

BR. 14 NEWSLETTER



VOL 52, NO. 08

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

AUGUST 2023

Louisville, Kentucky

This is the official notice to all members of Branch 14 of nominations and elections for delegates to the 2024 national convention of the National Association of Letter Carriers to be held in Boston, Massachusetts. The date of the convention is August 5th – 9th.

Nominations will be accepted at the regular monthly meetings of Branch 14 on Tuesday, August 22nd and Tuesday, September 26th, 2023. Elections will be held on Wednesday, October 25th from 4:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. and on Thursday, October 26th from 5:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M. All nominations and voting will be conducted at the Branch 14 Union Hall, 4815 Poplar Level Road, Louisville, KY, 40213.

The number of delegates to the convention will be determined in accordance with the Constitution of the National Association of Letter Carriers. In accordance with Branch 14 By-Laws, the President, Executive Vice-President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Assistant Recording/Financial Secretary and Treasurer will be automatic, paid, delegates to the Convention. The remaining number of paid delegates to the convention will be determined in accordance with Branch 14 By-Laws.

Voting will be by secret ballot and the results will be posted on the Branch 14 website at www.nalcbr14.com and read at the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 28th, 2023. Any member that will be unable to vote during the times that the polls are open may request an absentee ballot. The request must be made in writing, with name and address of the member requesting the absentee ballot. The request must have a legible signature by the member requesting the absentee ballot.

Requests for absentee ballots must be received by the Branch 14 Election Committee between the dates of September 27th and October 16th, 2023. Requests should be sent to NALC Branch 14 Election Committee, PO Box 34572, Louisville, KY, 40232-4572. Absentee ballots must be returned to the Election Committee by October 26th, 2023. All requests for ballots received after October 16th, 2023, and returned ballots that are received after October 26th, 2023, will be void. These requests and ballots will be kept as a matter of record by the Election Committee.

All regular members in good standing shall have the right to nominate a candidate for any officer position or delegate to the National Convention. Self-nomination is permitted. All qualified regular members shall be eligible to be a delegate or an alternate delegate to the National Convention except as provided for in accordance with Article 5, Section 2 of the Constitution of the National Association of Letter Carriers and Article 7, Section 2 of the Branch 14 By-laws.

Stephen A. Terry Sr.
Branch 14 Secretary



TONY WEDDLE
President

If you haven't listened to one of the episodes on the podcast "You Are the Current Resident" at NALC.org, I recommend everyone to give it a try. This month our National President, Brian Renfroe, discussed arbitration matters and provided some updates to the current negotiations our national officers are working at to achieve a fair national agreement that rewards letter carriers for their hard work. The podcast was very informative, and it answers a lot of questions many of our junior carriers have been inquiring about both on the workroom floor and on social media.

When these podcasts started, I'll have to admit I was very skeptical. Like most podcasts I've tried to listen to it's hard to listen to the whole episode. Normally I've got other things going on so it's hard for me to get to the end. Or maybe my attention level is too short, but I'll never admit that. But my opinion on union podcasts initially was that if you wanted to learn something pertaining to our contract, then pick up the JCAM

If you haven't listened to one of the episodes on the podcast "You Are the Current Resident" at NALC.org, I recommend everyone to give it a try. So, if you can set aside a little time, at least listen to the latest episode. National President, Brian Renfroe, discussed arbitration matters and provided some updates to the current negotiations our national officers are working at to achieve a fair national agreement that rewards letter carriers for their hard work.

and read it. Or open up the Postal Record and your monthly branch newsletter. But as I've listened to a couple of these podcasts, I can see how they are informative. They are one more tool in the union's arsenal, so to speak, to educate and inform our membership. So, if you can set aside a little time, at least listen to the latest episode. Contract negotiations are obviously the hottest topic right now and Brian really goes in depth of how collective bargaining and interest arbitration works.

As for local matters, we (branch officers)

haven't had a lot of discussions with our new acting postmaster for the Louisville office and her crew. Just recently I was informed that she was bringing in new MCSOs to the city and that the current Form 50-MCSO, Ryan Fitz-Gordan, has taken a detail to Florence, KY and I assume the other acting MCSO, Vince Birk, returned to his office. So here we go, yet again, with a new leadership team for the Louisville installation. Like most of you, I find the constant shuffling of managers to Louisville ridiculous. It significantly hurts union representatives' ability to build any type of working relationship to improve things for our members. Especially, when it can't get any more obvious that these acting postmasters don't honestly care if conditions improve because they know they won't be here long and that they're only here because it may help them get a higher-level permanent job somewhere else.

So here we go, yet again, with a new leadership team for the Louisville installation. Like most of you, I find the constant shuffling of managers to Louisville ridiculous. Especially, when it can't get any more obvious that these acting postmasters don't honestly care if conditions improve because they know they won't be here long and that they're only here because it may help them get a higher-level permanent job somewhere else.

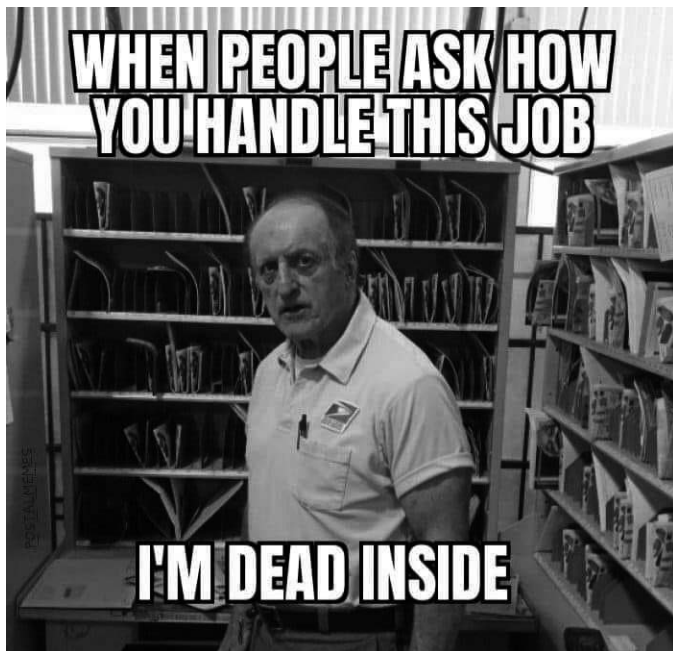
The lack of experience and contractual knowledge of these acting postmasters is very concerning. Our Executive Vice-President, Vice-President and stewards seem to be fighting the same disputes repeatedly with no improvement and very little effort on management's part to reduce the number of contractual violations. It's very frustrating for our union representatives and like most folks; we're tired of hearing management's excuses about short staffing. That excuse has run its course because what I hear when it's brought after all these years of poor staffing is an admission of incompetence and a failure to retain the new carriers hired.

It took us over a year to get management to start a retention team, one union member and one management member, in the city to assist with retaining new carriers but they can only do so much with the little time afforded to them. We've got our Vice-President, Jarett Sims, on the team and even though he'll do his best to talk some new carriers out of quitting, it's hard to do when we

still have a couple station managers that don't care how they treat people and managers above them that cowardly turn a blind eye or even make lame excuses for the managers actions.

Branch officers have been trying to get more involvement from the membership for several months now. Especially at recruiting knowledgeable contract enforcers in vacant positions but we need contract savvy members on all workroom floors. I've heard several reports these past few months, from carriers, of incidents where there was a clear contract violation. It shows us that our members, and even some stewards, have to be more informed. So, I'm asking one more time, please read, learn, and become aware of your rights and how to protect those rights.

Hope to see many of you at the next union meeting. Until then, be safe and remember that if you're going to do the job, you might as well take the time it takes to do the job right.



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.....Jarett Sims
- 40216.....Angelo Bravo
- 40217.....Jeff Richards
- 40218.....Matt Weegens
- 40219.....Ron Frye
- 40220.....Carol Gast
- 40222.....Nick Schneider
- 40228/91.....Tina Davis
- 40229.....Billy Maraman
- 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.....Vacant
- Springfield.....Ryan McCormick
- Fort Knox.....Vacant
- Radcliff.....Reggie Sanders

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



RON GAST

Executive Vice-President

We are dead in the middle of what many call summer and as of now, it shows. July was very hot with some extreme heat index readings that easily exceeded 100 degrees. I just returned from a week of vacation and I must admit that the current weather is rather mild for August. Normally we have heat that resembled what we had in July, and hopefully we see this milder weather continue for the remainder of the season, but don't count on it.

Take cooling breaks as needed so that you do not become overcome by the heat while on the route. We cannot expect management to do what needs to be done to keep our carriers safe, so we have to do that ourselves and look out for each other.

In the meantime, we all need to do our part to remain safe. Stay hydrated at all times. Don't wait until you are thirsty as it may be too late. Take cooling breaks as needed so that you do not become overcome by the heat while on the route. We cannot expect management to do what needs to be done to keep our carriers safe, so we have to do that ourselves and look out for each other.

Speaking of management, the Postal Service is required to provide Heat Illness Prevention Training to carriers annually no later than April 1st of each year. The training course is supposed to be completed on the HERO training system on liteblue. It is my belief that each of you have not had that training this year. I know that I haven't,

The Postal Service is required to provide Heat Illness Prevention Training to carriers annually no later than April 1st of each year. The training course is supposed to be completed on the HERO training system on liteblue. Most of you have not had that training this year, I know that I haven't, however it shows that I completed the training on March 8th of this year. We will be pursuing action in the grievance process.

however it shows that I completed the training on March 8th of this year. This is a problem. I have

asked all of our stewards if the training was completed in their respective work locations and I have asked the Postal Service for copies of all city carriers training records of this training being completed. We will be pursuing action in the grievance process.

Speaking of Stewards, We often get calls from carriers who do not know who their steward is. Listed below is all of the Stewards for Branch 14:

Annshire 40205 – Thomas Derringer
 Annshire 40213 – Jarett Sims
 Annshire 40218 – Matt Weegens
 Downtown 40202 – Leroy Gutierrez
 Downtown 40204 – Leroy Gutierrez
 Downtown 40203/08/10 – Leroy Gutierrez
 Fern Creek 40228/19 – Tina Davis
 Hikes Point 40220 – Carol Gast
 Iroquois 40209/14/15 – Missy Harris
 Jeffersontown 40299 – Carol Gast
 Lyndon 40222 – Nick Schneider
 Lyndon 40241/42 – Adriane Shanklin
 MLK 40211/12 – Damon Braxton
 Middletown 40243 – Ron Gast
 Okolona 40219 – Ron Frye
 Okolona 40229 – Billy Maraman
 PRP 40258 – Lance Schwede
 PRP 40272 – Lance Schwede
 St Matthews 40206 – Jason Hawkins
 St Matthews 40207 – Russell Johnson
 Shelby 40217 – Jeff Richards
 Shively 40216 – Angelo Bravo
 Bardstown – Ryan McCormick
 Campbellsville – Ryan McCormick
 Fort Knox – Vacant
 LaGrange – Stephanie Diaz
 Lebanon – Ryan McCormick
 Radcliff – Reggie Sanders
 Shelbyville – Vacant
 Springfield – Ryan McCormick
 Vine Grove – Vacant

You can get contact information for your steward by visiting the Branch 14 website at www.nalcbr14.com. I hope to see many of you at the next meeting on Tuesday, August 22nd at 7:30 pm where food will be served and nominations will be taken for delegates to the 2024 National Convention.

Knowledge is power. Solidarity forever!



NALC
 Health Benefit Plan





JARETT SIMS
Vice-President

August has returned with all its glory and pleasures. I hope that you are staying safe in the extreme temperatures, and if you have a child in school, I hope they have successfully navigated the new year.

This month I want to return to a subject which is often asked or questioned: Grievance timeliness, is this a grievance?

Article 15.2 of our current National Agreement stated in part:

Any employee who feels aggrieved must discuss the grievance with the employee's immediate supervisor within fourteen (14) days of the date on which the employee or the Union first learned or may reasonably have been expected to have learned of its cause. This constitutes the Informal Step A filing date.

Those fourteen days are a hard and steadfast rule. If the union exceeds that time limit, we are at the mercy of management to proceed with a grievance. This includes not only disciplinary issues, but contractual as well.

Your first recourse should be to request steward time from your supervisor. This will allow you the chance to sit down with your steward and discuss the potential grievance and redress any violation. Walking by and telling your steward, "Hey this happened to me last Wednesday" is not sufficient and could cause a lapse in filing a grievance. Remember, Louisville has no permanent union officials or stewards who serve us locally. We all have bid assignments and carry mail. Always make sure to put everything in writing. First for your benefit and to help the steward to know what type of info to request.

If you feel you have been aggrieved and you aren't sure, attempt to find an answer first. The NALC has websites which have numerous and sufficient options to inform yourself of the contract. Those sites are NALC.org and

nalcbr14.com. The old adage is knowledge is power, and that is true. If I research something and read about it once, I am much more likely to remember the rules.

(As a side note, when I first became a steward, I consistently asked questions without first researching. Many times, I would be calling and asking similar questions. Redundancy was not efficient. I learned to first seek answers on my own and then ask for help when I was stumped)

Also be aware that there are old "rules" that aren't contractual. One of my favorites from management is that a city letter carrier can only travel one mile from their bid assignment for lunch. That is blatantly false. If someone in management tells you that or anything else which seems farcical, have them show contractually where it states it. If they persist in their falsehoods, then file a grievance.

I will be out of town at the next union meeting for training, and we all know that I need it. I hope that you take the opportunity to go to the hall and learn about what your union is doing and what you can do for your union.



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

Durbin Demands Answers On Actions USPS And DOJ Will Take To Protect Letter Carriers From Attacks While On Mail Routes

CHICAGO – U.S. Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL) today sent a follow-up letter to Postmaster General Louis DeJoy and Attorney General Merrick Garland urging the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) to institute additional safety measures and investigate the continued uptick in attacks against mail carriers as they complete their routes. In addition to the direct trauma to letter carrier victims, these crimes may have downstream effects such as exacerbating staffing shortages, leaving “delivery deserts” and causing dangerous delays in medication and other critical deliveries.

On August 1, in the middle of the afternoon, an on-duty letter carrier with the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) reportedly was shot on the northside of Chicago during an armed robbery. Fifteen minutes later, near the same area, a second letter carrier was robbed at gunpoint. The next day, two suspects, one armed with a handgun, robbed a letter carrier and stole their bag in Berwyn, a suburb west of Chicago,” Durbin wrote. “This violence against letter carriers, theft of mail, and any related crimes that result from the theft of mail are unacceptable and must be stopped.”

In his letter, Durbin also emphasized that the security of postal workers is closely tied to the security of elections. While mail-in ballots may not be the intended target of perpetrators, ballots can easily be stolen from collection boxes and mail carriers along with the targeted items.

“It also is obvious that the security of the mail is directly related to the security of our elections, as the use of voting by mail continues to expand. Ballots may not be the target of mail thieves, but they could easily get swept up in letters stolen from carriers or collection boxes. Every time a ballot is not delivered to its intended location, a voter is disenfranchised, and confidence in the outcome of our elections is undermined,” Durbin wrote.

Today’s letter follows up on Durbin’s April request for information about what actions DOJ and USPS are taking to respond to the increase in armed robberies of letter carriers. Durbin urged USPS to reduce incentives for mail robbery by requiring two-factor authentication on cluster mailboxes rather than relying on arrow keys that allow access to all area mailboxes. While USPS did begin instituting two-factor authentication following Durbin’s suggestion, DOJ did not offer an adequate response about its work alongside USPS to hold perpetrators accountable for their crimes.

“I wrote to you in April asking what actions you have taken to address the alarming increase in letter carrier robberies. In particular, I urged USPS to reinstate a system of local area crime alerts and reduce the incentive for this crime by updating cluster mailboxes to require two-factor authentication. I urged the Department of Justice (DOJ) to prioritize enforcement of federal laws applicable to these reprehensible assaults on the men and women who deliver the nation’s mail,” Durbin continued.

“In response, USPS cited a nationwide initiative to replace arrow locks with electronic locks that require two-factor identification... DOJ did not provide an informative response about its efforts to work with USPS and USPIS [U.S. Postal Inspection Service] to hold accountable those committing these crimes,” Durbin wrote.

Durbin concluded his letter by requesting detailed responses to questions of how USPS and DOJ will prevent and address letter carrier robberies, mail, theft, and related crimes—as well as their effects on election security—including internal measures to track arrow keys and develop statistics on armed robberies, efforts to inform the public of measures they can take to secure their mail, and the rollout of hardened blue collection boxes.

Full Text of Senator Durbin’s Letter to Attorney General Garland and Postmaster General DeJoy can be found on [postalnews.com](https://www.postalnews.com)

Written By: Brian Sheehan



TOM WEBB
Health Benefits/Retirement

The Br.14 Newsletter is published every month and on one page there is a list, by office, of the number of members that attended the last meeting. When you check that list, you will find that the retirees have a higher number in attendance than full time members. Why is that? Do they remember how much the NALC did for them? The answer is Yes.

The monthly union meeting lasts about two hours and is packed with information about your job. You will be updated with the latest information about your office and what is happening locally. You will learn how to protect yourself when management tries to issue discipline to you. You will learn how to protect your route and how to best maintain your eight-hour schedule. You will be able to ask questions and get the correct answers.

Aside from union business, at some meetings, we have food, you get two drink tickets, you get to meet old friends and make new ones. There is a \$50 monthly drawing for attendees and rolling drawing of \$100+ for members that are signed up in the Letter Carriers Political Fund.

I hope to see you at the next Union Meeting.

When you see me at work and I say I'm "living the dream" - this is the dream I'm referring to



photo credit: pedal commute

Fourteenth Annual NALC Branch 14 Patrick LeRoy Memorial Golf Scramble

When? Sunday October 1st 2023
Registration 7:00 am
Tee Time 7:30

Where? My Old Kentucky Home Golf Course
668 Loretto Rd
Bardstown, KY 40004

Entry Fee: \$65 per player
\$260 per team (Includes Green Fees, Cart, Lunch, and Team Prizes)

Deadline to enter: September 25th, 2023

For more information contact Missy Harris at (502)759-2276.

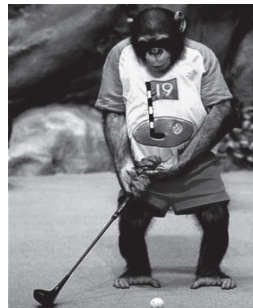
All proceeds to benefit the KY/CINN Muscular Dystrophy Association

CONTESTS:

- Closest to the Hole
 - 50/50 Raffle
 - Longest Drive
- Purchased Door Prize Tickets

PRIZES:

- Individual Contest Winners
- Top Three Teams



Player's Names	
1)	
2)	
3)	
4)	

Name	
Company	
Address	
City/State	
Zip	Phone

Hole/Tee Sponsor + 4 Players [] \$360
 Hole/Tee Sponsor [] \$100
 # Players _____ X \$65 \$ _____

Sorry, I am unable to attend or sponsor a whole or tee, enclosed is my donation \$ _____
 Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Please make check payable to NALC Branch 14
Remit check and entry form to:
NALC Branch 14
Attn: Missy Harris
4815 Poplar Level Rd
Louisville, KY 40213

UNION MEETING

Date: 07/25/2023

Br 14 Union Meeting Attendance by Zone	
Annshire 40205	3
Annshire 40213	1
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	0
Hikes Point 40220	0
Iroquois 40209/14	1
Iroquois 40215	0
J-Town 40299	2
Lyndon 40222	1
Lyndon 40241/42	2
Middletown 40243	1
MLK 40211	3
MLK 40212	0
Okolona 40219	0
Okolona 40229	1
PRP 40258	1
PRP 40272	1
Shelby 40217	0
Shively 40216	0
St Matthews 40206	0
St Matthews 40207	3
Bardstown 40004	0
Campbellsville 42718	0
Eminence 40019	0
Ft Knox 40121	0
LaGrange 40031	1
Lebanon 40033	2
Radcliff 40160	0
Shelbyville 40065	1
Springfield 40069	0
Vine Grove 40175	0
Retired	14
Guests	0
Total	41

Officers & Stewards Excused: C. Gast, Frye, Hawkins, Sanders, Bravo, Richards & Johnson

Officers and Stewards Absent: NONE

MDA 50/50 Drawing.....\$93 MDA
\$92 Damon Braxton

\$50 Door Prize.....Ryan McCormick

CUSTOMER SEES MAIL CARRIER



LCPF DRAWING FOR MAY 2023

POT.....\$400

Last Month Winner.....William Roth

Last Month Winnings.....\$0

*Next Union Meeting
 August 22nd at 7:30pm*

United we bargain, Divided we beg



NEW BRANCH 14 FACES



Her: He's probably thinking about other women...

Me : Lying ass scanner telling me I'm at the wrong house



A MAILMAN IS NEVER LATE! NOR IS HE EARLY,



HE ARRIVES PRECISELY WHEN HE MEANS TO.

2ND QUARTER AUDIT REPORTS

BRANCH 14 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT
TREASURERS REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD OF APR 1ST THRU JUN 30TH 2023

INCOME FOR THE PERIOD OF
1 APRIL THROUGH 30 JUNE 2023

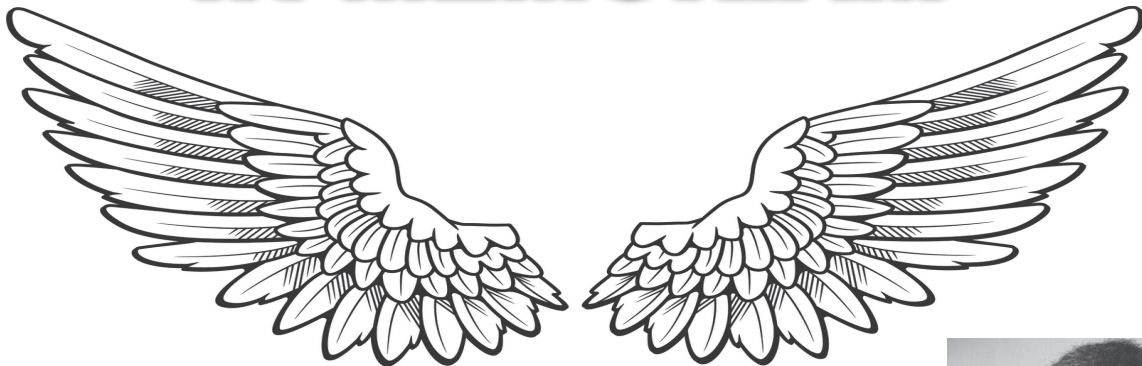
GENERAL CHECKING

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	\$	85,225.69
DEPOSITS FOR THE QUARTER	\$	89,729.42
TOTAL	\$	174,955.11
DISBURSEMENTS	\$	83,598.34
CHECKBOOK BALANCE	\$	91,356.77
SAVINGS/CONVENTION FUND DEPOSITS	\$	2.25
SAVINGS/CONVENTION FUND BALANCE	\$	90,267.75
MORGAN STANLEY	\$	121,111.93
TOTAL CASH NET WORTH	\$	302,736.45

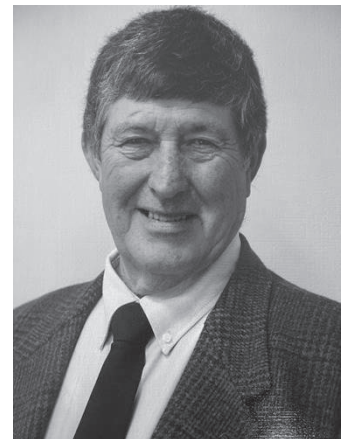
DUES	\$	-	
NEWSLETTER ADS	\$	-	
BUILDING FUND	\$	100.00	
DUES WITHHOLDING	\$	77,676.62	
GOLF SCRAMBLE	\$	2,160.00	
MDA	\$	3,035.00	
MISCELLANEOUS	\$	6,755.40	
CHECKING INTEREST	\$	2.40	\$ 89,729.42
SAVINGS INTEREST	\$	2.25	
	\$	-	
GRAND TOTAL			\$ 89,731.67

All facts, opinions and statements appearing within this publication are those of the writers and editors themselves, and are in no way to be construed as statements, positions or endorsements by Branch 14

IN MEMORIAM



THOMAS A HART



National Association of Letter Carriers
Falls City Branch 14
4815 Poplar Level Road
Louisville, KY 40213
08/23

Non-Profit
Organization
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Address Service Requested



Contact Us:

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 33303
Louisville, KY 40232-3303

Email: lfou@louisvillefou.com

Main Branch:

1420 Gardiner Ln. Room 66
Louisville, KY 40231

P: 502-458-2681

F: 502-458-2682

Downtown Branch:

600 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Place

Room 166

Louisville, KY 40202

P/F: 502-584-3579

We're putting the "US"
back in TRUST!

Talk to a Member Service Rep today &
start seeing your money grow.



**DON'T GET PLAYED,
BEAT YOUR RATE!**

We strive to have the lowest rates for
our members. If we can't beat your
auto rate, we'll match it!*

*Restrictions Apply

