



# SEVEN NEWS ♦

Volume 26 Issue 10

December 2019

## The President's Report by Frank Spathanas

Greeting everyone. Congratulations the winners for the national convention election. Patrick Byrne, Doug Mishel, Chuck Kelley, Suzanne Titus will be your elected delegates. I would like to extend my gratitude to all the nominees who took part and who took the time to run to be a delegate. I also want to express some thoughts to the membership concerning the election. First, when you mail out your ballot, instructions are that you print and sign your ballot. We do this to see who voted and to make sure no one voted twice. Let me assure you, it is to see who voted, not how someone voted, and all ballots are anonymous. The election committee is there to protect the integrity of the election process. People that voted and left their names and signatures off the ballot or put their nickname on the ballot, those ballots were not counted towards the election. Members should realize when someone takes the time to step up, whether to be a delegate or for a run for office, these people are relying on your vote and it may be a difference of someone getting elected or not as was the case in this election. My point is, your vote, all votes, are important in any election, especially to the individuals taking time to run. To have votes not counted because a member failed to follow the instructions that came with their ballot is disappointing. Make your vote count. I hope to see more members at the December meeting, as usual we will be raffling off twenty \$25 gift certificates to Stop&Shop, an open bar, and as always, food. I also want to wish all members, my Executive Board,



**Food & Win Gifts  
@ NEXT  
Union Meeting  
December 11, 2019  
7 P.M. Sharp!!**

stewards and alternate stewards, a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year. I thank everyone for their support.

**Shorthand  
From the Secretary  
by Frank Quartarone**

HOLIDAY WISHES FOR THE "GOOD" LETTER CARRIERS OF BRANCH 7-PLENTY OF PINEAPPLES/NO SNOW OR ICEY CONDITIONS/ EARLY START TIMES AND MANY GLOBE SANTAS !!!

A HAPPY/MERRY/WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON TO THE MEMBERS OF BRANCH 7 AND THEIR FAMILIES AND LOVED ONES !!!

CALLING ALL BRANCH 7 MILITARY VETERANS

The November Postal Record gave a salute to the military veteran Letter Carriers in the NALC (1 in 4 NALC members are veterans). KUDOS to our 12 veterans in Branch 7. Recently, a retired military veteran of Branch 7 called me and starting naming more veterans in the branch, to which I stated those named had joined the NALC Vets Group, that was started in 2015 to honor those members that served our country. The (continued on page 3)

## DELEGATE ELECTION RESULTS

TOTAL BALLOTS MAILED  
228  
TOTAL BALLOTS RECEIVED  
141  
INVALID BALLOTS-NOT SIGNED 4  
INVALID BALLOTS-IMPROPER SIGNATURE 2  
TOTAL VALID BALLOTS  
135

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

PAT BYRNE \*\*\*\*\*  
CHUCK KELLY \*\*\*\*\*  
SUZANNE TITUS \*\*\*\*\*  
DOUG MISHEL \*\*\*\*\*  
STAN PENKUL  
BRIAN CORBIN  
PAUL NIELSEN

\*\*\*\*\* ELECTED

ELECTION COMMITTEE

JIM KING-CHAIRPERSON  
DAN WHITE  
MERISSA TITUS

FRANK H. QUARTARONE  
SECRETARY-BRANCH 7 NALC

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

ONLY a click away to ANSWER  
your CONCERNS/VOICE your  
OPINIONS/OFFER your IDEAS

## Postal Mania

by Dorothy Curtis

If like me you are a procrastinator, listen up. There has been a slight but significant change to the way bidding on a different route is done. Historically management has put a route up for bid at 11:00am on a Thursday and had the bid come down at 11:00am the next Thursday. That left enough time for the carriers to throw in their bid cards before starting their route on the street. It also left enough time that if a carrier from Saugus or Swampscott wanted to bid they could give their bid card to the carrier coming down to collect the express mail in Lynn to throw in their bid card by 11:00am.

From now on the bids will come down at either 10:00 or 9:00am any day of the week as long as it's been up for bid for 7 days. This was done for two reasons. One is so a carrier can be present when the bids are withdrawn from the box (you know the old adage, "trust but verify"). The other is so carriers can know before they leave for the street if they got the route they bid on so they have the extra day to say goodbye to their customers. So if you plan to bid make sure to do so the night before at latest. As always, don't give a member of management your bid card especially if you work in Saugus!! Also the location of the job postings in Lynn has moved to the front of the main office by the refrigerator.

By the time this newsletter comes out I am hopeful that there will be more overtime. Because there is less overtime than in years past, it is more important than ever to report any overtime violations. Supervisors lately have been calling our overtime investigations "witch hunts" and I find that laughable because it would only be a so called "witch hunt" if the investigation had no merit. It is always a valid investigation when a carrier is not on the overtime list but yet works overtime. I'm not saying that every investigation would result in a grievance but the above scenario always warrants a closer look.

I hope everyone has a good Holiday!

BRANCH 7 WEBSITE IS  
[nalcbranch7.com](http://nalcbranch7.com)  
 All things Branch 7-  
 To Keep Members Informed



'Tis the season! After a long 11 months, here we go again: another holiday season. Instead of looking back at the year, I think I want to turn the page and look to our future. The Postal Service keeps adding things to our already busy daily routines. Technology is supposed to make jobs easier. Seems to me instead getting easier it has made it harder. We have new scanners that, I understand, will have the capability to listen in on what is going on around us. Our new vehicles will have dash cams that will make management capable of seeing what's around us. Customers will be able to see their daily mail before it actually gets delivered. We will continue to take mail samplings, and then be told by management that we scanned too many mail pieces. Our load tool tells us how to line up our trucks. The package look ahead will tell us when a package is coming up on the route. DOIS will continue to tell management we are screwing them by going over on our routes instead of pivoting. Drones may start delivering our packages. Doorbells will be used to show customers who steals their packages after we deliver them. As you can see, the world may be changing before our very eyes, but one thing that hasn't changed is the quality job the letter carriers around this country have been doing for years. Adapting to whatever new technological things are thrown their way and carrying a business that just couldn't exist without us. Be proud of the jobs you do every day. Remember, family first. Have a Happy Holiday Season and above all, be safe.

## WEATHERCHECK

I am piggy backing on last months Saugus Scribes article, after talking with the writer, the office steward. I have to say I agree one hundred percent with, his article, and him. I also was a steward in West Lynn, for numerous years, and also to took the position, with no knowledge, or previous training. I hopped into it, and learned along the way, and worked with management, to solve issue's before they became a major issue or grievance. It is a thankless job, and it takes a

special kind of person, to be a steward, one that actually cares about people, and is willing to help, those that need it, and to follow the contract. There are quite a few members, in Branch 7, but only a small percentage, that will actually participate, as some type of officer. There are though, a handful of people though, that complain, all the time, about the job, as an officer, or about the union, itself. These are the people that usually don't understand what's happening or why. If you are so concerned, and think you can do better, please step up and give it a try! Those that are working for the Branch, are trying their best for the good of the union,, and Branch 7, for the best outcome, with the least bit of disruption. There has been talk about the convention in Hawaii, why are the officers going there? Because it's a little perk, of all their hard efforts, over the years, that they have put in, for your union. Yes it's in Hawaii, but by any means it's not a full blown, vacation. There are meetings, classes, and seminar's to attend all day long. Just like the steward's trainings, down in Rhode Island, for the weekends. Oh ya, work Saturday, leave work, drive two, plus hours, check in, eat dinner, grab a drink or two, sleep. Wake up Sunday, and from eight to about four, listen to NALC officials, talk bout what's happening to the future of the Postal Service, for your benefit. Hawaii, will be the same, but warmer, but still for your benefit. I was nominated, but did not, win the election. I am extremely honored just to be nominated though, thinking that people have appreciated my work and opinions over the years. Anyone in the union, could have been nominated, and going, to any of these trainings or conventions, all you have to do is be involved. Most people, can't even give up an hour or two, of their time to go to a monthly, meeting, but have a lot to say, about those who actually do, and help to keep this Branch running. Those that are your steward's or Branch 7 officers, do care about, you and the Branch, that's why, they do what they do. A special THANK YOU to those that care! In the words of a West Lynn carrier, "IT AIN'T EASY"!!!! Wishing you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy Kwanza, or what it is, that you celebrate, this Joyous Holiday Season.

**SHORTHAND from Page 1**

-NALC Vets Group provides them with information on veteran issues, rights and benefits available within the PO and US government. To join, go to the NALC website ([nalc.org/veterans](http://nalc.org/veterans)) to get a form to sign-up as well as receive a NALC Veterans Group Lapel Pin. Also, I have Post-card sign-up cards to join-contact me at (781) 289-0590. As usual to those members-THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE PROUD TO SERVE

KUDOS to Letter Carrier John D'Amato, an 18 year NALC member, for being recognized as a Letter Carrier Hero in the November Postal Record. John in three separate instances helped elderly patrons that had fallen down and needed assistance. If any member has performed a "good deed" and wants to be recognized (It's voluntary, if you chose not to), so we can notify national to get you honored as a Letter Carrier Hero. NEW POSTMASTER GENERAL With PMG Brennen retiring at the end of January, who will be the new Postmaster General of the PO??? Will it be an outsider or PO lifer, will that person advocate for a public PO or a privatized PO and will that person be union/labor friendly. With a full Postal Board of Governors to decide (5to4 in favor of Trump appointees) there's talk of a more privatized/business-like PO. FYI-the last "outsider" was "Carvin" Marvin Runyon in the early 1990s. He downsized the PO thru an early out that led to poor service nation-wide as well as stating Letter Carriers are good BUT are 33% overpaid. WHATEVER-STAY TUNED-Our jobs, benefits and the PO as we know it could be in jeopardy !!!

THANK YOU

A belated welcome and Thank You to Scot with 1 T Terchiak for his One T's column in 7 NEWS. Also, THANKS to those members that write columns educating our members on delivering the union way. THANKS to Editor Suzanne Titus for her Vent, illustrations and putting 7 NEWS together.

LASTLY

To those must leave carriers, the postal leave year ends on January 3,2020. Use it or lose it !!!

REVIEW OF NOVEMBER MEETING -

Delegate Election Results were announced-Prez Frank gave his monthly Labor-Management Report-Proper 3996 usage and discipline representation was discussed -Donations approved-\$300 to Fisher House -that helps military families and \$100 for ad in 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary Lynn Yacht Club Adbook-President Spathanas was presented with his 35 year NALC Membership Pin-50/50 winner was Stephen Blaney and Retiree Stan Penkul won the \$50 meeting jackpot-Food-Lido Pizza

PREVIEW OF DECEMBER MEETING (WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11)

Prez Frank's monthly Labor-Management Report- Contract Update-Latest Workroom floor news-20-\$25 Stop&Shop Gift Cards to be given away-50/50-\$50 meeting jackpot-MDA Holiday Raffle- FOOD AND DRINK-FOOD AND DRINK. LET'S start celebrating the Holiday season-Wednesday December 11 at Hibernian Hall-105 Federal Street in Lynn. ALL the good stuff starts at 7

## MDA REPORT

November Meeting Raffle raised \$110 (THANKS), bringing the yearly total from them to \$1,020 (THANKS). Dave Harris for the 2<sup>nd</sup> straight meeting won – a \$25 Dunkin Donut Gift Card.

Our annual "Deliver The Cure" Bowl -A-Thon, held on Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Metrobowl in Peabody, raised \$435 (THANKS) and was up \$60 from 2018. THANK YOU to the 14 active and retired carriers, family members and friends that bowled that day as well as those carriers that made a donation. Also, THANKS to the station MDA Reps-Doug Mishel, Brian Corbin, Bill Burgess and Paul Nielsen for their help.

December Meeting Raffle-HOLIDAY RAFFLE-an assortment of prizes to win and take home for the holidays

LASTLY-Branch 7 has raised \$2,968 for MDA in 2019 (THANK YOU MUCHLY)

## One T's

by Scot Terchiak

Hello everyone, I hope every carrier is doing well. Lately I noticed some carriers are "Pivoting". What's that you may ask. Well management is saying to the carrier your route is less than eight hours according DOIS which is a system that management uses everyday to store your data for each route. If they say to a Carrier that your route has under time for that particular day, it's the same as saying pivoting. Carriers must evaluate their workload on a daily basis. Especially on Mondays, since the mail volume is usually heavier than normal. So how can management say your route is less than eight hours. What they saying to the carriers is that they want you to pivot which means they want you to work extra and not pay you overtime.

I notice that management will also say to carriers "Can you do me a favor and rack this route". Carriers should know their assignments and realize this could lead to overtime. Please carriers do not do management any favors you are taking money out of your own pocket and carriers who are on the overtime list. I wish everyone Happy Holidays! And Happy New Year!



### \$50 WINNER

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

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*In Memory of  
Dave Johansen*

**RETIREE NEWS**  
THANKS AND ENJOY RETIREMENT to Paul Howell, last Branch 7 carrier hired under old Civil Service system, for remaining a NALC/ Branch 7 member in retirement.

**Future Meeting Dates**  
January 8, 2020  
February 12, 2020  
March 11, 2020



THANKS

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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 Results,  
Retiree News, MDA Report, Postal Mania,  
\$50 Give Away, One T's, and Weathercheck

*Inside This Issue*

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