

BR. 14 NEWSLETTER



VOL 52, NO. 12

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF BRANCH 14, NALC
SERVING LOUISVILLE, FORT KNOX, BARDSTOWN, RADCLIFF, LAGRANGE,
LEBANON, EMINENCE, SHELBYVILLE, VINE GROVE, SPRINGFIELD, & CAMPBELLSVILLE

DECEMBER 2023



*Merry
Christmas
2023*



&

HAPPY NEW YEAR

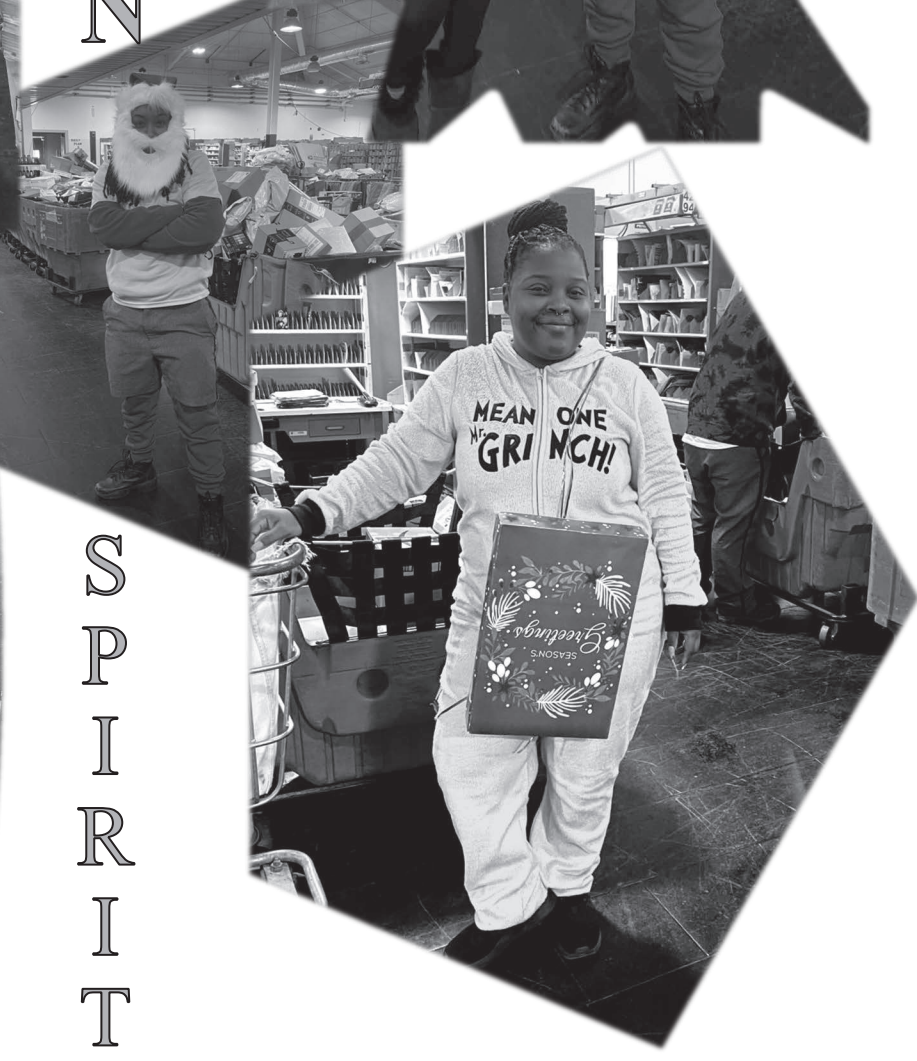
2024



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TONY WEDDLE
President

The holiday season is upon us and 2024 is right around the corner. This past year was another challenging year for us at the local level on the staffing front, but we've seen some improvement. Hopefully, we can keep moving forward on that topic in 2024. And like many of you, maybe our national representatives can achieve a decent contract for letter carriers. Many carriers were hoping for a holiday season surprise pertaining to a new contract but it's obvious that isn't going to happen.

It's hard to predict what lies ahead in 2024, but we can expect to see many more challenges ahead. The branch just had steward elections, so we'll have a few new representatives we're going to have to get trained. We have had a handful of other representatives that stepped up over the past year and I'm confident that some of them will likely turn out to be great assets to the branch in the future. We anticipate a few retirements this year among our union representatives so we're going to have to continue our efforts to recruit representatives in the new year as vacancies occur and we encourage all our members to get involved.

With that said, and as this is my last article of the year, I want to express my sincerest thanks to all our members that have helped or participated with branch activities this past year and to our union representatives for the hard work you do representing our members. Without the collected efforts from our active members and union reps, many of our activities couldn't be accomplished or be successful without your support.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone. I hope to see many of you at the next union meeting in January. Until then, be safe and remember, if you're going to do the job, you might as well take the time it takes to do the job right.

Shared Services (National Human Resources)
1-877-477-3273 <http://liteblue.usps.gov>
You'll need your Employee ID# and USPS PIN.

BRANCH 14 NEWSLETTER

Published monthly by
Branch 14 National Association of Letter Carriers
4815 Poplar Level Road
Louisville, KY 40213

964-3200

964-3276

Officers & Staff

President.....Tony Weddle
Executive Vice-President.....Ron Gast
Vice-President.....Jarett Sims
Recording Secretary.....Steve Terry
Treasurer.....Bob Hack
Asst. Recording/Financial Secretary.....Bill Davis
Health Benefits Rep./Retirement.....Tom Webb
Sergeant-at-Arms/Scribe.....Adriane Shanklin
Community Activities Coordinator.....Missy Harris
Trustee.....Daria Duvall
Trustee.....Larry Terry
Trustee.....Tina Davis
Trustee.....Greg Ray
Trustee.....Gary Edison

Branch 14 Stewards

40202.....Leroy Gutierrez
40203/08/10.....Leroy Gutierrez
40204.....Leroy Gutierrez
40205.....Thomas Derringer
40206.....Jason Hawkins
40207.....Russell Johnson
40209/14/15.....Missy Harris
40211/12.....Damon Braxton
40213.....Kyle Moert
40216.....Angelo Bravo
40217.....Jeff Richards
40218.....Matt Weegens
40219.....Ron Frye
40220.....Carol Gast
40222.....Nick Schneider
40228/91.....Tina Davis
40229.....Vacant
40241/42.....Adriane Shanklin
40243.....Ron Gast
40258.....Lance Schwede
40272.....Lance Schwede
40299.....Carol Gast
Bardstown.....Ryan McCormick
Campbellsville.....Ryan McCormick
LaGrange.....Stephanie Diaz
Lebanon.....Ryan McCormick
Shelbyville.....Bailey Hendrix
Springfield.....Ryan McCormick
Fort Knox.....Vacant
Radcliff.....Mike Watson

Visit the Branch Website at:
nalcbr14.com
or **Like** us on Facebook

**RON GAST****Executive Vice-President**

Flavor of the month: Office Time. I doubt that there is one carrier in this city who has not been told lately “you need to get out of the office in 1 hour”. If you have not, I am sure you will soon. There seems to be a strong push (literally) to get carriers out of the office before their mail volume says they should be. One of the biggest issues with office time these days is that management seem to think that you no longer have what is called “Fixed Office Time” or FOT. FOT is outlined in Exhibit 121.12 on page 5 of the M-41 as follows:

8. For each 10 pieces of all classes of mail separated for forwarding or return
9. Periodicals marked up (for each 2 pieces handled for forwarding or return)
10. For each Form 3579, Undeliverable Periodical, Standard A & B or Controlled Circulation Matter
11. For each 4 pieces marked up (mail marked Deceased, Temporarily Away, Refused, Vacant (Occupant mail of obvious value) or No Mail Receptacle)
12. For each change of address, including Form 3546, recorded on Forms 1564-B and 3982
13. Insured receipts turned in

Total for 8-13 – 5

14. Registered, Certified, COD, Express Mail, Customs and Postage-Due; Keys, Form 3868, signing for, returning funds or receipts, and for partial completion of Form 3849 **6**
15. Withdrawing mail where applicable (from distribution cases, trays, sacks, and/or hampers) **5**
19. Vehicle Inspection **3**
20. Personal needs, etc. **5**
21. Office work not covered by form **9**

Total Fixed Office Time: 33 minutes

National Interpretive Step M-01664 made a

slight adjustment which combined lines 8-13 as follows: “A five minute time credit for lines 8-13 will be added or when route inspection data is available for lines 8-13 the actual average information will be used for daily workload projections.” This means that on a daily basis, these lines are combined for a total of 5 minutes as outlined above. So, if you are told that you do not get 33 minutes of FOT every day, simply cite the information above, and if necessary, see your steward to file a grievance.

The remainder of your office time will be determined by the mail volume. You may have heard of the standard of “18 and 8”. This represents the casing standard for mail pieces. The standard for casing letter size mail is 18 pieces per minute and casing all other sized mail (flats and SPRs) is 8 pieces per minute. Additionally, you get 1 minute per 70 pieces of cased mail to pull that mail down and place it in trays or your satchel. This is the time you get every single day from the time you begin your tour until you clock out to the street to load your vehicle. Do not let anyone tell you differently. If they do, see your steward to file a grievance.

For more detailed information, refer to the M-41, City Delivery Carriers Duties and Responsibilities. There should be a copy at each carrier case.

Lastly, we have been pushing for many years for younger carriers to step up to serve as Steward. We just had Steward sign ups at the beginning of December and we even had 2 stations that required an election to determine who the Steward (s) would be. As of now, we have at least 5 new stewards who will begin their duties on January 1. I will have a complete update on this in my January article.

I wish every City Carrier and their family a Merry Christmas and hope that all of you have a Happy New Year. Look forward to many of you attending the next meeting on Tuesday, January 23rd, 2024 at 7:30 pm.

Knowledge is power. Solidarity forever!





JARETT SIMS
Vice-President

We have almost completed another peak season in Louisville! Happy Holidays to you and to all your families! As we enter 2024, I have a list of New Year's resolutions for our carriers:

-Learn your rights as a city letter carrier. Every member of Branch 14 has access to the NALC national webpage, our local page and the NALC app. On NALC.org, there is a member only access which also shows all your vital data as a carrier. In particular, look at Article 8 which deals with work hour rules, including overtime, and Article 16 which lays out managements obligations when issuing discipline.

-Get involved with the union. I would suggest trying to attend at least one union meeting a year. However, there is plenty to be done in all facets. No work is too small in creating success for our brothers and sisters. It starts with giving helping advice to the new carrier who doesn't know where to go, to collecting a pass the hat for the Muscular Dystrophy Association at your office, to cooking hotdogs or selling tickets at one of our branch events, or consider becoming a union official at your station.

-Get connected with the Branch. As we enter the new year, find ways to make your voice heard. If you can't make it to a meeting, visit us on our Facebook page and respectfully leave a comment or question. (Hoping eventually to get the Branch on other social media sites shortly). Call the union hall at (502) 964-3200, or email me at simsbranch14@yahoo.com. If I don't have the answer, I will find one and get back to you.

-The most important goal for 2024 is to be safe while delivering the mail. Make sure that you are going home to your family and friends daily in the same way you came to work, other than being tired. If you feel you are stressed, don't hesitate to contact the Employee Assistance Program at 1-800-EAP-4YOU. It is a wonderful asset, and one that I can personally recommend. It gives you a chance to speak to someone about issues you or your family are going through.

Again, I hope you have a safe and happy holiday season.



Congratulations to Vice President, Jarett Sims, for completing all of the requirements for graduation from the NALC Leadership academy. Pictured here with fellow Kentucky officers Ron Osborne, Troy Clark, and Chris Williams



The District Training Staff showing some love for Reggie Sanders and his pending retirement! Congratulations Reggie!!!

**TOM WEBB*****Health Benefits/Retirement***

Open Season has closed for another year. There were many changes and improvements in the NALC Plan. I hope that many of you opted to join our plan, it is the best plan for letter carriers. Retirees that have NALC Hi-Option and Medicare A & B got several updates that will save them money in 2024. All the new and the improved benefits are in the brochure.

The HIPPA Act of 1996 requires a HIPPA release of information form for all members, 18 and older, for the plan to release personal medical data to a spouse, parent, child, or friend unless authorized. The form is available by contacting the Health Plan. You are not required to complete a form, but if you opt not to, the plan may not be able to discuss medical issues with you concerning a loved one.

To all letter carriers, from the Webb household, we wish you the happiest and best holiday season ever. May all your hopes and dreams come true. There is no better way to say it than, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



NALC
Health Benefit Plan



**Deliver
the Cure**



Make the Call!

1-800-EAP-4-YOU

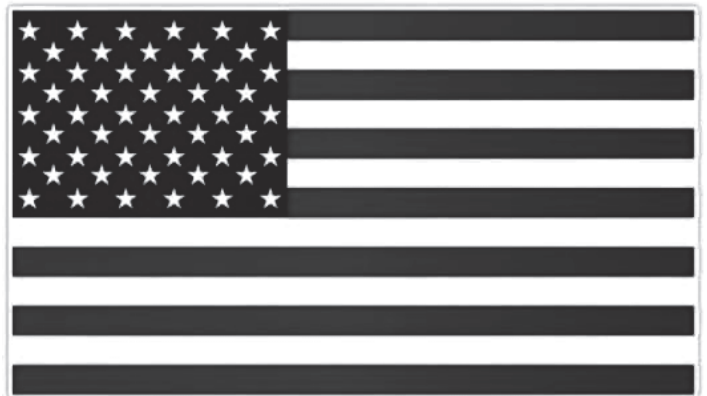
(1-800-327-4968) TTY: 1-877-492-7341

www.EAP4YOU.com

24 hours a day, seven days a week

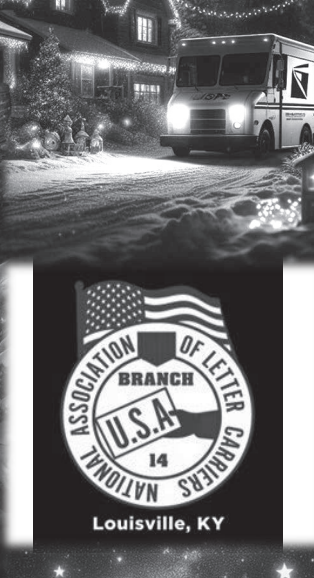
**DTCU Retiree Luncheon**

THANK YOU



VETERANS





UNION MEETING

Date: 11/28/2023

Br 14 Union Meeting Attendance by Zone

Annshire 40205	2
Annshire 40213	2
Annshire 40218	1
DTCU 40202	1
DTCU 40203	0
DTCU 40204	0
DTCU 40208	0
DTCU 40210	0
Fern Creek 40228	1
Fern Creek 40291	1
Hikes Point 40220	0
Iroquois 40209/14	4
Iroquois 40215	0
J-Town 40299	1
Lyndon 40222	1
Lyndon 40241/42	2
Middletown 40243	1
MLK 40211	1
MLK 40212	0
Okolona 40219	1
Okolona 40229	0
PRP 40258	1
PRP 40272	1
Shelby 40217	1
Shively 40216	1
St Matthews 40206	1
St Matthews 40207	1
Bardstown 40004	0
Campbellsville 42718	0
Eminence 40019	0
Ft Knox 40121	0
LaGrange 40031	1
Lebanon 40033	1
Radcliff 40160	1
Shelbyville 40065	0
Springfield 40069	0
Vine Grove 40175	0
Retired	16
Guests	0
Total	44

Officers & Stewards Excused:
Johnson and Hendrix

Officers and Stewards Absent:
None

MDA 50/50 Drawing.....\$115 MDA
.....\$114 Kyle Wysong

\$50 Door Prize.....Steve Terry
\$50 Gift Card Bud's Tavern....Tony Weddle
\$25 Gift Card Shack in the Back.....
.....Mike Watson

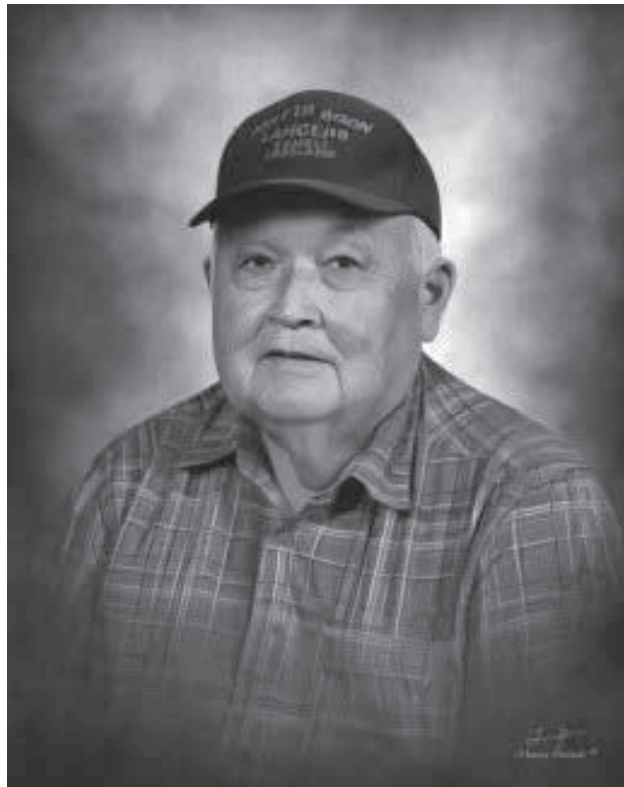
**LCPF DRAWING FOR NOVEMBER 2023**

POT.....\$200
Last Month Winner.....Eric Smith
Last Month Winnings.....\$0

Next Union Meeting
January 23rd, 2024 at 7:30pm

United we bargain, Divided we beg

IN MEMORIAM



JAMES TANAKA



***New Branch 14
carriers***

**L-R: TOREUS,
MILTON, SHAYANE,
GREGORY, LISA,
FRANK, JAZZMYN,
JALYN, and JACOB**



National Association of Letter Carriers
Falls City Branch 14
4815 Poplar Level Road
Louisville, KY 40213
12/23

Address Service Requested



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Organization
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Permit No. 804



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F: 502-458-2682

Downtown Branch:

600 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Place

Room 166

Louisville, KY 40202

P/F: 502-584-3579

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BEAT YOUR RATE!

We strive to have the lowest rates for
our members. If we can't beat your
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*Restrictions Apply

