

# MOUND CITY CARRIER

Official Publication of Branch 343



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Chartered 1892

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September 2014

## DELEGATES TO THE 69<sup>TH</sup> NALC BIENNIAL CONVENTION PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA



2015 ROTATING DAY CALENDAR INSIDE

# PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE ... BY BILL LISTER

## A BOX OF APPLES OR JUST PLAIN "NUTS"



Some issues never really go away. They go away for a time and then a new sheriff comes to town and you're right back to where you were several years before. Such is the case with our reserve letter carrier positions in St. Louis. Management initially wanted them back in the 1980s to minimize the impact of vacations in the installation, so they created over 100 of them. Then in the late 1990s they decided they were no longer needed and began reverting them until that got too laborious, so they abolished the rest. Grievances were filed and finally, just before arbitration, management decided that there was a need, only for half of them. We then agreed to settle the issue once and for all by agreeing to retain 5.2 percent of all regular assignments as reserve positions. That number currently allows for 62 R#s and will be adjusted to the current number of full-time assignments this October as per the agreement.

At least that is what the PM and Gateway District agreed to back in 2005. Since the Das Award resulted in our new contract in January of 2013, the current PM has decided that R#s, again, are no longer needed. With the creation of the non-career CCA positions, she would prefer having more CCA positions and zero R#s. The only problem is that pre-arb agreement from 2005 which gives us an agreed-upon right to have 5.2 percent of our full-time positions as R#s. I have discussed this with the PM and explained to her that I would be willing to negotiate on the percentage, however, I would need something in return. I would prefer to keep all of the full-time career R#s rather than exchanging them for non-career positions except the new contract limits our full-time workforce to a 1.8 percent ratio of career employees that is tracked at the national level. To minimize any future issues concerning these ratios and percentages, I was willing to negotiate on the percentage of R#s we will have for the future. The PM, however, believes that they are her positions and if she wishes to revert them then she can, even if we have a pre-arb settlement that was negotiated in good faith.

After several meetings on this subject with no resolution, we made one final attempt to negotiate. At that meeting the PM rejected all proposals I had submitted, and made me an offer to reduce the R#s to a total of 25 which could then be reverted when vacated. I again explained that I needed something in return for agreeing to reduce the total number and that agreed-upon number would have to be honored into the future. When resolution on this issue appeared unlikely, I got up to leave. That is when the PM stated to me that even though we had not reached an agreement, at least we had negotiated. My instinctive response was to explain what a negotiation really is, so I reduced my explanation to the simplest analogy that I could think of. I explained that if I had a box of 62 apples and she told me that she was taking 37 of my apples but I could keep the rest, then that would be a take it or leave it proposal, not a negotiation. However, if I offered her 37 of my apples for that cup full of pens on the table and she accepted, then that would be a negotiation.

By late July, I was asked to submit one more proposal on this issue in an attempt to resolve the R# debacle, as the PM had already begun to revert all newly vacated R#s. I gave it my best shot and sent the proposal in an email to the PM for

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consideration. A couple days later I received her response which stated that she could not accept my counter-proposal, therefore all R#s would be abolished. Abolished means that all occupied R#s would be taken from the carriers who held those positions and they would become unassigned carriers and excess to the needs in the carrier craft in the installation. Most of the occupied R#s had just been filled by newly converted CCAs to career which was accomplished from a grievance settlement that I had filed on not filling the R#s, and was resolved at Step-B.

After putting this situation in perspective, I began to feel that I was at the bottom of a very high and very steep hill. While considering a proper response, I decided to let my mind wander and all I could think of was Gen. McAuliffe during the Battle of the Bulge when he was awoken and told that his men were surrounded by the Germans at Bastogne, and the Germans had sent a note to his soldiers asking them to surrender or else. His one word response would become renowned not just for its historic value but for the defiant spirit that defined Americans during that monumental era. My dilemma while not anyway near as dire as McAuliffe's, seemed to call for a similar response, so I sent my one word reply just as McAuliffe had on that bitterly cold day just before Christmas in 1944, "NUTS."

Since that time, the PM has continued to revert newly vacated R#s although she has not abolished any of the occupied ones. Now, I am told that the USPS is creating unassigned regular positions and St. Louis will be getting 25 or 30 of them. These positions are exactly like R#s except that when the unassigned carrier either bids or is assigned a no-bid, then the position does not have to be filled and just goes away. These positions are being created to alleviate the high percentage of overtime in St. Louis even with the R#s. If the service creates these positions, then they are agreeing that there is a need for these R#-like positions. Will they then stop reverting and threatening to abolish all the R#s, or are they just plain nuts? More! Later!

<b>CALENDAR</b>	<b>Sept 11</b>	<b>Regular Branch Meeting</b>
	<b>Sept 21</b>	<b>Bar-B-Que Cook-Off for MDA – Letter Carriers Hall (see ad)</b>
	<b>Oct 1</b>	<b>Retirees' Meeting</b>
	<b>Oct 2</b>	<b>Shop Stewards' Meeting</b>
	<b>Oct 9</b>	<b>Regular Branch Meeting</b>
	<b>Oct 11</b>	<b>Shop Stewards' Award Banquet</b>
	<b>Oct 12</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> NALC Branch 343 Golf Tournament for MDA (see ad)</b>
	<b>Oct 13</b>	<b>Columbus Day Holiday observed</b>

<b>100% UNION HONOR ROLL</b>	
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<b>OLDHAM</b>	<b>HARRIOT WOODS/</b>
<b>PIEDMONT</b>	<b>WHEELER</b>
<b>ROLLA</b>	



# EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT ... BY BARRY LINAN



September 2014 greetings to all of the brothers and sisters of NALC Branch 343. Our delegates have returned from the 69<sup>th</sup> Biennial National Convention in Philadelphia, Penn. and all were in attendance for the business sessions. Most delegates also attended the optional workshops, before and after the business sessions. Branches submitted resolutions and amendments for debate which were then voted on, on the convention floor. I personally would have liked to have heard even more debate on some of the resolutions. Several guest speakers addressed the delegates. The highlights were Ed Schultz of MSNBC's Ed Show and Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont. They both spoke eloquently and with real knowledge of the U.S. Postal Service's financial condition. Their speeches supported 6-day delivery, door-to-door delivery and working people in general.

President Rolando was nominated for re-election, along with his slate of officers. There will be an election in October for all of the contested positions. RAA Mike Birkett was nominated and was unopposed for NBA of Region 5. Congratulations to Mike on becoming our new NBA in December this year.

## NEW MOU SIGNED ON PROBATIONARY PERIOD - BIDDING

A new MOU (M-01841) was signed on August 13, 2014, by the national parties on probationary period - bidding. It addresses bidding by full-time career carriers during a 90-calendar-day probationary period. Under prior language in Article 12, full-time career carriers were prohibited from bidding on vacant duty assignments while serving their 90-calendar-day probationary period. However, that language was modified by the Das Award and several subsequent MOUs signed by the parties, wherein CCA carriers who served two consecutive terms prior to conversion to full-time career did not have to serve a probationary period. Also, carriers converted to full-time career who had previously served as a TE did not have to serve a probationary period. This new MOU reads in pertinent part, "**full-time career city letter carriers who are serving a probationary period pursuant to Article 12.1 of the National Agreement and applicable memoranda of understanding are eligible to bid for vacant duty assignments**" and

"**seniority for full-time career city letter carriers during their probationary period will be computed for the purpose of bidding**". So, now all of you CCAs who are converted to full-time career can bid right away and need not wait 90 days.

I hope that management, having signed this agreement, actually instructs all those wonderful folks working at HRSSC bidding to make the necessary changes to implement this MOU. If you are having problems bidding at [liteblue.usps.gov](http://liteblue.usps.gov), contact the hall, fill out a bid card, and then get it to VP Bob Rapisardo for processing downtown.

## MDA GOLF TOURNAMENT ON OCTOBER 12

We are looking for as many \$100 hole sponsors for the golf tournament as we can get. I would love to see every station sponsor at least one hole. Every hole sponsor will be recognized at the tournament and in the MCC. If you cannot afford \$100, get someone else to co-sponsor a hole with you and we will recognize both of you or more. We are also seeking more attendance prizes for the golfers. Gift cards, sports items, tools, and alcoholic beverages all make for good prizes. All donations will receive recognition and are tax deductible. Please contact me or Mike Weir with any questions.

Currently we still have openings for teams of four golfers at \$280 per team. The team application form is in the MCC and please get yours in soon so we can accommodate you. There will be food and beverages provided at the tournament for no additional fee. We will again be having skins, greenie bets, closest to pin, and longest drive competitions on the course at Normandie. Come out, have some fun, and raise money for MDA with us.



# VICE PRESIDENT FINANCIAL SECRETARY

... BY ROBERT RAPISARDO



## ELECTIONS

It is that time, again! Nationally, locally and within our own branch there are many elections to be held in the upcoming few months.

At the national level, there will be many important elections for both the Senate and House of Representatives. Also, at the national level, there will be elections for the Executive Board of our own union. My personal opinion is that it is great and is irrelevant how much the election will cost. Too many people are satisfied with status quo. This does not mean that I will vote against the incumbents, but everyone should be held accountable in elected positions. Any member who pays their dues has the right to run for an elected position.

At the local level, there will be many contested races. Probably, the biggest one is for St. Louis County executive. There will be many heated races for the state Senate and House of Representatives. I wanted to thank Mike Weir and Bob Ruester for making me feel welcomed at some of these local fund-raisers for those who support us. It is not, exactly, my cup of tea, but Mike and Bob do a good job of making one comfortable. Our own Branch 343 will take nominations on September 14 for elected positions. Any member in good standing is free to run for office.

## SHOP STEWARDS' BANQUET

On the evening of Saturday, October 11 we will be hosting our annual banquet to show appreciation to all the stewards and alternate stewards for the work they do on a daily basis. We have plenty of new stewards and alternates and we sure hope they can make it. Appetizers begin at 6 p.m. and dinner is served at 7 p.m. We will have live music that night and awards will be presented to some stewards in recognition of their accomplishments as a steward. The hall will have some new decorations this year to make the night even more special. Hopefully, many will attend that evening.

## ECONOMY

Recently read that the median pay package is now over eight figures for the first time in history. They earned an average of \$10.5 million which was an 8.8 percent increase from 2012. How many of you got an 8.8 percent increase in wages? The sad thing is some of these CEOs are running companies that are losing money. A CEO now makes 257 times the average worker's salary, up sharply from 181 times in 2009. The industry with the highest pay bump was the banking industry. That median pay rose by 22 percent which was on top of the same 22 percent from the previous year. The media industry CEOs were paid the highest.

Another article addressed the issue that appears some mid-wage jobs are on the increase. Some nearly one million positions have been added this year, alone. The 1.3 million private positions created in the first six months of this year paid \$867 a week on average, exceeding the \$843 for all private-sector workers.

## COLCPE

We have two large COLAs coming on the September 26 paycheck. There is absolutely no reason why more members are not signing up to contribute. More and more stewards are signing up to contribute. There is NO reason for a steward or alternate not to contribute to preserve our own jobs. Hopefully, we can have another contest for stations signing up more contributors by the end of 2014. Please do not wait for us to contact you.

## ROY TAILORS

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# HEALTH BENEFITS PLAN ... BY CHET DRAIN



**T**hose of you who have taken the time to browse the NALC Health Benefits website will be glad to know that it has been upgraded. If you haven't perused the NALCHBP website, now would be a great time to do so. The NALCHBP website ([www.nalc.org/hbp](http://www.nalc.org/hbp)) has been totally revamped to make it easier to navigate and more user friendly.

Before, you could access the website to gain information about the plan, but to conduct certain interactions or to log on for member resources you had to transfer to the CIGNA web page. Now there is an icon to login and register as a member right on the HBP Web page.

The NALCHBP Web page now contains more drop downs to give browsers direct access to a variety of items related to the health plan:

- Information about the NALCHBP — its mission — its history.
- A separate drop down for each of the three plans: High Option, Consumer Driven, or Value Option.

Under each of the separate plans you can access needed information specific to that plan:

- Network provider listings
- Plan benefits
- Member resources

Member resources consist of such thing as forms:

- Privacy forms
- Mail order prescription drug forms
- Reimbursement forms
- Provider nomination forms
- Formulary drug list

Publications:

- Booklets and brochures
- Summary of benefits
- Patient safety and news

New members:

- How to join the plan
- How to file a claim

The Web page will now even have posted a report from Director of Health Benefits Brian Hellman, which was previously only sent to the HBR (health benefits reps.) Also, the new Web page provides a much simpler format to utilize the health risk assessment for promoting wellness activities for members and their families.

So hey, please take time out to log in to the NALCHBP website and check out the new digs. This was all done with you, the members of the NALC, in mind to make health plan information more available, more accessible and more functional.

God bless all and peace!

## MDA GOLF TOURNEY OCTOBER 12



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

CONTACT: VICKI ROHRBACH  
TOM SCHULTE OR  
BARRY LINAN

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# NOTES FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR

... BY TOM SCHULTE



## CONGRESSIONAL INEPTITUDE AND POSTAL INCOMPETENCE THREATENS U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

Congress is on a five-week vacation and must feel exhausted from doing absolutely nothing for the entire year. The 113<sup>th</sup> Congress has been dubbed the most inept in the history of the republic. What a badge of honor that must carry. Of course, that hasn't detracted congressmen from returning to their respective districts to plead with their constituents to send them back to Washington to complete their task of doing absolutely nothing for the rest of the year.

Not that long ago, the U.S. Postal Service operated as a quasi-federal agency. We negotiated our labor agreements, operated independently of the federal government and did so without receiving a single dollar in subsidies. We served the public strictly on the sale of our goods and services and did so efficiently for over 225 years. With that autonomy, we have consistently been regarded as the most trusted agency in the federal government.

But then, in 2006, Congress decided to impose on the Postal Service a \$5.5 billion per year tax to last for 10 years to pay for future retiree health benefits for the next 75 years. No other federal agency, or private company for that matter is required to do this; just the Postal Service. The reward, I suppose, for being the most trusted federal agency is to exploit the efficiency to pay for the catastrophes.

In 2008, due to the lack of congressional oversight, this country was taken to the brink of financial collapse because of the improprieties in the banking, investing and insurance industries who systematically raped, pillaged and plundered the assets of millions of Americans through their reckless abandonment of all moral scruples; decimated savings and pension funds without impunity; and left the bill to the American taxpayers. Not one of these bastards went to jail ... not one! And I'd venture to guess that if an audit were done today, the \$64 billion the Postal Service has already been required to pay for future retiree health benefits, is gone as well. No doubt to

pay for Wall Street's indiscretions.

Now, as if it weren't enough that Congress has imposed this financial burden on the Postal Service, we have to deal with the most incompetent postmaster general in our history running this great institution into the ground and no one in Congress is aware or seems to care. One man who answers to no one, who unilaterally decides to shut down hundreds of mail-processing centers throughout the country, decimating local economies, compromising delivery standards in its wake and eliminating door-to-door service to millions of American households because there is no one to stop him.

Every time favorable information is released about the service showing a considerable profit for the quarter, the PMG releases a statement that we're another billion dollars in the hole. What CEO of any company, who harps about how out of control his company is, would still be holding that position of authority? If Donahoe is clueless, he needs to step aside before he completely destroys the most trusted agency in the federal government.

Finally, Congress needs to wake up and realize that the 82 mail-processing centers that this clown is about to shut down are probably the lifeblood in the cities and towns in their respective districts. And whether you're a Republican or Democrat your chances of getting reelected may very well hinge on how you respond to this out of control postmaster general.

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# NATIONAL BUSINESS AGENT ... BY DAN PITTMAN



**W**e have just returned from the 2014 National Convention in Philadelphia, Penn. This was my last National Convention that I will attend as your national business agent. Preparing for the National Convention and getting our sections set up was not an easy task, but it was completed with the hard work of your RAAs, Mike Birkett, Mark Sims and Field Secretary Cheryl Stout. For those leadership graduates and local business agents who have had the opportunity to work in the regional office, they are aware that at times I can be quite demanding and I can complain. But through the good times and the bad we have always accomplished what our goals were for the region. I will miss the camaraderie and chemistry within this office in 2015 and beyond.

I was fortunate and honored to be able to represent the region on numerous awards given out to local branches. Thanks to the hard work by Mike Birkett on an e-Activist network, we were able to be presented with two prestigious awards. Kansas City, Missouri, Branch 30 won top honors for branches with 1,000 to 1,999 members at a amazing 33 percent e-Activist. Then out of 15 regions, our region won the regional e-Activist award at 27 percent. Both of these awards were humbly received and appreciated. Mike Birkett and I accepted the regional award while Branch 30 President David Teegarden and I accepted the branch award.

Not to be outdone, there were other branches that received recognition and awards.

## Under Branch Publications:

First Place, *The Viewpoint*, Kansas City, Missouri Branch #30, Promoting Unionism, by David Teegarden.

First Place: *The Mountaineer*, Springfield, Missouri Branch 203, "Editor's Opinion" by Warren Cooke. This was accepted by RAA and Branch 203 member Mark Sims and me.

Honorable Mention: *Mound City Carrier*, St. Louis, Mo., Branch 343. Best cartoon or photo.

Honorable Mention: *Mound City Carrier*, St. Louis, Mo., Branch 343. General excellence.

**MDA Region 5** winner was Jefferson City, Missouri Branch 127, raised \$5,289.00. The award category was for Branches 50-99 members. Jefferson City President, Pat Baker and I accepted this award.

All in all this was a very successful and rewarding convention for our region. I congratulate all the members who were in attendance in Philadelphia.

The personal highlight for me was on Thursday night at the retiree's dinner where Region 5 members Jane Broendel and I were honored and roasted at the dinner. With my wife, friends and Jane's family looking on, we celebrated the many years we gave to the NALC, locally and nationally. Silvia and I thank all those who attended and helped us celebrate this occasion. **A special thanks to Region 7 NBA Chris Wittenburg for being the one who roasted your NBA. As a sympathetic friend he took it easy on me except for the milk and cookies statement.**

## CCA RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN

The NALC Mutual Benefit Association is now offering a CCA Retirement Savings Plan. This plan is open to all CCAs who are members of the NALC.

CCAs should take advantage of this opportunity. The MBA is dependable, has low overhead and the NALC stands behind every policy written. CCAs will also enjoy a high rate of return, a guaranteed minimum interest rate while enjoying tax advantages. CCAs can; choose how they want to contribute (payroll deduction or lump sum deposits); choose between a Roth or Traditional IRA; choose to receive their annuity and even make early cash withdrawals.

When CCAs are converted to career, they can join the Thrift Savings Plan and will have the option to transfer their funds from the MBA without a surrender charge.

For more information, contact your MBA representative, local branch office, or MBA's headquarters office at 800-424-5184, Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (ET).

## HERO CORNER

Larry Warren, Branch 763, Columbia, Mo., reported a gas leak to a gas company employee that likely prevented a possible accident to a home where no one was at home on his route.

Ms. Ann Leonard, Branch 763, Columbia, Mo., prevented a possible house fire when she notified a mentally challenged woman that smoke was coming from her house. The woman had accidentally left the stove on and went outside.

**During the normal course of the day, this is what we do.**



# RETIREE REPORT ... BY TOM SCHULTE

## MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 5, 2014, MEETING

**M**eeting called to order at 12:45 p.m. by Chairman Walter Besch. Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance offered by Chaplain Gus Frank. Minutes from the July 2, 2014, meeting amended to include Dennis Wiesneski as a contributing member of the July lunch committee. Chairman Besch thanked Clif Nelson and Mike Weir for the delicious lunch and is still seeking volunteers too provide lunch for the October retiree meeting.

**Sick Call:** Former Chairman Jim McNeil still under the weather. He suffered a setback in his recovery but we hope to see him in the near future.

**Treasurer's Report:** Clif Nelson reported a current balance of \$767.12. Checking account transfer to take place shortly.

**Branch 343 Report:** Branch 343 President Bill Lister reporting on the recently attended NALC National Convention which was well represented by the retirees, that included Walter Besch, Ray Breakfield, Clif Nelson, Mike Weir, Mel McNair, Mike David, Tony Jasper and Tom Schulte. Bill also expressed disappointment at the lack of contentious issue on the convention floor, which needs to be addressed. With elections coming up this fall, 6-day delivery is probably safe for the rest of the year. Locally, management's newest weapon is emergency placement. A total of 22 carriers have been placed on EP this year.

Still fighting with the St. Louis PMG over the R-positions.

**Legislative Report:** Mike Weir expressed concerns regarding the nominees for the Board of Governors to the U.S. Postal Service, most notably James Miller III who is well known as a privatizer. The NALC is in touch with our labor-friendly representatives to address our concerns. New letter carrier champion is Senator Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., who is doing everything he can to save the Postal Service. He has 100 percent voting record regarding the service. Biggest threat is PMG Patrick Donahoe. Donahoe needs to go.

**Chairman's Report:** Walter Besch reported that all the retirees who attended the National Convention were present at every session and participated in all voting. He reiterated that all of the four postal unions were united and fighting together for the betterment of the Postal Service to preserve 6-day-delivery. Changes to the 2016 Health Benefits Program are in the works, which will include coverage for Self+1. Details pending. Walter has phone numbers for senior services available to the membership. Cost of living adjustments currently stand at 1.9 percent for retirees.

Actual percent won't be known until after the release of the September CPI.

**Good of the Retirees:** Jim Kluempers and Don Davis representing veterans of WWII and Korea respectively spoke about their experiences of Honor Flight which flies veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit the war memorials dedicated to those who served. Both gentlemen announced that if the retirees knew of any veteran who would like to go, they were both willing to help.

Bob Ruester expressed thanks to all the retirees who contribute to the Political Action Fund and thanks to Tom Harman as the former PAC fund chairman and to current chairman Mike Weir.

Moment of silence was held for all deceased members. Also, welcome to the newest members of the retirees.

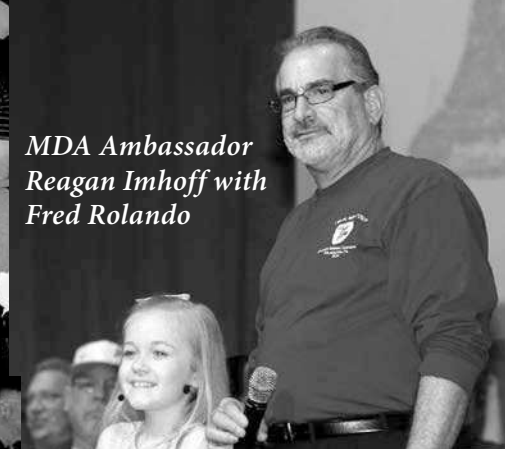
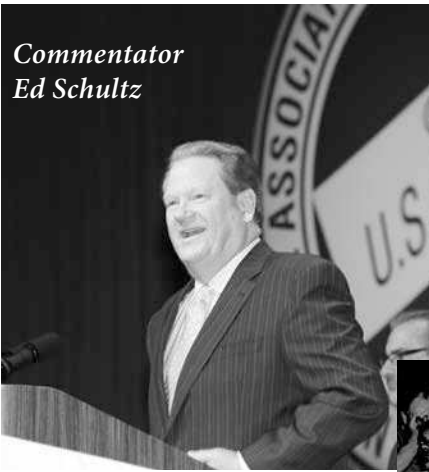
50/50 drawing won by Bob Ruester. Closing prayer offered by Gus Frank. Meeting adjourned at 1:31 p.m.



*Newly appointed retiree officers: Chairman Walter Besch, Recording Secretary Tom Schulte, Vice-Chairman Ray Breakfield and Treasurer Clif Nelson.*

# SCENES FROM THE 69<sup>TH</sup> NALC

*Commentator  
Ed Schultz*



*NALC President Fred Rolando*



# BIENNIAL CONVENTION IN PHILADELPHIA, PENN.



*Senator Bernie Sanders, I-Vt.*

*Senator Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass.*

**Dan J. Gould**  
**Branch No. 343**  
**National Association of**  
**Letter Carriers**

**2015**

**BILL LISTER, President**  
*Calendar prepared by:*

Bob Rapisardo      Charles Sexton  
 John McLaughlin      Barry Linan  
 Tom Schulte      Derrick Williams

JANUARY						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				A ■	B \$	B
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	C	D	E ☆	F ◆	A	A
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	B	C	D	E ●	F \$	F
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	A ■	B	C	D	E	E
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	F	A	B	C	D \$	D

FEBRUARY						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	E	F	A ☆	B ◆	C	C
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	D	E	F	A ●	B \$	B
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	C ■	D	E	F	A	A
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	B	C	D	E	F \$	F

MARCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	A	B	C ☆	D ◆	E	E
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	F	A	B	C ●	D \$	D
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	E	F	A	B	C	C
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	D	E	F	A	B \$	B
29	30	31				
	C	D				

APRIL						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			E ☆	F ◆	A	A
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	B	C	D	E ●	F \$	F
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	A	B	C	D	E	E
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	F	A	B	C	D \$	D
26	27	28	29	30		
	E	F	A	B		

MAY						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					C	C
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	D	E	F ☆	A ◆	B \$	B
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	C	D	E	F ●	A	A
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	B	C	D	E	F \$	F
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	A ■	B	C	D	E	E
31						

JUNE						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	F	A	B ☆	C ◆	D \$	D
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	E	F	A	B ●	C	C
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	D	E	F	A	B \$	B
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	C	D	E	F	A	A
28	29	30				
	B	C				



JULY						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 D ☆	2 E ♦	3 F \$	4 F ■
5	6 A	7 B	8 C	9 D ●	10 E	11 E
12	13 F	14 A	15 B	16 C	17 D \$	18 D
19	20 E	21 F	22 A	23 B	24 C	25 C
26	27 D	28 E	29 F	30 A	31 B \$	

AUGUST						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 B
2	3 C	4 D	5 E ☆	6 F ♦	7 A	8 A
9	10 B	11 C	12 D	13 E ●	14 F \$	15 F
16	17 A	18 B	19 C	20 D	21 E	22 E
23	24 F	25 A	26 B	27 C	28 D \$	29 D
30	31 E					

SEPTEMBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 F	2 A ☆	3 B ♦	4 C	5 C
6	7 D ■	8 E	9 F	10 A ●	11 B \$	12 B
13	14 C	15 D	16 E	17 F	18 A	19 A
20	21 B	22 C	23 D	24 E	25 F \$	26 F
27	28 A	29 B	30 C			

OCTOBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 D ♦	2 E	3 E
4	5 F	6 A	7 B ☆	8 C ●	9 D \$	10 D
11	12 E ■	13 F	14 A	15 B	16 C	17 C
18	19 D	20 E	21 F	22 A	23 B \$	24 B
25	26 C	27 D	28 E	29 F	30 A	31 A

NOVEMBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 B	3 C	4 D ☆	5 E ♦	6 F \$	7 F
8	9 A	10 B	11 C ■	12 D ●	13 E	14 E
15	16 F	17 A	18 B	19 C	20 D \$	21 D
22	23 E	24 F	25 A	26 B ■	27 C	28 C
29	30 D					

DECEMBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 E	2 F ☆	3 A ♦	4 B \$	5 B
6	7 C	8 D	9 E	10 F ●	11 A	12 A
13	14 B	15 C	16 D	17 E	18 F \$	19 F
20	21 A	22 B	23 C	24 D	25 E ■	26 E
27	28 F	29 A	30 B	31 C		

**■ HOLIDAYS ♦ STEWARDS' MEETINGS ● BRANCH MEETINGS \$ PAYDAYS ☆ RETIREES' MEETINGS**  
**ABCDEF - DESIGNATED DAYS OFF ON A ROTATING SCHEDULE**

MDA EVENTS	
1. Jan. Trivia Night	8. Sept. Fill the Satchel
2. March Bowllathon	9. Sept. Barbeque Cook-Off
3. April Texas Hold'em/7 Card Stud Tournament	10. Oct. Golf Tournament
	11. Dec. Pool Tournament

# As I See It

... By Ray Breakfield



**L**etter carriers, I guess, are like most people in that they tend to believe what they want to believe whether it's true or not. No matter how many times the truth is told, some folks don't like to pay any attention. I've heard some really outlandish thing that someone I thought was smart believed because someone they trusted told them or, better yet, they read it on the Internet.

The one we keep hearing over and over is, "I'm quitting the union because they only give money from **my union dues** to Democrats." That statement is wrong twice over. One: **It is against the law to give union dues to any political cause or candidate.** Two: Donations given freely to the Branch 343 Political Action Committee are given to candidates for office who support letter carriers and letter

carrier causes. The Political Action Committee gives money to both Democrats and Republicans who are on the side of letter carriers. On the inside of the back page of the *Mound City Carrier* is a list of those who gave their money to help letter carriers and our causes. You might not like it, but I'm going to say it again. **No union dues are ever given to political causes or candidates.** The money given to political causes is from donations, **only from donations.** Our union takes no sides on other issues that don't affect letter carriers. Our union is audited all the time to make sure dues are being spent on their intended purpose — the welfare of letter carriers. Unfortunately, there are probably those who would believe that the sun rotates around the earth because it said so online.

## BAR-B-QUE COOK-OFF FOR MDA



**Sunday, September 21, 2014**

**Letter Carriers Hall, 1600 South Broadway**

**Come one come all. Active, retired, family and friends welcome to participate.**

**Cooks start at 10 a.m.**

**Serving from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Judging at noon**

**Awards for Best Hamburger, Pork Steak, Ribs, Chicken, Side Dish and Dessert  
First, Second and Third Place Prizes**

**Cooks Provide Their Own Meat  
Cut into Samples, 10 lbs. Total**

**Grand Champion Voted by Judges  
Bragging Rights for Restaurant Donors**

**Tickets sold for "Fan Favorite" — Fans will vote for their favorite cook through sample tickets  
3 samples for \$5    20 samples for \$15**

### **Entertainment provided by local bands**

**Throw down a challenge to someone at your station  
Refreshments will be available for donation at the Union Hall  
Money raised will be used to send a child to MDA Camp  
For more information contact Diane Carter at 314-856-2021**

# Customer Connect

Carriers boost revenue by promoting USPS products

... BY PAM STEPNEY



**G**reetings sisters and brothers of Branch 343. How's everyone doing? Fine I hope. Letter carriers are winning the fight identifying companies on their appointed routes to do business with the Postal Service. Parcels are overflowing daily on all routes. When you take the parcel to the door for delivery, take the mail with you and give a smile to our customer. If the customer is not home, leave a notice and return the parcel to the post office. Hopefully, when the customer comes to retrieve their parcels maybe they'll take a look at our products and services and want to do business with us. I've noticed FedEx delivering parcels on Saturdays in new vehicles. We've got to keep them delivering Monday thru Friday because Saturdays belong to us. I pick up parcels daily on my route and I know it's time consuming. Just remember these are our own jobs we are saving.

Commit to talking to one customer this month about saving money doing business with your company, the United States Postal Service. Customer Connect is our program and you are the face, so make plans to help yourself and the union get more of our CCAs promoted to career by generating revenue for our company. As a regular we should encourage our CCAs to participate because they have a long way to go and they need this company to survive just as we do. My pastor always says to take a look back over your life and see how good you have it now, but don't forget your journey.

Moving on. Summer days are passing really fast and watermelon Wednesdays or almost over. We had some really good ones this year. Thank you to Claude Moore, Diana Merrill, Sandy, Rodney, Alexis, and Wayne Charter for buying the melons. Please give them a round of applause. A special thanks to our CCA Antwon,

regulars Claude, Keith, Rance, Rodney and Sandy for slicing and cleaning up on your break.

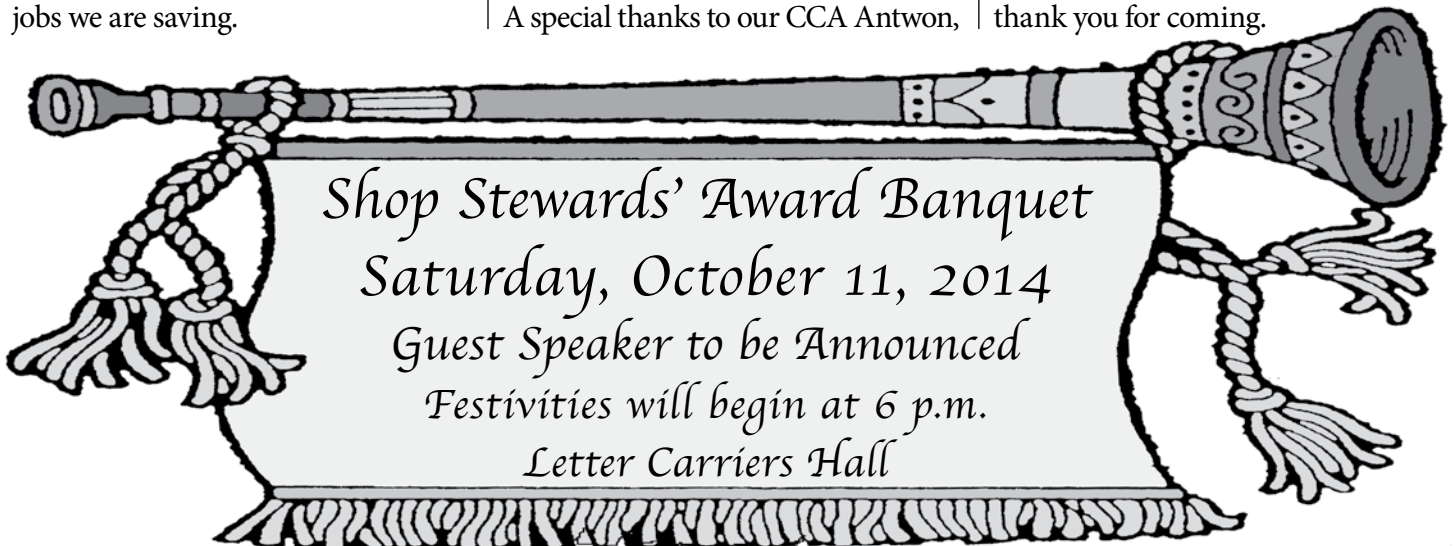
Please come out and support your union in the Labor Day Parade on Labor Day. You and your family will enjoy free barbecue and fun for the children following the parade.

Once again I send out a challenge to all stations and branches to sponsor a \$100 hole for the MDA golf tournament. West County has two sponsored already.

John Henry Haake/ Charles Coyle Scholarship applications are in this issue, so cut out the application and post it on the union bulletin board and announce it over the intercom.

Make sure everyone you know gets registered to vote and go out and vote, because if you don't vote you cannot complain.

Remember to do your best, leave the rest, don't stress, God bless, and thank you for coming.



# MAC POINTES ... *By JOHN McLAUGHLIN*

**G**reetings from the Pointe. The Postal Services' new motto should be, "If it ain't broke, fix it." If you claim you're losing money by the billions, you can move to 5-day delivery, close plants and post offices indiscriminately, and coerce customers to put up cluster boxes. Now, our fearful leader has decided to change OTDL carriers' work hours when they are brought in on their SDO. OTDL carriers will come in at 9 a.m. instead of 7 a.m. Another carrier gets the route up and you come in and carry it. To complete your 8-hour day, they will give you time (2 hrs-ish) off of another assignment. In theory, this would mean your day would end at 5:30 p.m. What could go wrong? Any carrier could identify the multitude of problems this poses. This should come in handy when the days grow shorter. How about

this as our new motto, "You can't write this stuff."

Our PMG has finally admitted that part of our problem is the burdensome annual payment towards our pre-funding of our retiree's health benefits payment to the tune of \$5.5 billion. Of course he stated it as part of a long list of things hurting the USPS and did not emphasize or elaborate on it. At this point, any progress, no matter how slow, is welcomed progress.

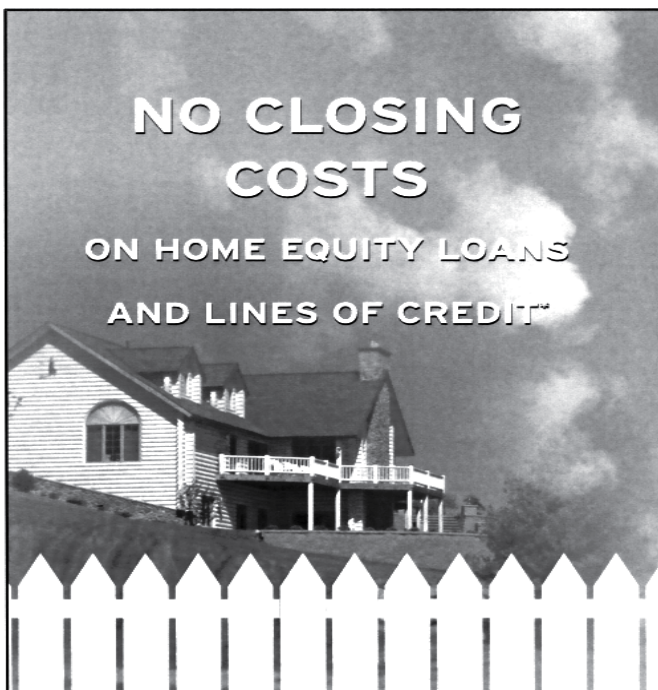
Some progress. The AP issued a correction to a USPS story they recently ran which erroneously blamed a \$2 billion loss incurred in the last fiscal quarter on compensation and benefit costs. Unfortunately, they ignored the fact that the entire loss was due to our congressionally required payment of \$2 billion towards the pre-funding issue.

Lastly, I would like to say a few

words about OIG agents. These people are the hired hit men for the Postal Service.

They are not there to help you, no matter what they say. They will do and say anything to coerce incriminating comments out of you. They believe any accusation your manager puts forth. Their sole mission is to prove the allegations. They are not there to find the truth. At the national level our president has asked that any confessions be done so only when videotaped. I believe that would be the only conditions under which I would willfully engage in an interview with these piranha.

Until next month, do your job safely and accurately. Show up to a union meeting. You might learn something. We don't write the rules; we just have to play the game. Slàinte.



Make your dreams come true with a Home Equity Fixed Loan or Line of Credit.

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**www.neighborscu.org**

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\*Membership eligibility required. Restrictions apply. Offer is subject to change. Contact credit union for full details.





## Application for the John H. Haake Scholarship Award



Fill out and mail to: John H. Haake, Branch 343  
Scholarship Committee  
1600 S. Broadway  
St. Louis, MO 63104

Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print clearly)

Please send instructions as to how I can compete for a scholarship award. I will be a senior in the 2014-2015 school year.

I am the ( son ) of ( retired ) letter carrier \_\_\_\_\_  
(daughter) (deceased) (Name)

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

My home address is \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of NALC parent  
member (or spouse if deceased)

\_\_\_\_\_  
NALC Parent's SS number      Date

**THIS FORM MUST BE POSTMARKED BY DEC. 31, 2014.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of  
Branch Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title      Date  
(For Office Use Only)

### NOTICE FOR THE 2015 MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS CHARLES J. COYLE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

I am the son/daughter of active/retired/deceased letter carrier \_\_\_\_\_  
of Branch # \_\_\_\_\_, state of Missouri. I am a high school senior in this 2014-2015 school year. Please  
send instructions as to how I can compete for a scholarship award.

NAME OF APPLICANT \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF NALC PARENT \_\_\_\_\_

SS# OF NALC PARENT \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO:      MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS  
CHARLES J. COYLE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE  
c/o Kevin Todd Boyer, President  
4004 Treetop Ln.  
Columbia, MO 65202

**NOTICE: MUST BE POSTMARKED BY DECEMBER 31, 2014.**



# WEST COUNTY RANCH

... BY C D JAMESON



This is just some of the nonsense going on at probably all stations. Boss screams on the scream-a-com, "Nobody out after 5 p.m." The CCA brings mail back after calling in and getting no response. The manager asks, "Why did you bring it back?" He explains that he's following instructions and that he was given no logical response when he called back. Manager says, "You're wrong". Who is wrong? Certain politicians stand and put your right hand over your heart, if you have one. With the left, hold a tea bag and repeat after me, "I forgot exactly who I was supposed to represent, our parties self interest or my constituents". This is your new logo, you are now members of the Lipton tea party!

On the other side, \$15 for flippin burgers and come to America for a free college ride, while the rest of us union workers bust our ass to pay for our kids' educations. A wild ride this election year.

Got a copy of the Gateway Performance Cluster Career Conference Application. Some highlights: Supervisor, **Customer Service**, Ethics, What would you do? Leadership skills, if any. Dealing with change. Fun and humor in the workplace. Learn how a good attitude can enhance your employee's day. I hate my f-ing job, correlate that to either, Fun and Humor or Positive Attitude. Love the Ranch. I like this one, **Ethics and Integrity**. Actual topics. A skirt and suit were out trying to wreck carriers' careers for some particular reason. Carriers, do your job as instructed. When about 160K has nothing to do with their sorry ass lives but drive around, I ask, "If they're watching us, then who is watching them?"

Every time I have an off day, a new **pilot** program is introduced. The latest, color coded MSP cards. Wow, this must be a revenue windfall. We are told, "Mandatory, obligated." Give it 72 hours. Question, when given instructions about these cards and the tremendous benefits involved, why is the word **service** never spoken in the same stand-up? Service to management is like **P.M.S.** to our area manager. **Psychotic Mental Syndrome**. You thought it was something different? I asked carriers to explain P.M.S. and I received responses both in and out of station. Piss poor management system. Positively maligned system. Permanently misguided secret USPS covert group, bent on one person making a decision and the rest of the sheep nodding their heads. Hmm, that one has substance.

Around here we were known as the house of weed. Our maintenance engineer (James) had requested only a lawn mower from our manager on numerous occasions. Constantly rebuffed, not in the budget. So he asked the queen of scream and hot damn!! She gave him a card and he went to Granger and got one. Not postal blue but she acted within 24 hours, something the manager couldn't do. Thank you. Got a new dock roof, thanks to me and the stewards complaining over and over. The dead birds and squirrels I was told is because of the asbestos in the dock ceiling panels. Granger has shelving for our LLVs, not in the budget. The antenna hanging upside down on the dock, still works, not attached.

## MDA GOLF TOURNAMENT



THIS HOLE SPONSORED BY:  
STATION

DON'T YOU WANT YOUR STATION'S NAME HERE?  
COLLECT \$100 FOR MDA

## BRANCH LEGAL PLAN

Advice and Consultation on  
General Practice and Civil Actions.

G

**JOHN H. GOFFSTEIN**  
ATTORNEY

**GOFFSTEIN LAW, L.L.C.**

225 SOUTH MERAMEC, SUITE 402  
ST. LOUIS (CLAYTON), MO 63105  
TELEPHONE: 314-932-1919  
FACSIMILE: 314-932-5048  
JOHN@GOFFSTEINLAW.COM  
GOFFSTEINLAW.COM



## LEGISLATIVE ACTION of Interest to all Letter Carriers

### WHO SUPPORTS POSTAL ISSUES?

Which Missouri and Illinois U.S. Senators and which U.S. House of Representative members support or oppose major legislation important to the U.S. Postal Service? The following senators and representatives represent the districts in proximity to the St. Louis area and thus represent the majority of members in Branch 343. The following is the voting record of Missouri Senators Roy Blunt (R) and Claire McCaskill (D) in Missouri and Richard Durbin (D) and Mark Kirk (R) in Illinois.

In the U.S. House of Representatives 1<sup>st</sup> Dist. Congressman Lacy Clay (D), 2<sup>nd</sup> Dist. Congresswoman Ann Wagner (R), 3<sup>rd</sup> Dist. Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer (R), 8<sup>th</sup> Dist. Congressman Jason Smith (R) and Illinois 12<sup>th</sup> Dist. Congressman William Enyart (D).



## LEGISLATION OF NOTE



### SENATE BILL 316

Thirty-one senators have co-sponsored S.316, a postal modernization measure that preserves Saturday mail delivery.

*No support from McCaskill, Blunt, Durbin or Kirk*

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL H.R. 630

In the House, 185 members out of 435 have co-sponsored H.R. 630, a postal modernization measure that preserves Saturday mail delivery.

*Voting in support of H.R. 630 are Democrats Clay, Missouri 1<sup>st</sup> District; and Enyart, Illinois 12<sup>th</sup> District.*

*No support from Wagner, Luetkemeyer and Smith.*

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL H.R. 961

In the House, 169 members out of 435 have co-sponsored H.R. 961, a measure that calls for a refund of the USPS surplus in FERS.

*Voting in support of H.R. 961 are Democrats Clay, Missouri 1<sup>st</sup> District; and Enyart, Illinois 12<sup>th</sup> District.*

*No support from Wagner, Luetkemeyer and Smith.*

### HOUSE RESOLUTION 30

In the House, a majority of members, 226 of 435 have cosponsored House Resolution 30 expressing the sense of the House that USPS should take all appropriate measures to ensure continuation of 6-day mail delivery service.

*Voting in support of House Resolution 30 are Clay, Missouri 1<sup>st</sup> District; Luetkemeyer, Missouri 3<sup>rd</sup> District; Smith, Missouri 8<sup>th</sup> District; and Enyart, Illinois, 12<sup>th</sup> District.*

*No support from Wagner, Missouri 2<sup>nd</sup> District.*

### HOUSE RESOLUTION 711

House Resolution 711 was just introduced on August 1 and currently has only two cosponsors. None-the-less it is a piece of legislation vitally important to the Postal Service and thus warrants our support. House Resolution 711 expressing the sense in the House that USPS should take all appropriate measures to ensure continuation of door-to-door delivery for all business and residential customers.

**Every one of these bills is extremely important to the survivability of the U.S. Postal Service and the preservation of our jobs. If your senator or representative from your district isn't supporting these bills, you have an obligation to contact that congress person and find out why. Voting records don't lie. If you think your political party is being maligned, the proof is in the voting record!**

Join us at familiar surroundings of PGA quality

# **NORMANDIE GOLF CLUB**

## **REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!**



### **27<sup>th</sup> NALC Br. 343 Golf Tournament for Muscular Dystrophy ENTER NOW!**

**WHEN:** 8 A.M. SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2014

**WHERE:** NORMANDIE GOLF CLUB  
7605 St. Charles Rock Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63133

**COST:** \$70 PER PERSON (\$280 PER TEAM)  
Price includes 18 holes of Golf, Electric Cart,  
Prizes, Refreshments, (Beer, Soda, Brats,  
Hamburgers etc.)

**FORMAT:** Best Ball Four Man Scramble  
"Shot Gun Start"

**HOW TO ENTER:** A check or checks totaling \$280 with the  
names and addresses of team members must  
be received ASAP (Please list at least one  
phone number and email)

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**  
MDA Golf, Branch 343  
1600 S. Broadway  
St. Louis, MO 63104

---

#### **REGISTRATION INFORMATION:**

1. Registration will start at 8 a.m.
2. Shot Gun Start – 9 a.m.
3. There will be a cutoff at 36 teams due to time restrictions. Money will be refunded to any team who enters after the cutoff.
4. Teams must arrive 30 minutes prior to tee time.

If you have any other questions about the tournament that have not been answered here, contact:

Barry Linan  
Letter Carriers Hall  
314-241-4297

*Clip and Mail*

.....  
PLEASE PRINT:

email \_\_\_\_\_

1. NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

2. NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

3. NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

4. NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_



# NALC LEADS THE FIGHT TO SAVE USPS ... BY MIKE WEIR

As you would expect, much of the focus at the National Convention in Philadelphia was on dealing with the Postal Service's current financial issues and strengthening its future prospects. Once again, we have weathered a storm in Congress. Despite numerous attempts by Representative Issa and his cohorts, with the approval of the House leadership, to weaken USPS' position in the marketplace, we retained the six-day delivery language in the appropriations bill and pushed back against legislation that would have degraded the quality of the service we provide our customers. A majority of Republican and Democratic representatives alike rejected these transparent attempts to, essentially, dismantle the Postal Service. These short-term victories were predicated upon our success in educating Congress and the public regarding the real issues underlying USPS' financial problems; providing a new perspective on how to revitalize the Postal Service and make it a stronger and more vital entity for our customers' delivery needs; and developing partnerships with all our fellow stakeholders: including the other postal unions, federal employee unions, representatives and senators, mailers, postal-related businesses, small business associations, rural groups, the AFL-CIO, etc. Of course, all of our efforts could be undermined by another influx of extremist senators and representatives from the mid-term elections in November. We need to release sufficient NALC activists to educate working families and get out the vote in support of candidates who will represent our interests. Please do your part by contributing to COLCPE,

so we are able to fund our efforts to elect a more worker-friendly Congress. **See your shop steward or call the Union Hall for information on how to sign up and contribute.**

Just prior to the congressional recess in August, House Resolution 711 was introduced. This bipartisan resolution calls on Congress to take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of door delivery for all business and residential customers. It was crafted in response to recent attempts by our enemies, including PMG Donahoe, to install cluster boxes to service millions of customers. Such a move would certainly impact letter carrier jobs. Just as importantly, it would create a hardship for senior citizens, the disabled and, essentially, everyone else, depending upon a number of conditions including the weather, neighborhood, darkness, etc. We need to get as many co-sponsors as possible for House Resolution 711 so it will carry the same weight as does House Resolution 30 regarding the retention of six-day delivery. **Call your representative and ask him or her to support door delivery and to cosponsor this bipartisan resolution.**

Several of the workshops at the National Convention were dedicated to legislation, political activism and postal issues. I was particularly impressed with one entitled *The Postal Service in 2025*. This presentation examined trends which could affect current postal services as well as the potential development of new services, including postal banking. The panel presented very detailed and convincing data documenting the true financial condition of the Postal Service. They detailed a legislative reform plan developed in

conjunction with the partnerships I noted above, including industry leaders, which would eliminate the net loss created by the pre-funding debacle and put the Postal Service on a secure financial footing over the next 10 years. They also outlined a push for vote by mail in more states and the creation of a postal banking system, ideas which are championed by Senators Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, both of whom spoke at the NALC Convention. Vote by mail would raise significant revenue for USPS and strengthen our democracy by giving more citizens an opportunity to exercise their right to vote. A postal banking system would raise even more revenue while filling a void experienced by nearly 70 million American adults who do not have access to traditional banking services. Additionally, the workshop addressed more immediate concerns such as Donahoe's absurd plan to close another 80+ processing plants next year in accordance with his "shrink to survive" strategy. Here again, the partnerships we have formed with so many other groups and individuals will help us to address such idiocy with a stronger, more diverse voice in the corridors of Congress.

While I am heartened by these developments, I am also pragmatic about our chances for achieving all of our goals. Nothing is assured; nothing will be given to us just for the asking. **Each of us is responsible for building upon any success we have achieved up to this point.** Please, **GET INVOLVED!** Contribute your time, your money and your support. Together, we can achieve lasting change and create a successful outcome for ourselves and generations of letter carriers to come.

# BRANCH MEETING

BRANCH 343, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

AUGUST 14, 2014

## Summary of Branch Action

**MSC** To pay the branch bills.

**MSC** That Branch 343 purchase and provide up to 80 union made T-shirts for the 2014 Labor Day Parade and accept donations for these shirts that will be given to MDA.

**MSC** That Branch 343 purchases 300 Koozies for the MDA washer and golf tournaments and accept donations for these Koozies that will be given to MDA.

## Highlights

NBA Dan Pittman reported he will be retiring December 12 of this year. Dan then congratulated RAA Mike Birkett who will be Region 5's next national business agent.

Retirees Chairman Walter Besch informed the members that next month on September 3 will be the retirees' picnic and all retirees are welcome.

Labor Council Representative Mike Chenot reported that Branch 343 will be 10<sup>th</sup> in line for the Labor Day Parade and carriers need to get there early because we will be marching shortly after the parade starts.

Sister Pam Stepney reported that next month's *Mound City Carrier* will have the John Haake Scholarship and the Charlie Coyle Scholarship applications in it.

Vice President / Financial Secretary Robert Rapisardo reminded the members the Labor Day Parade will be September 1 and they should be at the Union Hall no later than 8 a.m. Bob let the members know there would be vehicles at the hall to transport them to and from the parade.

President William Lister informed the members that nominations for branch officers and Labor Council delegates will be during the next general meeting in September. Also, the postmaster of St. Louis is unhappy with how incidental leave is currently being handled so she is going to try and reinterpret our LMOU incidental leave language. This new interpretation is incorrect and if any carriers have problems getting incidental leave when a period is still open, make sure you talk to your steward. Lastly, the Postal Service has decided to create new full-time unassigned regular positions in St. Louis. This is occurring while at the same time the postmaster is arguing there is no need for the reserve carrier positions. Therefore, she has made the decision to revert the reserve positions. This reasoning is counter-productive to a continued working relationship.

## New Members

Micadez G. Favors.....	St. Clair .....	08/14/14
Jahbar W. Hogan.....	Union .....	08/14/14
Nick S. D'Ambrosio .....	Des Peres.....	08/14/14
Luis E. Agosto-Ortiz.....	Affton.....	08/14/14
Julie F. Hacking.....	Warrenton.....	08/14/14
Krystal L. King.....	Chouteau.....	08/14/14
Odessa R. DuPree .....	Chouteau.....	08/14/14
Jerica R. Fairchild .....	Des Peres.....	08/14/14
Ariel M. Alexander .....	South County .....	08/14/14
Lewis S. Ensor .....	Fenton .....	08/14/14
Taron L. Tailor .....	Ferguson .....	08/14/14
Shawn L. Like .....	Olivette.....	08/14/14
Jonathan Edwards.....	Southwest.....	08/14/14
James M. Currie .....	Chouteau.....	08/14/14

## Recently Retired Members

Ben W. Swift Jr. ....	South County .....	05/17/14
Jack S. Oehler .....	Wentzville.....	05/31/14
Darron D. Trupiano.....	West County.....	05/31/14
Ronald S. Hicks .....	Sikeston.....	06/19/14
Carol K. Hartney.....	Southwest.....	06/12/14
Dwayne F. McCabe .....	West County.....	07/31/14
Kenneth M. Beck.....	Maryville Gardens .....	08/01/14
Edward Jones.....	North County.....	07/31/14
John E. Kientzy .....	Chouteau.....	07/31/14

## Deceased Members

Martin S. Nixon .....	Retired.....	07/24/14
Clarence R. Fritzemeyer .....	Gold Card .....	06/01/09
Lowell H. Scott .....	Retired.....	12/19/06
Jerry L. Rowden.....	Retired.....	07/15/14
David L. Berst.....	Retired.....	11/17/13
Thomas A. Love .....	Retired.....	10/29/13

Respectfully Submitted  
Charles L. Sexton  
Recording Secretary

**ROBERT J. LEHMKUHL★★★★★★★★★★★★**

<b>FRANCIS RYAN★★</b>	<b>GENE BRADFORD★★</b>	<b>BOB FLAHERTY★★</b>	<b>GERALD L. GALLEANO★★</b>
<b>HENRY DEIBEL★★</b>	<b>TOM DEGEARE★★</b>	<b>DAN BRAUCHLE★★</b>	<b>TONY JASPER★★</b>
<b>BILL LISTER★</b>	<b>JOHN HAAKE★</b>	<b>MIKE WEIR★</b>	<b>JIM BRUGGEMAN★</b>
<b>TIFFANY HAGER★</b>	<b>EUGENE HILKE★</b>	<b>GENO IBERG★</b>	<b>CHARLES SCANLON★</b>
<b>TOM SCHULTE★</b>	<b>MICHAEL McCOY★</b>	<b>THOMAS HOWERY★</b>	<b>THOMAS FITZSIMONS★</b>
<b>BARRY LINAN★</b>	<b>JOE POLITTE★</b>	<b>JOE FITZJARRELL★</b>	<b>LAWRENCE McHAYNES JR★</b>
<b>MARK SIMS★</b>	<b>KEN MEYER★</b>	<b>CHARLIE SEXTON★</b>	<b>JOHN LEWANDOWSKI JR★</b>
<b>ART BUCK★</b>	<b>TIMOTHY DUNCAN★</b>	<b>MIKE BIRKETT★</b>	<b>WAYNE WENZINGER★</b>
<b>BOB STEEL★</b>	<b>RAMONA DROEGE★</b>	<b>GARY COFFELT★</b>	<b>WALTER BESCH★</b>
<b>MIKE CHENOT★</b>	<b>JOE CANMAN★</b>	<b>DICK LEONG★</b>	<b>TOM HARMAN★</b>

Bob Rapisardo	John Chudy	John Karay	John Haake
Bill Hoffman	Bill Jimas	Jefferson Layton	Jim Kluempers
Brian Litteken	Angelo Ottolini	Michael Jennings	Lawrence McHaynes Jr
Kelly Steinbecker	Donald Bass	Clif Nelson	Rocky Rakowiecki
Gus Frank	Larry Streib	William Rome	James Oldenburg
Marion Harris	James Goheen	Tiffany Hager	Dan Brauchle
Ramona Droege	Mike Chenot	Chet Drain	

*The above honor roll gives special recognition to those members who give \$50 or more. Each star represents \$100*

Tiffany Hager	Bob Reuster	Chet Drain	Ramona Droege
Marion Harris	Geno Iberg	Jim Kluempers	Mike Chenot
Harry Morris			

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*(Donations are not tax deductible)*

## BRANCH MEETING ATTENDANCE PRIZES AUGUST 14, 2014

1. Cards vs. Reds - Tuesday 8/19 @ 7:15 p.m. — Man Palubick, Coyle Station
2. Cards vs. Reds - Wednesday 8/20 @ 6:15 p.m. — Joni Mueller, Coyle Station
3. Cards vs. Pirates - Monday 9/1 @ 1:15 p.m. — Ramona Droege, South County
4. Cards vs. Pirates - Wednesday 9/3 @ 12:45 p.m. — Brian Litteken, Gaffney Station
5. Rams vs. Packers - Saturday 8/16 @ 3 p.m. — Mike Weir, Retired
6. Rams vs. Packers - Saturday 8/16 3 p.m. — Ray Breakfield, Retired
7. Rams vs. Vikings - Sunday 9/7 @ Noon — Vena Banks, Ferguson
8. Rams vs. Vikings - Sunday 9/7 @ Noon — John McLaughlin, Mac Pointe
9. Bottle of Wine - Roy Taylor Uniform/Walter Besch — Mike Mitchell, Carrier Square (Donated to MDA Golf)
10. Bottle of Wine - Roy Taylor Uniform/ Walter Besch — Charles Sexton, South County (Donated to MDA Washer Tournament)

# Dan J. Gould

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 Barry Linan ..... Executive Vice President/  
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 Robert Rapisardo..... Vice President/  
 Financial Secretary  
 Charles Sexton ..... Recording Secretary  
 Derrick Williams..... Sergeant-at-Arms  
 Saronda Sutherland ..... Collector, MBA  
 Chet Drain ..... Health Benefit Representative

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 Gus Frank ..... Barry Linan  
 Mike Chenot ..... Tony Jasper  
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### MOUND CITY CARRIER

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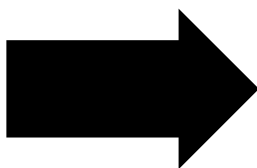
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### RETIRED MEMBERS MEETING

LETTER CARRIERS BUILDING  
 1600 S Broadway

1st Wednesday of the month.  
 Lunch at noon, meeting at 12:45 pm

Walter Besch, Chairman..... (636) 343-3775

Ray Breakfield, Vice-Chairman..... (573) 358-5266

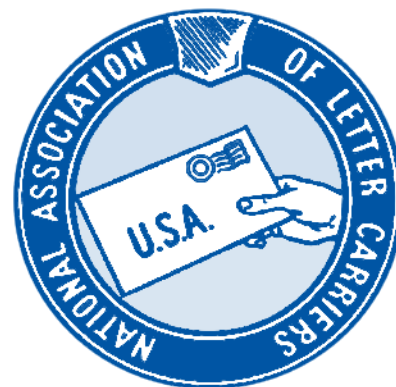
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**Deadline for articles for  
 the OCTOBER issue is  
 SEPTEMBER 15, 2014**

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**REGULAR BRANCH MEETING  
 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2014  
 7:30 pm**

★ ★ ★

**SHOP STEWARDS MEETING  
 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2014  
 The Letter Carriers Building  
 1600 S Broadway**