



# SEVEN NEWS ♦

Volume 27 Issue 1

January 2020

## The President's Report by Frank Spathanas

Happy New Year everyone! I hope everyone had a great Holiday Season with their families. I want to let everyone know I have received positive feedback for the Christmas collation we had at the Main office and the stations. These collations were sponsored by Branch 7 for the carriers by the carriers (You). I've said many times, this is your union. You decide what goes on. Come to a meeting and speak up if you like or dislike what we do. The collation was voted on at the December meeting and it was done in appreciation of all the hard work we do throughout the year as Letter Carriers. I would like all carriers, as a New Years resolution, try to attend at least one meeting in 2020. It may surprise you and you might enjoy it. Now with all the Holiday packages delivered and all the unlimited overtime to deliver them my guess there will be a push to fall back in line with procedures, such as clock rings, MSP scans and 3996's as management will frown on unauthorized overtime again. Amazing how lax management was with procedures in the month of December when we were moving all those packages for them. I ask all carriers to follow protocol and fill out your 3996 and call by 2 pm if you are going to be over your authorized



**Fulfill a Resolution  
SEE YOU @ NEXT  
Union Meeting  
January 8, 2020  
7 P.M. Sharp!!**

work assignment for the day. Also there was a question brought to my attention on how to handle parcel post. When attempting to deliver a package, the M-41 and the M-39 state in part if the parcel does not completely fit in the mail receptacle or parcel locker, determine if someone is available at the address by ringing the doorbell or knocking on the door. If no one is available to receive the parcel then carriers are authorized to leave a parcel in a protected area or leave a notice (PS Form 3849). Only two circumstances carriers may leave a parcel in an "unprotected" location. When it's endorsed "Carrier, leave if no response" or when the addressee has given written instructions for delivery. In either case, carriers cannot leave parcels where they may be exposed to inclement weather. The point of all this is take the time needed to do the job right. Do not be bullied into making managements numbers and throwing everyone's parcels at their door and taking off. Ring the bell or notice them if they are not home. Happy New Year and see you at the next meeting.

## Shorthand From the Secretary by Frank Quartarone

TO THE LETTER CARRIERS OF BRANCH 7-BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY/ HEALTHY/PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR AS WELL AS A GREAT LEAP YEAR !!!

### YEARLY REMINDERS

(1) IF any member/retiree has moved recently- Notify your station steward or SEE ME-as to update branch files-We don't share that info with anyone. (2) IF any member/retiree would like a NALC Membership Card-SEE ME (3) IF any member/retiree wants to receive a NALC Membership Pin, pins are in 5 year intervals from 25 to 75 years-SEE ME (4) If any Letter Carrier has performed a good deed on their route or helped a patron in danger, they may qualify as a Letter Carrier Hero -SEE ME-In 2019, 2 Branch 7 Carriers were recognized by the NALC-Lee Morrison and John D'Amato for helping elderly patrons on their routes. (5) Memoriums -The Branch offers \$\$\$ memoriums to deceased members as well as immediate family members (Husband/Wife-Father/Mother-Son/Daughter and Brother/Sister). Notify a Station Steward or SEE ME, as we can notify the membership and offer a moment of silence at the Monthly Union Meeting. If any member prefers non-notice or privacy-it will be respected. SEE ME (781) 289-0590.

### A BUCKET LIST FOR BRANCH 7 MEMBERS IN 2020

*Attend at least One (1)  
Union Meeting this year  
Work in a Safe and  
Professional manner-TTTN  
(Take the time needed).  
WELCOME and HELP the  
new CCAs by teaching  
them the Union Way of Delivering  
TREAT ALL with Dignity  
and Respect  
READ the Union Bulletin  
Board more frequently  
(continued on page 3)*

## Postal Mania

by Dorothy Curtis

Happy New Year everybody! I'm going to totally waste that exclamation point and start this column off with a bit of a downer. I bet that every active letter carrier made a little less money in overtime in 2019 than in 2018. We can blame Amazon, the higher ups at the post office, the additional customers who are paying their bills online, Congress, and a bunch of other things we as letter carriers in Lynn have little control of.

As you have probably guessed I am going to talk about the things that we can control. The number one glaring thing that happened over and over again in December was carriers not getting their 8 hour guarantee. This is what the contract states about your 8 hour guarantees for your NS day (I.E. Sunday) and any holiday you may work.

### **Pay Guarantee For Full-Time Employee on Non-Scheduled Day.**

A Full-time regular or full-time flexible employee called in on a nonscheduled day is guaranteed 8 hours of work (or pay in lieu thereof).

This guarantee also applies on a holiday or designated holiday.

If you are asked to work Sunday and say no, that will be counted as an 8 hour missed opportunity. If you are asked to work Sunday, are a full time carrier and say yes, you are scheduled to work eight hours. If you show up for work and they only have 5 hours' worth of work for you to do, whose fault is that? Not yours, so ask what else needs to be done. If the supervisor wants to go home before your 8 hours are up they have to pay you as if you worked 8 hours. If you don't work eight hours let your steward know. The steward only has 14 days to file a grievance on your behalf. The

guarantee time shows up one of two ways on your check. The first would be under code 062 on your pay stub. The other is under "adjustments" on your stub on liteblue.

The virtual timecard on liteblue is great but it only shows the current week. I hope everyone keeps track of their hours. If your old school like me and want a paper book to track your hours we have plenty. Just ask your steward.

Congratulations to Manzo on his conversion to full time. Also, a late congratulations to Rich Champigny and Brendan McHugh on their retirement.



Well the Christmas rush is over. In Saugus we have some changes hopefully for the better. As of January 1<sup>st</sup> Dave Harris has taken over as Shop Steward. We will see if change will get the office united which has been a problem for a couple of years now. We have a new boss at the top with Brenda Martin taking over for Dean Baker, though it may be only for a short time. The carriers have taken the brunt of everything lately. We seem to be short clerks and it's the carriers who are left to be waiting around for mail every day. Managements solution to this I am sure will be changing our times because they can't get the mail to us. How about bringing in clerks just like they would carriers if we were shorthanded? So will a New Year bring in new things for the carriers or will it

be business as usual for the Postal Service? A great way to make changes is to let your voice be heard. There is no better way than to go to a meeting see what the other carriers are going through in their offices. Give your ideas and get involved. I have seen over my years so many changes. The carriers always seem to adjust to whatever gets thrown their way. Remember managements numbers depend on the carriers so we will always be watched and harassed. Management will always demand more from us. If we continue to do things the way they want us to do them and not the way the contract says to do them, they will continue you try to get more and more out of us while they sit back and stare at their computers to see what their numbers say. Get to a meeting and find out what you are really supposed to be doing. There is a meeting coming up, get there and as always bring a co-worker with you. Remember strength in numbers.

## RETIREE NEWS

THANKS AND ENJOY RETIREMENT to BRENDAN McHUGH for remaining a Branch 7/NALC member in retirement.

CONGRATS to RICH CHAMPIGNY on his retirement and joining the "last punch bunch".

CONGRATS to Retiree ROGER BELLEROSE, long-time Saugus carrier, on becoming Branch 7's latest 60 year NALC member RIP (Shalom) to Retiree KEN PEARLSTEIN-Saugus/West Lynn carrier, Veteran, 7 NEWS writer, professional Letter Carrier, and Nice Guy

**SHORTHAND from Page 1**

*On the Workroom Floor-  
Have Some Fun-do your  
contractual duties and  
have each others back  
Give or Partake in a MDA activ-  
ity*

*THANK your Stewards  
and Branch Officers for  
what they do  
Give to the LCPF-  
to protect your pay and benefits  
TRY to Work Smarter  
Not Harder This Year*

LASTLY (1)-THANKS and KUDOS to CCA JOHN CAMPBELL for a great food collation at the December Union Meeting.

LASTLY (2)-WELCOME TO WEST LYNN'S NEWEST DIVISION-01908 !!!

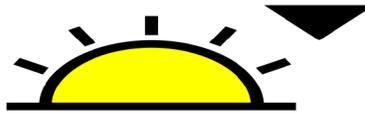
**REVIEW OF DECEMBER UNION MEETING**

Prez Frank spoke on proper procedure for delivering and noticing parcels and how the Sunday Holiday OT List works as well as informing members of new stewards in Saugus and Swampscott and Chuck Kelley and Scot T attended NALC Steward Training-Donation Requests Approved-\$100 to Lynn Classical High Girls Track Team and \$200 per station for the Holiday Breakfast on December 23-Swampscott Carrier Wayne Proodian received his 30 year NALC Membership Pin-20-\$25 Stop&Shop Gift Cards were raffled off-50/50 winner was TERRY DAIGLE and \$50 Meeting Jackpot Winner was BRIAN CORBIN-Food and Drink Collation to celebrate the Holiday Season

**PREVIEW OF JANUARY UNION MEETING (WEDNESDAY JANUARY 8)**

Prez Frank's Report-Contract Arbitration and Consolidated Case Initiative Updates-Latest Workroom Floor Issues-New CCAS to welcome into Branch 7-Committee Reports (MDA/Retirees/Safety)-50/50-\$50 Meeting Jackpot-MDA Pre-Valentine Day Raffle-FOOD-Mystery Cuisine-SEE U AT THE JANUARY UNION MEETING ON WEDNESDAY JANUARY 8- WE MEET AT THE HIBERNIAN HALL IN THE AOH BUILDING AT 105 FEDERAL STREET IN LYNN-IT ALL STARTS AT 7 P.M. SHARP !!!

**VENT**



Walk into the Room Where Your Boss is "working", Turn Off the Light and See How Well They DO in the **Dark**



What's Taking So Long?

**MDA REPORT**

December Holiday Meeting Raffle raised \$345 (THANK YOU), bringing our yearly total from them to \$1,365 (THANKS). 8 attendees went home with some nice holiday gifts

January Meeting Raffle-Pre-Valentines' Day Raffle-Flowers and a Facial for your Sweetheart. THANKS to MATT TITUS for his help in procuring prizes from several Swampscott businesses on his route for the December/Holiday Raffle.

LASTLY-Final Amount raised for MDA in 2019-**\$3,314.00** (up \$403 from 2018)

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH**

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

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

**WEATHERCHECK**

A few New Year's Resolutions to start the year off! Let's all try to attend a couple of meetings this year..... New CCA's and newly regular carriers, Let's attend meetings, to be informed and participate..... Let's not work off the clock, Anymore..... Let's get paid for the work we perform..... Let's only do office work, on office time..... Let's do street work, on the street, and not on office time..... Let's take our two ten-minute breaks, and half hour lunch, daily..... Let's work, smarter, not harder. Welcome to the year 2020, Hopefully we will all be able to see clearly now! Be safe in the upcoming winter months! T.T.T.N..... Take The Time Needed, to work Safely!



**\$50 WINNER**

The name of Brother Brian Corbin was drawn as the winner of the \$50 monthly raffle at the December 2019 union meeting. \$50 will be given to the lucky winner at the January 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*

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

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

Matty  
and Tom  
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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, MDA Report,  
Saugus Scribe, Retiree News,  
Postal Mania, Weathercheck  
\$50 Give Away, and VENT

*Inside This Issue*

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