at each station shortly. Any retirees interested in bowling, contact me @ (781) 289-0590 SO FAR-Branch 7 has raised \$2,053 for MDA in 2019 (MUCHAS GRACIAS)

\$50 WINNER

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

Future Meeting Dates

November 13, 2019

December 11, 2019

January 8, 2020

Willow Street Whine

by John D'Amato

I thought I would regurgitate an old article I wrote in 2011

The end of this story may read like a suit and tie type of a service talk, but it did give me something to think about. I ran into a retired (disabled) carrier last month and we discussed his present health and lifestyle situation. He fights constant back, leg and neck pain. He's developed diabetes and doesn't enjoy retirement like most of us envision someday. During his tenure at the Post Office, I think if you asked him "do you love your job?", he would say, it's an ok job but certainly not love it, but after talking to him I believe he'd trade his current situation for his worse day on the streets of Lynn. Unfortunately for him and all of us, the USPS does not offer us long- or short-term disability. All we have to rely on is our saved up sick leave. I know some of us (myself included) make frequent Doctor appointments and we don't always have a choice on when and what time the appointments are made, so sick leave is used. For him, he had over 2000 hours of sick leave saved up and reiterated to me how important that was to him for his survival. I never thought about it like that before, but I guess I always took for granted that sick hours are a **benefit**. But I guess they are a necessity that we all need to start planning for the worst case scenario because you never know what life has in-store for us.

Word of the month: Benefit: something that promotes well-being; a service (as health insurance) or right (as to take vacation time) provided by an employer in addition to wages or salary (Webster).



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DIVISION 10



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In Memory of
Dave Johansen

One T's by Scot Terchiak

Hello, my fellow carriers, I hope everyone is doing well. What I would like to talk about is doing the job the right way. What do I mean by that, well recently I went on vacation and when I came back, I found mail in my postal truck. After that, while delivering mail on my route I found mail on the floor at the apartment complex instead in the mailboxes. I also had at least five customer complaints about missed deliveries. All of these mistakes can be corrected if carriers take the time needed to do the job the right way. Carriers who fill in for regulars and are not sure about a delivery, don't be afraid to ask questions. I understand that for new carriers it's tough being on a different route every day. We have all been there at one point. However, it is important to take the appropriate time to do the job the right way. Our jobs as Letter carriers is to provide a service for our customers. We get paid by stamps and packages not by taxes. In closing, if we don't do the job the right way our customers will go somewhere else for their business.

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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 Nomination Notice, Retiree News,
MDA Report, Postal Mania, \$50 Give Away, One T's,
Willow Street Whine, Weathercheck and VENT

Inside This Issue

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