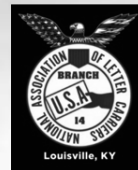


BR. 14 NEWSLETTER



VOL 53, NO. 04

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

APRIL 2024





TONY WEDDLE
President

It is that time of the year when activities pick up for the branch and our members. We're just a week away to when all the Kentucky Derby festivities and events begin starting with Thunder Over Louisville. Which is usually the start of the vacation season when most units experience reaching the maximum number of carriers allowed off each week for annual leave as well.

As we approach the vacation season, it's always a challenge to cover open routes, especially when there are a high number of unexpected absences and injuries on top of vacations. With staffing a little better this year, it was hopeful that the challenge to cover routes would be lessened. But with the later start times management has been initiating at several delivery units these past few weeks, I don't think it will be surprising to see callouts pick up. Obviously, getting off at 5:30 on an eight-hour day will already be tough to get to the ballpark to watch your kids ball games or attend other events. If carriers are required or forced to work a few additional hours of overtime on top of getting off later, well, anyone with common sense can foresee what the likely result will be unlike the buffoons that are calling the shots.

Management has stated that later start times are necessary due to mail processing issues which are delaying the time letter carriers can move to the streets. Many of those issues are related to the Postal Service's Delivering for America ten-year plan where it is attempting to restructure transportation and streamline mail processing. In other words, Dejoy's initiatives aren't working and unfortunately it appears that letter carriers (and customers) are the ones who must suffer and sacrifice for management's inadequacies and lousy decisions. To anyone paying attention, it's obvious that the Postal Service's huge financial losses will likely continue, and that Dejoy's ten-year plan is a dud!

Hope to see many of you at the next union meeting. 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!

BRANCH 14 NEWSLETTER

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

964-3200

964-3276

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- 40203/08/10.....Yodari Balcarcel
- 40204.....Leroy Gutierrez
- 40205.....Thomas Derringer
- 40206.....Jason Hawkins
- 40207.....Russell Johnson
- 40209/14/15.....Josh Shelby
- 40209/14/15.....Mark Wright
- 40211/12.....Damon Braxton
- 40213.....Kyle Moert
- 40216.....Jon Endelmann
- 40217.....Jeff Richards
- 40218.....Matt Weegens
- 40219.....Vacant
- 40220.....Rodgerick Streater
- 40222.....Nick Schneider
- 40228/91.....Tina Davis
- 40229.....Brandon Reid
- 40241/42.....Adriane Shanklin
- 40243.....Ron Gast
- 40258.....Lance Schwede
- 40272.....Lance Schwede
- 40299.....Jarett Sims
- Bardstown.....Ryan McCormick
- Campbellsville.....Ryan McCormick
- LaGrange.....Stephanie Diaz
- Lebanon.....Ryan McCormick
- Shelbyville.....Bailey Hendrix
- Springfield.....Ryan McCormick
- Fort Knox.....Vacant
- Radcliff.....Mike Watson
- Vine Grove.....Timothy Embry

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 or it's officers.



RON GAST
Executive Vice-President

We have spoken many times in the past about the issues we are having in Louisville with getting vacant assignments posted for bid. We have grieved every posting so far this year as there have been assignments left off. However, I do not believe that we have talked about what it takes to bid on the assignments that do make it to the posting. Article 12 of our National Agreement cover many of the rules for bidding on vacant assignments. 12.3.A sets the rules for how many “successful” bids a carrier can make. To clarify, a “successful” bid simply means that you were the senior, qualified bidder and will be awarded that assignment. You can “bid” as many times as you want on as many routes as you want, up until you have reached the limit on successful bids. That limit currently is six (6), however, there are bids that do not count toward this limit. Article 12.3.A states:

“To insure a more efficient and stable work force, an employee may be designated a successful bidder no more than six (6) times during the duration of this Agreement unless such bid:

- 1. is to a job in a higher wage level;*
- 2. is due to elimination or reposting of the employee’s duty assignment; or*
- 3. enables an employee to become assigned to a station closer to the employee’s place of residence”*

A higher-level assignment is a swing or a carrier technician assignment. Anytime a carrier bids to a station that is closer to their home, that bid will not count. This would not apply if you were to bid from one work location to another in the same station. We have several carriers who have placed many bids during this agreement, however they don’t all count due to the application of the above rules. Carriers are cautioned to ensure that they don’t exceed the number of successful bids they are allowed.

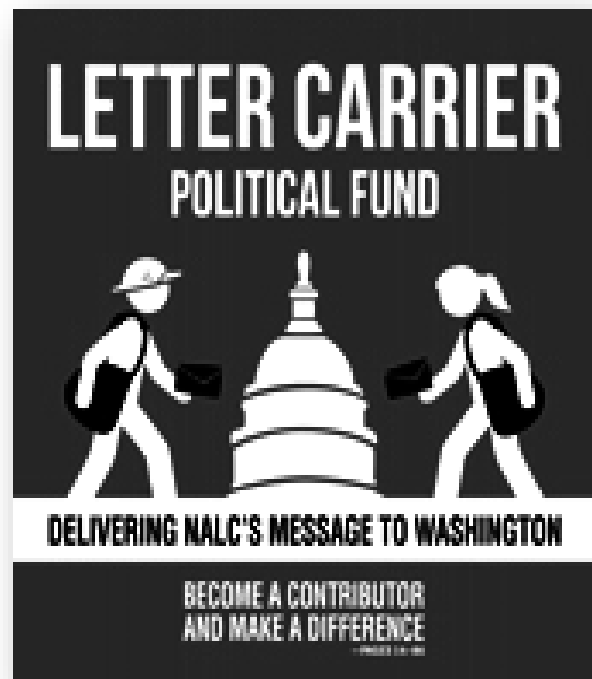
The Louisville installation is on a 28 day bid cycle schedule. This means that every 28 days assignments are due to be posted and awarded. Our branch website lists the schedule for all

postings and awardings on the cover page. This can be found at www.nalcbr14.com. The next posting following the publication of this newsletter will be on Tuesday, April 23rd. The posting is active for 10 days and closes on the following Thursday, May 2nd. The successful bidders will assume the new assignments on Saturday, May 18th. Bids may be placed either by phone or on the liteblue website. There are no “paper” or manual bids allowed except under extreme circumstances where a carrier is not able to access the system. This does not include carriers who have access to liteblue but have forgotten their password or have failed to sign up. It is very important that all carriers keep this information up to date because you never know when you may want to bid.

As I stated previously, Article 12 covers many of the rules for bidding, but you also want to investigate Article 41 which covers much more information regarding the bid cycle. You also will find pertinent info in our local agreement which can be accessed on our branch website on the stewards page. New carriers with little experience in the bid process should really educate themselves on the rules, but even the more senior carriers seem to be lacking the knowledge needed sometime. We can all learn something new, or at least be reminded of something we have forgotten. None of us know it all.

Hope to see many of you at our next meeting on April 23rd at 7:30 pm.

Knowledge is power. Solidarity forever!





JARETT SIMS
Vice-President

Several decades ago, as a baby-faced undergrad at Western Kentucky University, I joined a fraternal organization. The bonds I built my four years on the Hill have proven to be everlasting. When I think of the NALC and our brothers and sisters, I feel the same way.

We now find ourselves in a perpetual struggle with management in the Kentucky-West Virginia District in general, but most assuredly in the Louisville area. Staffing issues amongst craft employees is rampant. We don't have enough City Letter Carriers and we don't have enough clerks. And it appears that management has no solution in sight. Additionally, we have watched time and again while many City Letter Carriers have either transitioned into the maintenance craft or outright quit the Postal Service.

Letter Carriers are the backbone of the Postal Service. We shoulder the burden of providing the great service standards that the United States public expects. We are the true face of our company. When polled, the American public ranks the USPS at 77 percent favorable. We rest only behind the National Park Service in favorability. Despite all this, in Louisville, it feels at times that we are all getting a swift kick in the pants from management.

To start off, many zones are starting later and later. When I became a City Carrier in 2005, we began our tour at 7 am, and even if you worked two hours of overtime, you were heading home at 5:30 pm. We did not receive penalty overtime, and if we did, it was at the peril of management.

Now, many of our stations are beginning at 9 AM and an eight-hour day has us heading home at 5:30 PM. Penalty overtime is handed out like candy. Certainly, it is a great boon for our brothers and sisters on the Overtime Desired List, however, it is extremely detrimental to many of us who don't want the overtime.

So, what is the plan at Branch 14 many of you will ask? Number one, we are increasing the number of Article 8 grievances across the city. The first goal is to compensate letter carriers who

have had their contractual rights violated. Across the city from Shively to J-town, from St Matthews to PRP and most places in between, Branch 14 is filing grievances on overtime violations. While financial gains are nice, the ultimate goal of the union is to get management to stop violating the contract. The only way to do that is to make them pay.

Second, we are revamping the PTF retention program. Trying to find out why so many new carriers do not make it to regular. While management has been cracking down on over 12 hour and over 60 hour violations, they have allowed the over 11.5 hour violations for PTFs to flourish. As I have frequently said, the only solution to many of our problems is for management to hire enough people to fill all the roles. My goal on the PTF retention program is to find more productive ways to help our new carriers succeed.

Lastly, we are going to research and find ways to combat management on the start time grievances across the city. As I mentioned in the Annshire Plan 5 last week, it is a struggle that we may ultimately lose, but our members deserve the fight. I know that currently, the KIM region has two arbitrations pending on this issue out of Kentucky. Perhaps we can discover some tips and information on how to win this grievance.

Lots of stuff going on at Branch 14 the next few months.

April 21-Retirement Dinner

April 27-MDA Painting night at the Hall

April 23-Branch Union Meeting

May 11-Food Drive

May 21- Branch Union Meeting

May 26- Pop up Shop for MDA

June 2- Golf Scramble

Hope to see many of you at some of these events.



NALC
Health Benefit Plan



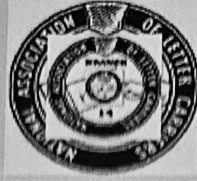


NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF LETTER CARRIERS
**Stamp
Out
Hunger**
FOOD DRIVE

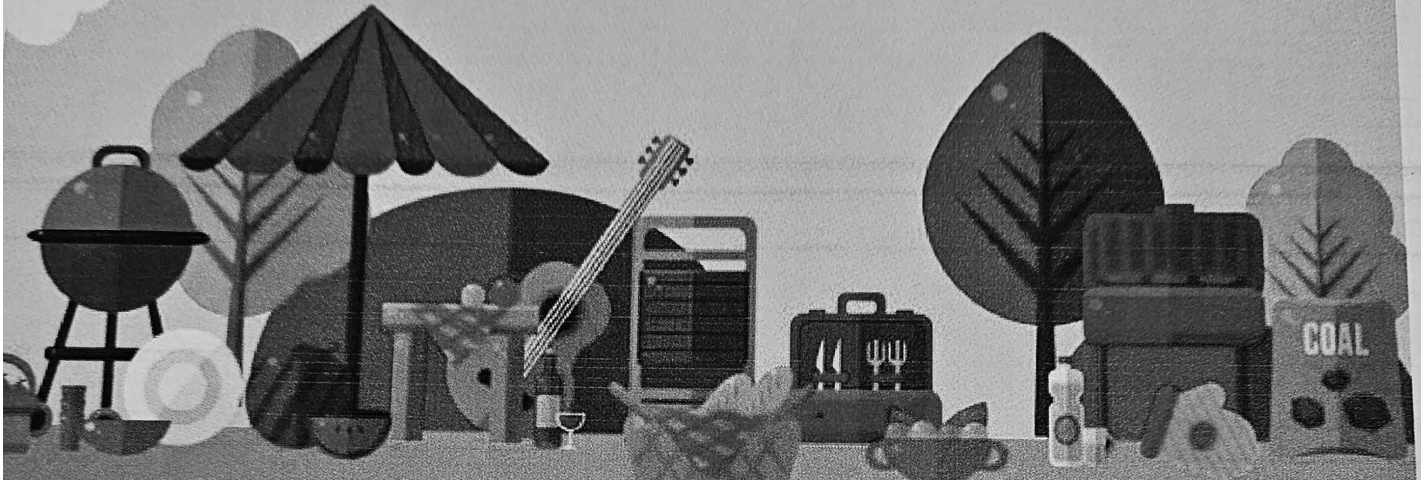
**MARK
YOUR CALENDARS**

Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive
SECOND SATURDAY IN MAY





BRANCH 14 PRESENTS



COMMUNITY POP UP SHOP

MAY 26 11AM-6PM

4815 POPLAR LEVEL RD

**FREE ENTRY | LOCAL VENDORS | MUSIC | FOOD
ENTERTAINMENT FOR KIDS | PRIZE GIVEAWAYS**



**Muscular
Dystrophy
Association**

**SCAN
HERE** →





MISSY HARRIS
Community Activities Coordinator

We will have a busy next couple of months. April 21st is the retiree’s dinner, followed by the Paint and Sip on April 27th, Letter Carrier Food Drive May 11th, and ending with our first ever Pop-Up Shop on May 26th. I can’t stress enough the support needed for these events, especially the food drive., so if you would like to volunteer, donate, participate, give me a call. 502-759-2276. Now let’s talk about The Letter Carrier Political Fund.

HR 7629 was introduced in March. This bill is about enforcing punishment for individuals who commit crimes against a postal employee. This bill will enact stiffer sentences for anyone proven guilty of a crime against a Postal employee. No more slaps on the wrist! It’s time to stand up and be heard. Go to NALC.org and go to Legislation page. Educate yourself on our bills in the house and senate. Learn what the political fund is for.

Learn why it’s important to contribute to the fund so we can help get people elected who care about our needs as employees and will help protect us from the dangers. A lot of the older carriers are retiring, leaving you, the younger generation, to step up and be heard. I encourage you to get involved with the union. I am blessed to be in this union. I raised 3 kids on my Union fought for wages. The health benefits we have are amazing compared to public sector benefits. We are all stronger together. Let’s put away all the me and learn to say we. If you want continued growth in wages and benefits, then get involved. Don’t like how things are going in your station? Step up and be a steward. I warn you it’s a thankless job sometimes and you can’t make everyone happy, but I don’t regret my time as steward at all. I hope to see everyone at the next Union meeting! Together we stand, divided we beg!

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





TOM WEBB

Health Benefits/Retirement

SilverScript Program, is the NALC's program that allows members the opportunity to sign into Medicare Part B and not have to pay the annual reimbursement fee. The program will place tax free monies into your MRA to reimburse you up to \$600 for your Medicare Part B premiums. You must submit proof of premium payments through the online portal, HealthEquity's EZ Receipts app, by fax, or by mail.

If you have questions or concerns, you can talk to a representative to learn more about the program. Just call 844-768-5466 weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm eastern time.

I would like to give a big "SHOUT OUT" to your branch officers, they put in endless hours to see that your rights are protected. You can show them how much they are appreciated by coming to the next Union Meeting.

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



Any picture that you would like to see in the Branch 14 Newsletter should be emailed to the editor (billrock2k@yahoo.com) You can also text photos (with a short explanation) to the editor at 502-345-3732
Thank you, Bill Davis.



BRANCH 14 PRESENTS



**COMMUNITY
POP UP SHOP**

FREE ENTRY

**SUNDAY, MAY 26TH
11AM-6PM**

MUSIC | FOOD | LOCAL VENDORS | PRIZE GIVEAWAYS | ENTERTAINMENT FOR KIDS

UNION MEETING

Date: 3/26/2024

Br 14 Union Meeting Attendance by Zone	
Annshire 40205	1
Annshire 40213	3
Annshire 40218	0
DTCU 40202	1
DTCU 40203	1
DTCU 40204	0
DTCU 40208	0
DTCU 40210	1
Fern Creek 40228	1
Fern Creek 40291	0
Hikes Point 40220	1
Iroquois 40209/14	7
Iroquois 40215	0
J-Town 40299	2
Lyndon 40222	2
Lyndon 40241/42	3
Middletown 40243	1
MLK 40211	0
MLK 40212	1
Okolona 40219	0
Okolona 40229	2
PRP 40258	2
PRP 40272	1
Shelby 40217	1
Shively 40216	1
St Matthews 40206	0
St Matthews 40207	2
Bardstown 40004	0
Campbellsville 42718	0
Eminence 40019	0
Ft Knox 40121	0
LaGrange 40031	1
Lebanon 40033	1
Radcliff 40160	0
Shelbyville 40065	1
Springfield 40069	0
Vine Grove 40175	1
Retired	17
Guests	1
Total	56

Officers & Stewards Excused: Weegens, Hawkins

Officers and Stewards Absent: None None

MDA 50/50 Drawing.....\$100 MDA
.....\$100 John Sims

\$50 Door Prize.....Mitchell Sadio



LCPF DRAWING FOR MARCH 2024

POT.....\$200

Last Month Winner.....Tina Davis

Last Month Winnings.....\$0

THE LCPF DRAWING IS OVER!

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

United we bargain, Divided we beg



Branch 14 35th Annual Jim Clark Memorial Golf Scramble



When? June 2nd at 8:00am
Where? My Old KY Home Golf Course



Entry Fee: \$60 per Branch 14 member
Prizes: \$500 in prizes for places 1st through 5th, PLUS, \$500 in door prizes



Food served.

Deadline for Entries is May 13th, 2024

Make all checks payable to:
“NALC Branch 14” and send to:

MULLIGANS



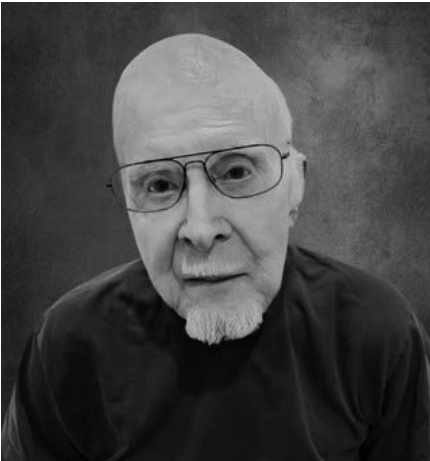
Attn: Steve Terry
Branch 14 Union Hall
4815 Poplar Level Rd
Louisville, KY 40213





**MICHAEL
BROYLES**

GEORGE WOLZ



DAVID VOLPERT

National Association of Letter Carriers
Falls City Branch 14
4815 Poplar Level Road
Louisville, KY 40213
04/24

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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

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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

