



SEVEN NEWS ♦

Volume 28 Issue 2

February 2021

The President's Report by Frank Spathanas

Greetings everyone. I want all carriers aware that I met with the Postmaster last week and she mentioned to me that she wanted to start conducting 3999's promptly. For those who don't know, a 3999 is a one day walk where a supervisor is on the street with you all day recording and evaluating what your route and performance shows on that day. At that meeting I asked her if it was necessary to conduct the 3999's with the high positivity rate of Covid and the more contagious strain of Covid infecting the state. She said the decision to conduct these was made by Mike Rakes, district manager. I emailed Rakes with my concerns to see if he would reconsider doing them and he emailed me and said that 3999's are allowed to be done following the CDC guidelines. Supervisors cannot ride with any carriers and they will be socially distant from every carrier while walking with them. The lack of compassion the postal service has for its carriers amazes me. If they proceed with the 3999's I want to make sure the carriers follow

Be Mine Valentine



2nd Meeting, You Can Make IT
February 10, 2021 7 PM

.CDC guidelines. That means sanitize your hands often, change your gloves often, maybe like after every relay or a business route, every door handle you touch. Then go wash your hands often as needed complying with CDC guidelines. If you are being walked with and a supervisor is not at least six feet away, remind them to keep their distance and notify me right away if this happens. The Postmaster also dropped another little nugget that she will be leaving us and we will have a new Postmaster by the time we have our February meeting. No Dean Baker is not coming back. The new guy's name is Jim Murphy, and I don't know much about him. I hope to be able to meet with him before our meeting. The ballots are mailed out for the ratification of the new contract. Everyone please read what you got and vote as soon as possible as the deadline has been extended until March 1st. We increased our turnout of our last Zoom union meeting and I hope the trend continues. Hopefully, we can meet in person soon and get back to some kind of normal.

Shorthand

From the Secretary
by Frank Quartarone

“HEARTFELT THANKS” TO THE “ESSENTIAL/HERO” LETTER CARRIERS OF BRANCH 7 FOR DELIVERING 1st CLASS SERVICE TO OUR PATRONS/ CITIZENS OF THE USofA DURING COVID-19 !!!

PREZ BIDEN AND THE PO
How about January's word of the month-OPTIMISTIC. We now have a pro-public PO and labor/union friendly person at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Along with a Democratic Congress and Boston's own Marty Walsh as Labor Secretary, that “dark cloud” of privatization is in retreat. How about Prez Biden calling for an all-electric federal vehicle fleet-GOOD-BYE-LLVs with no A/C and HELLO- to a carrier friendly vehicle with modern accessories. UNFORTUNELY, the PO has a stumbling block-PMG DeJoy aka Delay, whose policies of lowering service standards and cutting OT has led to more late deliveries and public mistrust-HELLO-UPS/FEDEX/AMAZON. HOWEVER-OPTIMISM. There are 4 vacancies on the Postal Board of Governors, if Biden appoints 4 Democratic/Pro Public PO members, there will be a majority. BY THE WAY, the Postal Board of Governors can replace an existing PMG. BE READY to call your elected officials and give to the LC PF. (continued on page 3)

Postal Mania

by Dorothy Curtis

I spoke a lot recently about carriers filling out a PS form 3971 (request/notification of absence form) when it comes to taking time off. In Lynn, carriers are still flaking when it comes to filling them out in a timely manner. The results of not filling out a 3971 or filling it out late is that requests are getting denied, carriers are getting disciplined or carriers are not getting paid. In some cases, this puts the union in an unenviable position where we must go across the hall and try to reason with UNREASONABLE people. It is very frustrating to say the least.

I will not bog down this article with the dozen citations from postal manuals that state it is the employee's responsibility to fill out a 3971 but trust me they are there. If you get hurt at work and you want to be paid continuation of pay, what do you fill out to inform management of that? Yes, that would be a 3971. A 3971 is what you fill out upon you return if you are out sick one day and you want to make sure you get paid. A 3971 is what you fill out if you have jury

duty. Basically, any time you miss work on days you would otherwise be scheduled requires the use of a 3971.

I am going to make this article short and sweet as there is a storm coming. Be safe out there!



Saugus has gone through the pandemic and worked like the professionals that we are trained to be. Now we have been hit hard by this deadly virus with our first cases of Covid 19 since the pandemic started almost a year after the first cases hit the United States. Knowing that this could have happened at any time you would have thought that there would have been some sort of protocol. Instead craziness and paranoia has taken over. Some carriers thinking that maybe I should be going home, others thought they were far enough away that nothing would happen to them. Supervisors getting mad that carriers decided to quarantine instead of coming to work. While this was taking place, the Postal Service kept an expiration date to force carriers to go through their own sick time instead of paying their employees to quarantine for the safety of their fellow workers, customers and their own families. These are the same carriers

who were out there every day risking their lives to get the mail delivered. Through the lack of communication local management were confused if they should give administrative leave to employees who they were sending home for being exposed to the virus from other workers in the building. Protocol set by the postmaster could have helped with some of this confusion. It is hard enough to concentrate on what has to be done to keep one another safe without the thinking heads adding to the stress of its employees. So, do what you need to keep yourself safe and your families safe.

Also, I just wanted to thank those of you who came to our zoom meeting. It is a good place to ask the questions you have about the pandemic and things going on with your jobs. We had nine people from the office sign into the meeting but it can be better. The zoom meetings allow those of you who normally don't go to the meetings or have never gone to a meeting to look in from the comfort of your own home. I hope to see more of you this month



MDA REPORT

2021 total so far is \$150
-THANKS to a Branch Memorium given in memory of Retiree TOM LEVASSEUR

SHORTHAND from Page 1

NEXT-Some type of Hazard Pay

ZOOMING-2021

At the January Union Meeting, 32 members, up 12 from December, showed their faces. For 2021, how about more members and CCAs zooming the monthly meetings to listen and learn about their job, Branch 7 and our Postal world. Retirees-time to return to the monthly meetings. ZOOM MEETING INFO will be in 7 NEWS and Branch 7 website (nalcbranch7.com). SPEND the 2nd Wednesday of the month with your fellow co-workers and retirees of Branch 7 from the comforts of your home.

LASTLY (1)-No winner at the January meeting-Progressive Jackpot is up to \$100-MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN-Can't win if you don't show your face
 LASTLY (2)- A "HEARTFELT THANK-YOU" to the Stewards of Branch 7-Dorothy/Dave/Brian for all you do for its members and making the work-room floor a better place and fighting postal mismanagement LOL U ROCK !!!

REVIEW OF JANUARY MEETING via ZOOM
 32 members in attendance-

National Rap Session and New National Contract Highlights as well as info on Covid-19 related issues and Labor-Management Meeting by Prez Frank- Installation of New Branch Officers by Prez Emeritus Pat Byrne-

WELCOME CCA-Paul Nowell into Branch 7
 PREVIEW OF FEBRUARY MEETING via ZOOM (WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10th)

Labor-Management Meeting Report- INFO on number of carriers off during prime-time vacation period-LATEST Covid-19 related issues- Safety Committee Report-\$100 Progressive Jackpot-SEE ALL YOUR FACES ON WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10th, STARTING @ 7 P.M.

FRANK SPATHANAS is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: FEBRUARY BRANCH 7 UNION MEETING
 Time: Feb 10, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84732531170?pwd=YVhFMWNYNVU4S1I5WENoQ1hSdy80dz09>

Meeting ID: 847 3253 1170

Passcode: 498627

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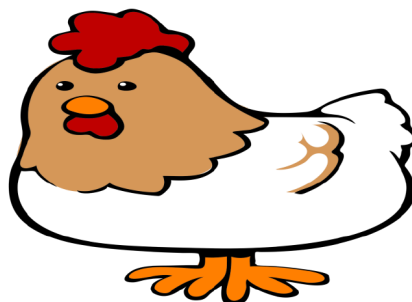
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Meeting ID: 847 3253 1170

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VENT



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 Cross the Road ?
 It Wanted to Stay
 Socially Distanced

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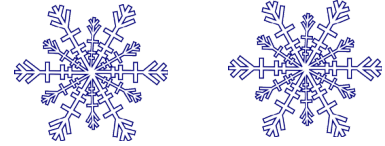
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DIVISION 10



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*In Memory of
Dave Johansen*

RETIREE NEWS
If any retiree would like to put something in or has anything, they like to share in Retiree News -Contact Me @ (781) 289-0590 THANKS

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nalcbranch7.com
All things Branch 7-
To Keep Members Informed



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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, Retiree News,
Postal Mania, Saugus Scribe,
MDA Report and VENT

Inside This Issue

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