



SEVEN NEWS ♦

Volume 27 Issue 3

March 2020

The President's Report by Frank Spathanas

Greetings everyone. The new flavor of the month, "stationary events". I want all carriers to be aware that management is watching the lack of movement of the scanners. These "lack of movements" are deemed by management as a stationary event. Management gets notified, by email or phone call, if the scanner sits in one spot for more than 30 minutes. So if you are questioned on what you were doing for this alleged time you might want to have some kind of reason (getting relays together after lunch, had to go to the bathroom, extending your lunch....). Remember the scanners can tell them where you are and for how long, but it doesn't tell them what you are doing. Keep the scanner moving if you don't want to bring this attention onto yourselves. Last month I wrote about your Weingarten rights. Now some examples when you may want to exercise them. The OIG or Postal Inspectors may read you some warnings when you are faced with some questioning. First is the Miranda Warning. Most are familiar with this, the "You have the right to remain silent....". Once the warning is given anything that is said can be used in a court of law to prove guilt. The OIG agents will often present PS Form 1067 to employees to sign. DO NOT SIGN this form as it waives your Miranda Rights, and anything said thereafter can be used against you in a court of law. A Kalkines Warning requires employees to make statements and cooperate even if it leads to



**March Yourself
TO Your NEXT
Union Meeting
March 11, 2020
7 P.M. Sharp!!**

discipline or discharge but provides criminal immunity for their statements. Meaning you can get in trouble with discipline or be fired but you won't be charged criminally. A Garrity Warning advises employees of their criminal and administrative liability for any statements made, meaning any statement that the suspects provide will be used against them both administratively and criminally. If you are given the Garrity Warning, you are advised to consult with an attorney before answering any questions. Remember, if you are faced with any of these warnings, the OIG more likely than not, have the answers to the questions they are going to ask you. So, if you lie to them, you set yourself up to obstructing an investigation. Hopefully none of us are ever in this position. See you at the meeting. P.S. Don't forget to buy your Patriots raffle tickets!

Future Meeting Dates

April 8, 2020
May 13, 2020
June 10, 2020

BRANCH 7 WEBSITE IS
nalcbranch7.com

All things Branch 7-
To Keep Members Informed

Shorthand

From the Secretary
by Frank Quartarone

**MAY YOU LIVE TO BE 100 YEARS
AND 1 EXTRA YEAR
TO REPENT !!!**

WEINGARTEN RIGHTS CARDS

At the February Union Meeting, Prez Frank spoke on your Weingarten Rights (your right to have union representation) when being interviewed by postal management- postal police- OIG agents (Office of Inspector General), especially if you believe it might lead to discipline or worse. REMEMBER-YOU MUST REQUEST IT. The Branch has printed wallet-size cards for members to have, which were available at the meeting. If any member would like to get a Weingarten Rights Card, SEE YOUR STATION STEWARD. Again, never go in alone, when meeting with management, request the presence of a steward or union rep-IT'S YOUR RIGHT !!!

USPS FAIRNESS ACT (THE GOOD)

On February 5, 2020, the House of Representatives passed the USPS Fairness Act (HR 2382) by a vote of 309-106. The Act would end that "burdensome mandate" from 2006, which required the PO to Pre-fund future retiree health benefits and has hurt the PO financially ever since. NOW, it's on to the Senate (S 2965) for a vote in the near future. BE READY to contact Senators Markey and Warren to support this bill. PRESIDENT TRUMP'S FY 2021 POSTAL BUDGET (THE BAD)

On February 10, President Trump sent to Congress his 2021 FY (fiscal year) budget, expressing his intent on how to budget the PO. The budget proposal will be debated with Congress throughout the year. The 2021 PO budget is déjà vu, similar to the 2020 one, with (1) good thing-no calls for privatization of the PO, just \$90 million in cuts to Postal Operations and Workforce Compensation over 10 years (CUTS to your pay and ridding the PO's monopoly on the mailbox). Here are some of his proposals-raise (continued on page 3)

Postal Mania

by Dorothy Curtis



One T's by Scot Terchiak

Hello, I hope all the carriers out there are doing well. I don't know about every carrier out there, but I have gotten injured on the job in the past. So, I like to talk about what to do if a carrier gets hurt on the job. First thing a carrier should do if carrier gets injured on the job is to report it to a supervisor. If carrier feels they need medical attention after getting said injury, please don't let the supervisor talk you out of going to seeing a doctor. Only you can determine how you feel after getting an injury. If a carrier goes to the doctor seeking medical attention from an injury that was caused on the job please make sure the supervisor gives you three important forms and they are CA-1, CA-16, CA-17. Also, another good tip if a carrier does go to the doctor, they will ask you for your insurance card. Please just tell the doctor it's a job injury and they will then ask you for your case number. Just tell your doctor the injury just happened and it's pending. Carriers, these forms are very important because, if you don't fill them out, management will use your sick leave or annual leave, when carriers are out of work due to their injury. Also, you can be billed by the hospital for any payments if you fail to fill out the proper forms for any work-related injury. Carriers should never have to use their time because of Injury on the job. If any carrier has any questions or concerns on this topic, please see your Union rep.

I went to a national convention in 2014 where there was a lot of discussion about whether it should be allowed for carriers to smoke in their postal vehicles. The resolution passed, was bargained for and the MOU on not smoking in postal vehicles (newer than 2014) made it into the National Agreement. In my opinion that is something that would not have passed 30 years ago but times change. I didn't personal agree with a resolution like that but that is why there is voting at a convention, majority rules. I respect that and the process that comes with it. I would like to submit two resolutions for the consideration of the Delegates of the convention in August. The first step to do this would be to have a discussion and vote on it our next local meeting. This is what will be discussing at the meeting, see me if you have any questions.

1) The purpose of the proposed change to the National Agreement is so carriers can request up to 3 separate weeks of choice vacation time. As the contract is written right now is that choice (primetime) vacation time can only be requested in a one week increments for 2 weeks not 3 which is the change that we are seeking. The carrier would still have the option of requesting only 1 week, 2 separate weeks or 2 weeks together with 1 additional week.

2) The proposal to the following change to the National Agreement is to ensure that carrier technicians get the option of being on work assignment for the route that they are assigned to each day. This would create a separate work assignment option for the carrier technician that would make the carrier technician unavailable for overtime except for the specific route that they are assigned to on a given day. The Carrier technician would still have the option of 8 hours only, work assignment (which would include all routes on their string) and the overtime time list.

March is here and we move closer to prime time. Things that I have been noticing is more and more carriers giving back time. Guys getting hour pieces and coming back in eight hours. Day after the holiday with mail volumes through the roof carriers getting jags and back in less than thirty minutes of OT. So, what has management done they are giving these carriers the priority on routes over carriers that they know will take the time and do the routes the way they are supposed to be done. If you only want eight hours why are you on the OTDL!!!! All this got me to thinking all the things over the last few years that they have added to the carrier's jobs. We are now doing mail samplings where we have to stop and scan up to 15 pieces of mail at random stops on the route, we have to make sure to pick up collection boxes on our routes, we have to scan every package into our trucks and scan every package out of our trucks, we have to cull the mail when we get back to the office use to be a clerk job. We are now signing out our keys and certs before the day and signing them back in at the end of the day, again clerk jobs. We used to have companies that came and cleaned out our trucks, now carrier responsibilities. Just recently management said we should tell them when they do the schedule wrong, so now we have to help manage the office. Still we don't take any extra time for all that is thrown at us. Please we are only hurting ourselves in a time when management is trying to capture time and extend routes. You may think you are impressing supervisors, they are laughing at you and giving you more and more work without any extra pay. Please take the time needed. If you do it the way you're supposed to which is safely, you won't have to worry about doing more than what is expected for free. See you at the meeting and as always bring a co-worker

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RETIREE NEWS

THANKS AND ENJOY RETIREMENT-to Retiree RICH CHAMPAIGNY for remaining a NALC/Branch 7 member in retirement
CONGRATS to Branch 7's (2) newest 50 year NALC members-JIMMY CURTIN and BOB DESILETS-they're our 18th and 19th 50 year members
If any retiree wants to enter the New England Patriots Tix Raffle-You can purchase a tix(s) at the Monthly Union Meeting-ONLY \$10 (CASH ONLY)-SEE ME AT THE MEETING

**PATRIOTS
SEASON
TICKET RAFFLE
ONLY \$10 each**

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

SHORTHAND from Page 1

carrier's share 1% for 6 years toward your retirement-A \$3,700 PAY CUT/ A High 5 rather than High 3 to determine your annuity/eliminate the FERS Social Security supplement/ eliminate FERS COLAS and 5% cut yearly for Civil Service COLAS AND Higher Premiums for the Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan. **WHATEVER**, This is a good reason to give to the Letter Carrier Political Fund to save our pay and benefits!!!

NALC MEMBERSHIP CARDS

IF any ACTIVE MEMBER would like to receive a NALC Membership Pin, which are given for 25,30,35,40 years of membership-SEE ME -THEY'RE FREE

LASTLY

A HAPPY/LUCKY/GREEN ST. PATRICK'S DAY ON MARCH 17!!!
REVIEW OF FEBRUARY MEETING-Prez Frank spoke on Weingarten Rights-His meeting with acting Postmaster-numbers off during Prime Time Vacation-JOHN D'AMATO was recognized, with a letter from NALC Pérez Rolando, for aiding elderly patrons on his route that had fallen down -Retiree JIM CLIFFE received his 35 year NALC Membership Pin-\$200 donation approved for American Lung Association Climb (MERRISA TITUS)-3 new CCAs welcome into Branch 7- 50/50 winner was CHUCK KELLEY and \$50 Meeting Jackpot Winner was DAVE HARRIS- Chef Campbell's cuisine-Italian
PREVIEW OF MARCH MEETING (WEDNESDAY MARCH 11)-Pérez Frank's Labor-Management and Workroom Floor Reports-Trustee's Semi-Annual Audit Report of Branch Records-Resolutions from Branch 7 to the NALC National Convention -Food Drive Report-Sale of New England Patriots Tax Raffle continues-50/50-\$50 meeting jackpot-MDA Raffle-FOOD-PIZZA- SEE U AND BRING A CARRIER THIS MONTH TO THE MARCH MONTHLY UNION MEETING ON MARCH 11TH-WE MEET AT THE HIBERNIAN HALL IN THE HIBBS BUILDING-105 FEDERAL STREET IN LYNN-IT ALL STARTS @ 7 P.M.

WEATHERCHECK

It's almost the end of February, and this has been a great winter so far. For those of you who skip your breaks & lunch, he's a little breakdown of what you are giving back to the Postal Service. (or losing out on, depends how you want to look at it) Two ten-minute breaks for a CCA, is worth a little over \$6.00. for a Regular carrier, A little under \$10.00. For a CCA, lunch break, worth a little under \$10.00. for a Regulars lunch break, close to \$16.00. For CCA's the amount of skipping your breaks and lunch add up to almost, \$3700.00, a year. For a Regular Carrier, it's around \$6330.00 a year. That's money in your pocket, you are not getting. Yes, we do not get paid lunches, but if you are working through them, and not putting in for a no lunch, it's money out the window. The same applies for those who work off the clock. Here's to an early spring, warm weather and plenty of sun!

MDA REPORT

February Meeting Raffle raised \$100 (THANKS), bringing our yearly total from them to \$185 (THANKS). Merissa Titus and John Haraden won a \$20 gift certificate to the Tides Restaurant in Nahant. March Meeting Raffle-\$30 Gift Card to Kelly's Roast Beef & Seafood March-St. Patrick's Day-Irish-IT'S MDA SHAMROCK TIME-ONLY \$3 EACH-SEE your MDA Station Reps-THANKS !!!

Willow Street Whine

by John D'Amato

The Boston district has decided to go retro with its continuous implementation of old school rules and procedures. Last year we saw the exciting return of MSP scans and the use of the ever popular 3996. Coming back into action in 2020 is the 3M case. I've asked the question for years to management "how do msp scans create revenue for the PO?" The typical response I usually got was a blank stare. How in the world did all our carriers deliver thousands of hours of JAGS the past few years without the use of a daily 3996? Now poor management has to review each slip and data enter it in their computer. To make sure it is done right, upper management then runs a report to cross check it against total work hour's budgeted. All of this I'm pretty sure, saves the PO thousands of dollars. Apparently, the way we were redistributing our mail at the end of the night did not take enough time. Management is doing us a favor by creating extra steps at the end of our shift to give us those extra few minutes of OT. I wonder with all these rollaway talks, if they will give us chop blocks for our trucks again. With all these "cost cutting" and "revenue producing" procedures coming back, I can't wait for the PO to become profitable again.

\$50 WINNER

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

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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, Willow
Street Whine, \$50 Give Away, and VENT

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