



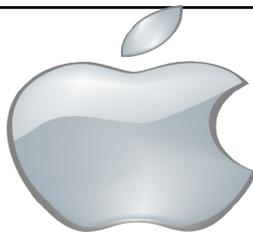
# SEVEN NEWS ♦

Volume 26 Issue 7

September 2019

## The President's Report by Frank Spathanas

Greetings everyone. Hope everyone survived this summer with all the heat and humidity. All letter carriers did a great job in the heat with their jugging and forced overtime in these extreme conditions. I was not aware of anyone with a heat related illness that required form CA-1 to be filled out, so that was a good sign at least. A couple of issues I would like to bring up. One is the Branch 7 Facebook page that we have. There was an issue in July where there was a "carrier on carrier" post. This is NOT what the Branch Facebook page is for. It is not to get fellow carriers in trouble or shit on them. Branch 7 does not and will not condone any of these posts. It was intended to be informative or educational or to send out alerts to carriers, if possible. No member should be ridiculed, mocked, shamed or embarrassed by these posts. Facebook should be used as a tool and maybe some venting, when it's done right, and not any inappropriate material. Second, is not really an issue but I want carriers to be aware as I was personally affected. All carriers should keep track of their clock rings and overtime. I was shortchanged a couple of times by not getting paid for V time. No, management wasn't stealing from me but when I saw my pay stub with no V time on it I brought it to their attention and investigated it and there was no clock manipulations. It was that they had my NS day different than my real NS day. Just happened that I caught this, or it would have gone unnoticed. All carriers, myself included, should be using the work hour tracker to make sure



**Fall Back to the  
NEXT  
Union Meeting  
September 11, 2019  
7 P.M. Sharp!!**

everything comes out right. See your stewards for one! September 11th is the night of our meeting. I have a lot to talk about so hope to see you all then.

## Shorthand From the Secretary by Frank Quartarone

**DO YOUR JOB THE UNION WAY  
IN THE OFFICE AND ON THE  
STREET**

**DO IT IN A SAFE, TIMELY AND  
PROFESSIONAL MANNER**

**DO IT TO AVOID MANAGE-  
MENT'S BULLS-EYES !!!**

**GOOD NEWS**

HR 2382-The USPS Fairness Act-**WILL REPEAL** that BAD 2006 pre-funding requirement that Congress place on the PO, pre-funding future retiree health benefits for 75 years. That Act has 225 bi-partisan co-sponsors in the House of Reps., which is a majority of members. **WHEN**, it reaches 290, it will go to a floor vote.

**BAD NEWS**

The PO's 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter financial report saw package volume drop (3.2%) for the first time in (9) years. Also, FedEx will start delivering packages, previously performed by the PO's "last mile" starting next year.

**SEE U AT THE SEPTEMBER UN-  
ION MEETING-PART I**

Our (continued on page 3)

## NATIONAL CONVENTION ELECTION NOTICE

This is official notice to the membership of Branch 7-Lynn, Massachusetts of the nomination and election of delegates to the 72th National Convention of the NALC (Honolulu, Hawaii). Eligibility of candidates 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 (2) years after termination of supervisory position. Per Branch By-Laws, self-nomination is permissible, and nominees have up to (3) days to accept or decline their nomination. To be eligible for branch funding, a nominee must have attended (8) of the last (10) meetings. The President, by nature of the office, is automatically a delegate to the National Convention.

Election of delegates will be by secret ballot, with ballots mailed out to the last known address of eligible members. Ballots will be mailed out during the week of October 14-19, with a due date of Friday November 8. Nomination of delegates will take place at the October Branch Meeting to be held on Wednesday October 9, 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

All things considered, this summer in Lynn was better than last year. For example, regular carriers are not being utilized on Sundays and yes I consider that a good thing. CCAs are not being forced to work every single Sunday. Regular carriers are not being made to work over 60 hours in a week. CCAs are being converted to regular before they have been here a year. That last one is a good and bad thing considering a CCA who is converted to regular with less than a year of being a CCA serves a 90 day probationary period at the start of their conversion.

Have you guys seen any good videos on YouTube lately? The Lynn post office, as well as a couple other neighboring cities were the victims of a camera holding instigator. I'm not going to get into my opinion on whether it is appropriate to film employees in a postal lobby or not but I did want to talk about what to do if it happens to you. These people are looking to get a rise out of you so that's the last thing you should do. Be polite, request that you not be filmed. If they deny the request, that's okay and help them out with any customer issues that they may have. Don't get into an argument and don't let them drag you into any conversations involving your opinion about what they are doing. If you don't make it interesting for them, they probably will not post anything. At the earliest opportunity after the interaction let your supervisor know what happened.

Going back to Sundays. If you are a Lynn installation carrier and you have to cover in Peabody or Haverhill for Sunday Amazon, you are still entitled to take a "no lunch" if you chose to do so that day. It is irrelevant if Peabody or Haverhill carriers are not allowed to take a "no lunch" since you are a Lynn carrier. Fill out a 3971 requesting a no lunch and give it to the supervisor you are working with that day. If they deny the "no lunch", which they shouldn't because they were spoken to about this, bring the slip into your station the next day and give it to your supervisor to have them put it in. You also want to report any denials to your steward. Congratulations to Merissa Titus and Rachel Lee on their conversions!



With summer almost over time to hunker down, not for winter but for the barrage of supervisory harassment. With the start of the fiscal year coming in October new goals will start for management. So, I think we can expect them to start implementing things in September for that October swoon. Filling out 3996's, getting out of the office, uniforms, street supervision, attendance the list goes on and on. I think we as a union need to start protecting one another instead of throwing each other under the bus. If people don't want to do their job to help themselves don't worry about them but protect yourselves. Running routes and throwing mail off the clock is not helping yourself it is actually hurting you. I guess now that I wrote that I guess I see that it is also hurting other carriers. If you are finishing your route an hour early, eventually you will have your route added to. By adding to your route, they will also be getting rid of routes which in turn gets rid of carriers. They get rid of carriers they will also lower the amount of carriers that can be off in a week which in turn lowers your chance of getting better vacation weeks. You see the point; it all rolls downhill. For you younger guys that feel intimidated and feel you need to rush and not take lunch and breaks, it is crazy. You are lawfully obliged to take your lunches and breaks. If you don't take your lunch, you should be filling out slips stating you skipped lunch if not they are taking a half hour from you which means you worked for nothing. If you want to do that, I have some grass to be mowed or walls to be painted. I don't get why anyone would work for free. Let's work smarter not harder. We are the only craft that must account for every second of our day let's at least get paid for every second of our day.

Please come to the meeting in September and see what's been going on since the last time we met and as always bring a co-worker

## WEATHERCHECK

Welcome Back! Oh that's right, we all worked, the union meetings just took it's summer break! I was recently speaking with a co-worker, and this person made a very good point. We are a union, a brother & sisterhood, that should be watching out for each other, and helping one another out, in times of need or when a situation arises. We should not be looking for ways to call one another out, or trying to get involved in a situation, that management, should be looking at, or controlling. If there is something that you do not agree with, or have seen, that violates the contract, or safety of another carrier, or anyone for that matter, mention it to your steward, or Branch President, or management. Anyone of them will look into the matter, and take care of the situation. Do not display it for all to see, or take the matter into your own hands. The same goes for the people with limited abilities to do their job, or are out of work, with an injury, personal issue, or some kind of health problem. Do you really think anyone wants any of the previous issues? No they don't, but that's just the way life is. Not to mention the fact, that we are all getting older day, by day, and your body, just can't perform the way it did, years ago! Just hope and pray, that you don't fall into one of these situations in the future! That's why you all have Sick leave and Annual leave, or if job related to WC. You earned it, it's yours to use, as needed, for your situation. So remember, WE are a union, and should be sticking up for each other! I personally have helped out many carriers, over the years, and I still would today! I never needed or wanted any recognition, for what I did, it's just who I am, just like many of the other wonderful people, who help out to keep this union, running the way it should! So stick up for your Brother or Sister, because you may need THEM, someday! here's to the wonderful season, Autumn! Cool, crisp, and refreshing!

**SHORTHAND from Page 1**

National Business Agent Rick De-Cecca will be visiting us again for a special presentation. Hopefully, he can give us an update on the case consolidation test and contract negotiations as well as answer some members' questions. Also, Prez Frank will give a report on his attending the National Rap Session in Denver recently.

**SEE U AT THE SEPTEMBER UNION MEETING-PART II**

We will start the discussion on how many delegates to send to the National Convention in Hawaii in 2020 as well as how much branch funding for eligible delegates

**LASTLY-PART I**

CONGRATS to our recent CCA conversions-Elianny Lucianno, Robert (RJ) Glassett, Merissa Titus and Rachael Lee. Also (2) more CCAs-Maria Munoz-Leon and Jaden Ho will be regulars soon.

**LASTLY-PART II**

\$624-\$642-\$642-latest COLA increase for carriers and last one in the present contract. THANKS NALC !!!  
**REVIEW OF JUNE MEETING**

Prez Frank informed members present of latest Labor-Management meeting with Postmaster and talked about the Food Drive and Branch outing at the Navigators game- Special Guest National Business Agent Rick DeCecca spoke about the case consolidation case and other letter carrier issues-Branch 7 delegates to the 2019 State Convention gave reports on it- \$500 in kind donation approved to CCA Maria Munoz-Leon, who suffered a house fire, losing everything-50/50 winner was Prez Frank-\$50 meeting jackpot winner was Brendon McHugh-Winner of New England Patriots Tix Raffle was Steve Comeau-Food was calzones and pizza.

**PREVIEW OF SEPTEMBER MEETING (WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 11)**

Semi-annual Branch Trustees Report on branch finances (January-June 2019)-Special Presentation by National Business Agent Rick DeCecca-Prez Frank to talk about latest meeting with Postmaster and National Rap Session-Discussion on National Convention -number to send and branch funding per delegate-More CCAs to welcome into Branch 7-

Safety and Retiree Reports-50/50-\$50 meeting jackpot (sign in by 7:30 P.M. -MDA Raffle of \$40 gas gift card-FOOD. SEE U ON WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 11 AT THE HIBERNIAN HALL AT 105 FEDERAL STREET IN LYNN-MEETING AND FOOD STARTS AT 7 P.M.



**MDA REPORT**

June Meeting Raffle raised \$160 (THANK YOU), bringing the yearly total from them to \$755 (THANK YOU). Winners of June SOMETHING TO raffle were John Haraden, Doug Mishel, Laurie Saviano and Mark Stevens.

Our annual Cool'n Casual T-shirt Day for MDA on August 31<sup>st</sup> - 95 T-Shirts sold, 1 donation and a little under \$1,000 raised. THANKS to the station MDA Reps-Bill Burgess, Doug Mishel, Paul Nielsen and Brian Corbin and THANK YOU MUCHLY to those that brought a T-Shirt.

SEPTEMBER MEETING RAFFLE-\$40 GAS GIFT CARD !!!

**Future Meeting Dates**  
October 9, 2019  
November 13, 2019  
December 11, 2019

**RETIREE NEWS**

CONGRATS to Branch 7's newest 50 year NALC member-PAUL SCIABA-Branch 7 has (19) 50 year members  
CONGRATS to GENE MUISE-Branch 7's newest 55 year NALC member-Branch 7 has (4) 55 year members  
2020 Retiree COLA stands at 1.6%-Final COLA amount to be announced in October

**\$50 WINNER**

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



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**“Tell Me and I Forget,  
Teach Me and I May Remember,  
Involve Me and I Learn”**

**Benjamin Franklin**

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Bring Extra \$\$ if You Would Like to Try Your  
Luck at the 50/50 Cash Raffle, the Muscular  
Dystrophy Raffle that Supports Individuals and  
Research, (Which is Our Union's National  
Charity), or Both. See You September 11th*

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All things Branch 7-  
To Keep Members Informed

<p><b>Quality Uniforms</b>  <b>1885 Simons 2019</b>  <b>SIMONS UNIFORMS</b>          Division of J.B. Simons, Inc.          329 Lynnway          Lynn, MA 01901 - 1792          To Order Instantly CALL 1-781-595-2644</p>	<p>U N I O N  M A D E</p>
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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 Election Notice, Retiree News,  
MDA Report, Postal Mania, \$50 Give Away,  
Weathercheck and VENT

*Inside This Issue*

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