

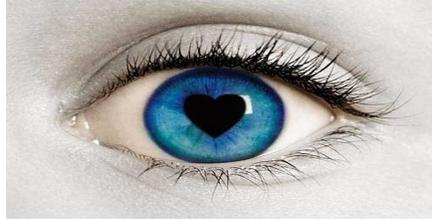
# SEVEN NEWS ♦

Volume 27 Issue 2

February 2020

## The President's Report by Frank Spathanas

Greetings everyone. I would like to remind everyone if they are ever brought into the office and are confronted by the Postal Inspectors or the OIG (Office of Inspector General) please use your **Weingarten Rights**. Each employee has the right to representation during any "investigatory interview which he or she reasonably believes may lead to discipline." YOU must exercise your Weingarten rights as the steward cannot on the employee's behalf. The employer (management) is not required to inform the employee of the Weingarten right to union representation. Anything you say to the inspectors or the OIG prior to a steward being present can be used against you. Employees also have a right under Weingarten to a pre-interview consultation with a steward. You also have a right to a steward's assistance, not just a silent presence. Managers will sometimes inform employees the ELM section 665.3 requires employees to cooperate with the investigation. The employees are required to cooperate; however, the letter carrier may refuse to answer questions until a steward is provided. When an investigation begins an employee may be read a warning. The employee should always remember the stewards are not attorneys and cannot offer legal advice. Therefore, if the employee is facing criminal charges, they may wish to seek legal advice from an attorney. Please remember that the Postal Inspectors and the OIG, when questioning you, more than likely have the answers to the questions they are going to ask. I'll go over this at the next meeting and have .



**Love to See YOU  
@ NEXT  
Union Meeting  
February 12, 2020  
7 P.M. Sharp!!**

Weingarten Rights cards available to you. I'll also continue this column next month to go over the warnings that may potentially be read to you by the Inspectors and OIG. Hope to see you at the meeting

## One T's by Scot Terchiak

Hello, I hope all the carriers are doing well. I don't know about every carrier in Lynn but I have received a couple of notes in my hot case letters from the clerk supervisor. These notes are saying that carriers are not putting their miss sorts mail in the right place. Also, these notes are saying that carriers are not marking up their bad mail, for example Address Unknown- ANK, Unable To Forward-UTF, No Such Number- NSN, Forward/A-Z. Since they want us to markup each piece of bad mail, then we should take the time needed. Carriers that fill in for the regulars and are not sure of a particular piece of mail, please **leave it** for the regular. The regular carriers should try to communicate with their floaters or with CCAs that fill in for them. Now I need all the carriers help regarding our miss sort packages that we get every day. We need to **stop** handing the miss sort packages to other carriers. Carriers have to stop doing clerk work. Instead we should try to hand in these miss sort packages to a supervisor.

## Shorthand From the Secretary by Frank Quartarone

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY (Feb 14)-May your day be fulfilled  
HAPPY SADIE HAWKINS DAY (Feb 29)- to Branch 7 bachelors and bachelorettes  
CONTINUATION OF A MILD WINTER- LITTLE snow/ice/ extreme cold  
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS TIX RAFFLE  
HERE'S your chance to win a pair of tix to see the 6 time Superbowl Champs in 2020-8 Home games and 2 Preseason tilts in some decent seats. Tix are \$10-YES-ONLY \$10 A CHANCE (CASH ONLY). Only 300  
Tixs will be sold to Only Branch 7 members. Drawing will be at the June Union Meeting and any UNSOLD TIX will revert back to the Branch. AN IMPORTANT REMINDER-IF you can't attend a game or want to give the tix away-ONLY TO Branch 7 members or Family members-we don't want to lose these tix for inappropriate behavior. The Raffle will begin at the February Union Meeting and each monthly meeting thereafter as well as from your STEWARDS in the stations. GOOD LUCK !!!  
LETTER CARRIER POLITICAL FUND  
IT IS Work Insurance to protect your job, pay and benefits  
IT allows the NALC agenda/voice to be heard by elected officials in Congress  
IT helps elect Pro NALC/PRO Union/PRO Public PO candidates to Congress  
IT helps thwart those trying to privatize the PO  
IT helps thwart those private delivery companies that want our business/ parcels  
IT helps ensure a Public PO to exist in the future  
IT helps provide a career with good pay and benefits for our citizens now and in the future  
Active Carriers-GIMME 5-\$5 per pay (continued on page 3)

## Postal Mania

by Dorothy Curtis

For those of us who work in the Lynn office they will know who I'm reciting when I write the following. I would like to "piggyback" on what Prez Frank wrote about in his article. It is important to know your rights if the inspectors or the OIG want to talk to you. If you think that the aforementioned government agencies would never have cause to talk to you, think again. The reason could be as simple as questioning you about a customer on your route or as nefarious as accusations in alleged criminal activity. If this happens, stay calm and ask for a steward.

The above advice is the same if a supervisor wants to talk to you. The hot button issue lately has been getting questioned at the end of the day for supposed missed parcel scans. Instead of stomping your feet and arguing with the supervisor, ask for your steward. That is your right if you feel that the questions being asked of you can lead to discipline. If you're not sure if the questions could lead to discipline, just ask them.

A few weeks ago I clocked in early and noticed that there is a revolving door by the supervisor desk of carriers asking the supervisor work related questions, studying the schedule and grabbing their vehicle keys. All of this was done off the clock which to put politely is tomfoolery. There have been numerous service talks, one on one talks and articles in the postal record as well as this newsletter about why you should not work off the clock. If you missed the latest service talk about the subject, I will paraphrase what the supervisor stated. He doesn't want carriers approaching his desk before they punch in either. He could be looking up sensitive information or trying to finish scheduling issues. The bottom line

is that it annoys him almost as much as it annoys me so why do it? If you need to wait in line at 8:00 to grab your keys or ask a question, put it on your 3996 and get paid for it.



At the time of writing this article it was moving into February and no significant snow to speak of yet. Keyword is Yet. Last couple of years we have been buried in January and February. With the talk of all this climate change I personally am looking forward to 70 degree Februarys. We recently had a couple of those in January so who knows what is in the horizon. I do know spring is around the corner and just as the groundhogs come out so to do the supervisors. In Saugus we are told to take the time needed to be safe. I think it is time for us to take that advise and start remembering the little things that we are supposed to be doing that have been forgotten. Such as vehicle checks. I watch every morning only half the carriers going out and starting the vehicles. Than half the guys who do go out only start the vehicles. I have seen puddles of transmission fluid on the ground and oil. We get the time to check vehicles for our safety. Why not take it? Some of these vehicles are 30 years old and seeing some of the things happening to them I think we are crazy if we are not checking them. With the nicer weather comes the dogs. We can prevent bites by not wearing ear buds so we can hear if a dog is out and have spray for when one is out. I know it sounds repetitious but I still see guys not taking these precautions. Let's get back in the habit of filling out paperwork for things like needed help (3996) or for truck repairs, and curtailing mail. Most of all let's get back to helping one another. We have a union meeting coming up bring your ideas and ways to help your fellow carriers who may not know some of the things that are part of their job. We have a lot of fairly new carriers who are intimidated by management and don't know some of the things they are being asked to do.

Let's get them informed. Bring a co-worker to the next meeting. See you there!!!

### HOW REAL by Suzanne Titus

WHO announced Coronavirus as a global health emergency. Our employer receives mail and packages from the quarantined area, which we handle and deliver into communities. While locally we have inquired if our exposure to this is safe, a definitive answer is not yet available.

Having worked during the time of the Unabomber, 9/11, Anthrax, copycat hoax Anthrax scare, and the Boston Marathon terror attack, I've witnessed and experienced the public's and mgmt.'s reactions. The Unabomber killed members of the public as did Anthrax. But postal workers in the course of their work duties who handled tainted mail were also sickened and some died. After that for a time, some customers and employees at some businesses that I delivered to would back away from their mail as I placed on the counter. When the law enforcement was closing in on the 9/11 suspects, a shelter in place was announced and mail delivery curtailed. The order went as far as Revere. Someone made a decision to have Saugus carriers remain in the streets. It was quite unnerving that day having helicopters zooming in over and again while trying to deliver Seagirt and Venice, only to find out the next day of this daring decision. Which brings me to the Anthrax hoax. There had been numerous hoax letters sent to many different community government offices. In these cases, the protocol was for everyone to be immediately decontaminated, due to the likelihood of death, every incident was treated with an extreme over abundance of caution. Having been exposed and confined traveling in the LLV, and delivering the "Anthrax" letter to the Saugus Police Station, would certainly have you think that this same care and concern was abounded to me. Well you would be wrong. I worked the remainder of the day, arrived home to the welcoming hug of my then 3 year old son and proceeded to wash up, prepare dinner, and flip on my 6 inch screen under-the-counter tv. To my horror, I watched the local evening news covering this traumatic event.

Which leads us back to Coronavirus. Let's really hope that those above us who are responsible for the public as well as our safety and welfare, are proactive, not reactive.

## RETIREE NEWS

If any member is thinking of retiring in the near future/sometime this year, I have booklets from the NALC to help start planning for it-SEE ME OR CONTACT ME @ (781) 289-0590

ALSO, I hope you remain a NALC/ Branch 7 member. Dues are \$10 per year and taken from your annuity check (84 cents a month). You'll get 7 NEWS to keep up on branch happenings and access to the NALC Retirement Department as well as The Postal Record. As a retiree, you can run for branch office and partake in branch community events. ALL THAT and a NALC Retiree Hat, if you come to a union meeting, for \$10 a year/ 84 cents a month !!!

**SHORTHAND from Page 1**

period or more if you want

Retirees- Give thru your monthly annuity check

GO TO NALC.ORG or SEE ME to sign-up

START DONATING TODAY !!!

LASTLY

We've seen a bunch of CCAs converted to regular in the last 6 months with several more to be converted- CONGRATS and BEST OF LUCK in your postal careers. YOU are the future leaders/activists and members of Branch 7-HELP make Branch 7 better for its members-HELP fight mismanagement-GET INVOLVED-SEE U AT THE NEXT UNION MEETING (February 12) !!!

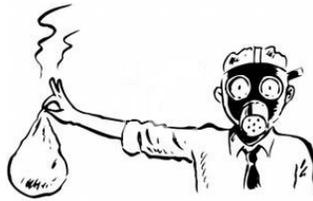
REVIEW OF JANUARY MEETING -Prez Frank talked about the Holiday Breakfast-WE'LL DO IT AGAIN-Upcoming events this year-Elections-Navigators game-Golf Outing-MDA events -Food Drive-WHAT TO DO in PDI's with management and new scanners are on the way-3 new CCAs to welcome into Branch 7-50/50 winner was Suzanne Titus and \$50 Meeting Jackpot winner was Steve Shepard-FOOD by Chef John Campbell-Shepard's Pie with Chix Tenders and French Fries.

PREVIEW OF FEBRUARY MEETING (WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12)

Prez Frank to explain your contractual rights in being interviewed by Supervisors/Postal Police or Postal Inspectors-LCPF-Latest Workroom Floor/Grievance issues-National Update on new contract and Consolidated Casing-More CCA's to welcome into Branch 7-Start of NE Pats Tix Raffle-50/50-\$50-Meeting Jackpot-MDA Raffle-FOOD DE JOUR by John Campbell- SEE U ON WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12 AT THE HIBERNIAN HALL -105 FEDERAL STREET IN LYNN-MEETING AND FOOD START AT 7 P.M. !!!

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

# VENT



“Please sign for this foreign parcel.”  
*Ok and place in my new Pure-all Box*

## MDA REPORT

January Meeting Raffle raised \$85 to start off 2020 (THANKS). John Haraden and Chuck Kelley won the prizes.

February Meeting Raffle-2-\$20 Gift Certificates to the Tides Restaurant in Nahant.

If any member would like to donate an item or items to the Meeting Raffles (GREATLY APPRECIATED) or have any fundraiser/event ideas-SEE ME OR CONTACT ME @ (781) 289-0590.

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

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

## WEATHERCHECK

Here it is, the beginning of February, and the days are getting longer, it's light until 5:15. January was a great winter month! Let's just hope we don't make up for winter, in the next two months! Congratulations to Laurie, on her move over to route, 12! West Lynn for life! for those of you, who drop elastic's all over the city streets, let's try not to. the customers know where they are coming from. The Post Office, and its employees, have a reputation, to uphold, and we shouldn't be messing up the streets. Anyone who doesn't use their full allotment for clothing & shoes, should think of spending it all each year. There is plenty to buy, and some of the clothing, doesn't last long, and should be replaced often. If you have extra in the account, think about spending it on clothing, and leave it upstairs, for any of the newer carriers to grab! Thank You! Be careful out there, and do not be tossing parcels around. There are cameras all over the place, nowadays! Even if there is not a camera on a house you are at, a neighbor's could be picking you out! Here's to the rest of the winter, may it stay warm and dry! See you at the meeting !

### \$50 WINNER

The name of Brother Steve Shepard was drawn as the winner of the \$50 monthly raffle at the January 2020 union meeting. \$50 will be given to the lucky winner at the February meeting. You must sign in to the meeting prior to 7:30pm to be eligible to **win, Good Luck!**

## Massachusetts Postal Employees Credit Union

CALL NOW FOR BEST RATES ON AUTO LOANS!!!

GET A VISA DEBIT CARD TODAY

**Mon—Fri 9:00—4:00**

Serving Postal Employees and their Families since 1926

We offer a full range of financial services

Visit us On Line [www.MassFamilyCU.com](http://www.MassFamilyCU.com)  
PH: 781-592-6051

*Ancient Order of Hibernians in America*  
DIVISION 10



105 Federal Street  
Lynn, Massachusetts 01905  
*In Memory of*  
*Dave Johansen*

**Future Meeting Dates**

March 11, 2020

April 8, 2020

May 13, 2020



**PATRIOTS  
SEASON  
TICKET  
RAFFLE**

**ONLY \$10 each**

300 TICKETS -AVAILABLE  
@FEBRUARY MEETING  
DRAWING @JUNE MEETING  
NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

**Quality Uniforms**

**1885 Simons 2020**

**SIMONS UNIFORMS**

Division of J.B. Simons, Inc.

329 Lynnway

Lynn, MA 01901 - 1792

To Order Instantly CALL 1-781-595-2644

U  
N  
I  
O  
N  
  
M  
A  
D  
E

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, MDA Report, One T's,  
Saugus Scribe, Retiree News, Patriots Season Ticket  
Raffle, How Real, Postal Mania, Weathercheck  
\$50 Give Away, and VENT

*Inside This Issue*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**BRANCH 7  
43 BERKSHIRE ST  
SWAMPSCOTT, MA  
01907**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #122  
Lynn, MA

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.  
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.  
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.