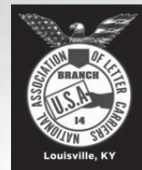


BR. 14 NEWSLETTER



VOL 52, NO. 11

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

NOVEMBER 2023

NALC Health Benefit Plan

SPECIAL HBP SEMINAR

NOVEMBER 29TH AT BRANCH 14 UNION HALL

PRESENTED BY,
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH BENEFIT
PLAN,
STEPHANIE STEWART



SESSION ONE 4-6PM
RETIREES
(SPOUSES WELCOME)

SESSION TWO 6:30-8:30
ACTIVE CARRIERS
(SPOUSES WELCOME)

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BE A PART OF THIS SPECIAL EVENT FOR BRANCH 14 MEMBERS. DIRECTOR OF THE NALC HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN, STEPHANIE STEWART WILL COVER ALL ASPECTS OF THE NALC HBP INCLUDING:

- ♦ Changes
- ♦ Rates
- ♦ Coverages
- ♦ Benefits
- ♦ Medicare integration



NALC
Health Benefit Plan





TONY WEDDLE
President

The Postal Service recently reported its finances for the fiscal year 2023. To no surprise, management announced it had operating revenue of \$78.2 billion, with expenses of \$85.4 billion, for a total net loss of \$6.5 billion. Now, I know that if you checked the math those numbers don't add up. But, due to reporting financial requirements in accordance with GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) and non-GAAP financial measures relative to the Postal Service's expenses for FERS and CSRS liabilities, coupled with Workers Compensation and Department of Labor fees, the Postal Service reported the net loss of \$6.5 billion. I assume you could dive into figuring out the Postal Service's voodoo math, but I'll choose to just leave it be.

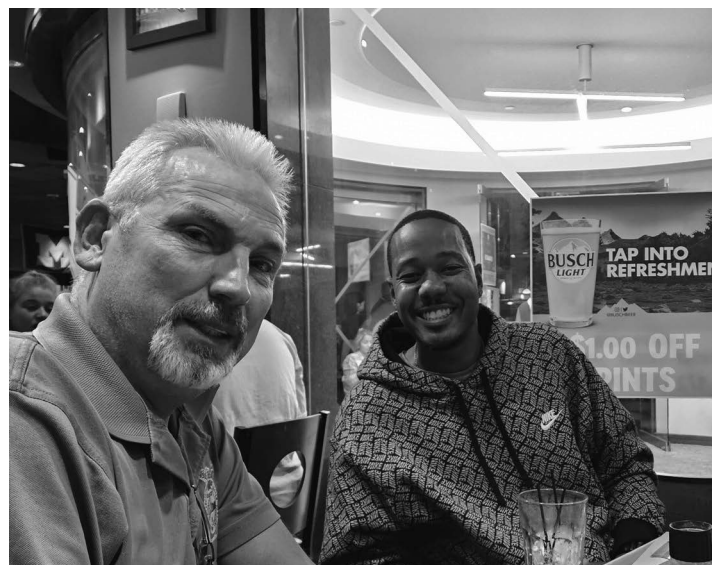
Nevertheless, going back to the last fiscal year (2022), the Postal Service reported a net loss of \$473 million. In that financial disclosure, the PMG (DeJoy) asserted that the results showed that the Postal Service was making solid and steady progress toward its goals of financial break-even on an annual basis. He also stated that his Delivering for America plan was producing greater operational efficiencies, improving service performance, and generating more revenue to modernize our technology and operations infrastructure. For most people, if you made comments like that and then reported the pitiful financial results for this year, you would feel like a buffoon. But not DeJoy, he's sticking with his plan of twice a year postage increases, establishing S&DC sites by consolidating letter carrier positions from multiple offices into larger facilities, and implementing the supposed most fundamental changes to the Postal Service since Ben Franklin.

All this would be laughable if it weren't so frightening for the future of the Postal Service. Watch dog associations of the Postal Service have said for years that large and multiple postage increases would exacerbate the decline of first-class mail. Just in 2022 there was a 3.4% (1.7 billion pieces) decline in first-class volume and another 6.1% (3 billion pieces) in 2023. It's

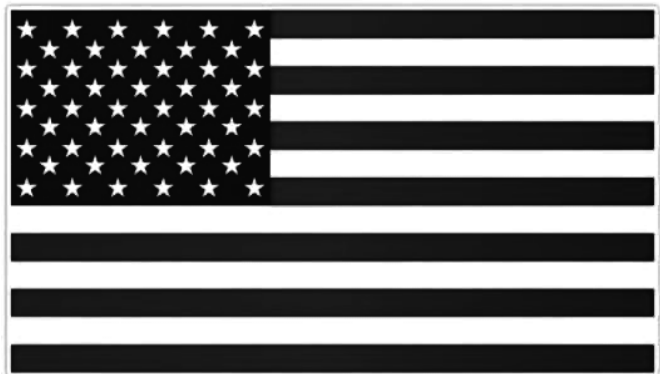
obvious that the cost increases, coupled with the slowing down of the mail, has pushed a lot of people to electronic communication and bill paying. Heck, most postal workers have even switched to electronic bill payments. Just one late credit card fee of \$25 for a payment that took six or more days to reach its destination is enough reason for people to switch.

Maybe DeJoy's ten-year plan will work. But I'm not confident in the slightest that it will. With the massive and fast declines in first-class volumes, our bread and butter, in conjunction with the high cost associated with establishing S&DC facilities all over the country, will be a huge challenge financially. Congress, the Postal Regulatory Commission, and I hate to say it, but even some union folks better wake the hell up and recognize what DeJoy's actions may cost the organization. Again, maybe I'm wrong and the Postal Service's future will be just fine under DeJoy. But announcing the dumpster fire of financial results for 2023 right when we may be going into interest arbitration to decide the terms of our new contract, makes him the most intolerable flaming bunghole (trying to keep it clean and professional here) working for the Postal Service - in my book.

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



THANK YOU



VETERANS



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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Executive Vice-President.....Ron Gast
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Treasurer.....Bob Hack
Asst. Recording/Financial Secretary.....Bill Davis
Health Benefits Rep./Retirement.....Tom Webb
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Trustee.....Larry Terry
Trustee.....Tina Davis
Trustee.....Greg Ray
Trustee.....Gary Edison

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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***

There has been much discussion over the past several years regarding how the Postal Service is a supporter of hiring veterans, and how those numbers have drastically declined recently. There are many programs and entitlements available to our veterans, and one of those currently is the “Wounded Warriors Leave Act of 2015”. This program is for veterans who have a combined service connected disability rating of 30% or more. The leave is in a separate category from regular sick leave, and can only be used for in-person visits to a health care provider for treatment of their service connected disability. All who are eligible will receive up to 104 hours of leave to use for this purpose each leave year, which begins on the first day of the first pay period of the calendar year, and concludes with the last day of the last pay period of the calendar year. This leave does not carry over from one leave year to the next, so it must be used during the current leave year and will be replenished on the first day of the next year. This leave is available to qualified veterans immediately upon hiring, provided they have notified the Postal Service of their eligibility. This leave will be available for use retroactively to the first day of their enter-on-duty date or the current leave year, whichever is later, and through the end of the leave year.

To utilize Wounded Warrior Leave when the absence is foreseeable (scheduled), the veteran should submit a PS Form 3971, *Request for Notification of Absence* in advance to their supervisor. They should designate the reason as “other” and write “Wounded Warriors Leave” in the space provided. If the absence is unforeseeable (unscheduled), the veteran should notify their supervisor as soon as possible of the expected duration of the absence and the use of Wounded Warrior Leave. This can be done utilizing the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) line which can be accomplished on the phone or through liteblue. If you are unaware, this is sometimes referred to as the “call in line”. In order to verify that the Wounded Warriors Leave is appropriately used, the veteran needs to submit a PS Form 5980, *Treatment Verification for*

Wounded Warriors Leave to their supervisor, certified by their health care provider, within 15 calendar days after returning to work. Wounded Warrior Leave may also qualify under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), and it is the veterans’ responsibility to provide complete and sufficient documentation to support eligibility.

All of this information can be found on the front page of the Branch 14 website at www.nalcbr14.com under the “Wounded Warrior Leave Act” heading, to include the current Management Instruction, PS Form 5980 and several articles from the Postal Record regarding the Act.

Vacation schedules for 2024 will be posted in all offices on November 15th and vacation selections will begin on December 1st. Prepare and plan your dates for next year so that when it comes to you, there isn’t a delay. The quicker everyone makes their selections, the sooner it is completed. So be ready. We also will be posting steward sign-up sheets on December 1st, so if you have had any interest in being a union steward, now is the time. They will be posted from December 1st -10th, so you have plenty of time to think about it.

Penalty Overtime Exclusion as referenced in Article 8, Sections 4 and 5 of the USPS-NALC National Agreement, the December period (during which penalty overtime regulations are not applicable) consists of four consecutive service weeks. This year, the December period begins Pay Period 26, Week 1 (December 2, 2023) and ends Pay Period 01, Week 2 (December 29, 2023).

I hope to see many of you at the next meeting on Tuesday, November 28th at 7:30 pm.

Knowledge is power. Solidarity forever!





JARETT SIMS
Vice-President

In August of this year, I began the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Leadership Academy comprised of three one-week classes over five months. Leadership Academy is “designed to both develop and enhance the knowledge and skills that are essential for NALC leaders.” Between each week of training, class members must complete a project that will help our branch.

Before I discuss my project, I want to thank everyone who has sacrificed to make this happen. Most important is my wife and children. A week away puts a strain on normal day-to-day life at home. Second, my Camp Taylor brothers and sisters who have had to pick up the slack on my bid assignment in my absence; thank you. Also, a big thanks to the members of the E-board, who have shouldered some of my union functions.

Our branch has a great wealth of knowledge and expertise on many topics that affect the Letter Carrier, but it appears that most of our members are unfamiliar with many of those resources. For that reason, the project I have selected is to write a “State of the Branch” report that will identify Branch 14 resources and recommend ways to increase our members’ awareness of their NALC rights and benefits.

In addition, starting today and over the next few months, I will use my newsletter article as a platform to increase awareness of the resources and tools available to members. To gauge your own awareness, read the following 10 questions to identify how many of these facts and resources you are familiar with.

1. Do you know the age you are eligible for retirement with full benefits?
2. Are you aware that we have a retirement coordinator and that he has weekly office hours at the Branch 14 Union Hall on Tuesdays?
3. Are you familiar with your rights under the Office of Workers Compensation?
4. Did you know that we have a link on our Branch 14 website that discusses what to do if

- you are injured at work?
5. Are you aware this is a part of the transition to Medicare at retirement age for many postal employees?
6. For retirees, did you know that beginning in 2025, the Postal Service will have a one-time grace period paying for penalties associated with not joining Medicare at the age of 65?
7. Did you know that on October 18, 2023, the Federal Retirement Fairness Act was introduced in Congress? The bill would allow certain federal employees to make catch-up retirement contributions for time spent as non-career employees after December 31, 1988, making it a creditable service under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS).
8. Did you know that Article 43.1 states that any and all parts of our contract can be “rendered or declared invalid by reason of any existing or subsequently enacted legislation”?
9. Are you familiar with the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF) and our Branch 14 LCPF coordinator?

These are just a few of many topics that I want to spread the word on. If you want to learn more about these or other topics, email me at simsbranch14@yahoo.com or call me at 502-964-3200. Better yet, come to the next Branch 14 union meeting on November 28, 2023. I hope to see you there!

Happy Thanksgiving!



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

Open Season Nov.13 thru Dec. 11,2023. The NALC Health Benefit Plan offers several new and updated programs for 2024. The NALC Health Benefit Plan (NALCHB) has as partners, CVS Caremark, Cigna, Optum Health, and Amwell. All of these partners strive to provide you with quality care. See the 2024 brochure for all the detailed services they provide.

The NALCHBP is owned and operated by letter carriers, for letter carriers and their families. There are no large underwriters, and all profits are put back in the plan to lower premiums or add benefits. The staff, in Ashburn, VA, are highly trained, ready, and willing to help with any questions you might have.

Beginning on 1/1/2024, NALC Medicare eligible retirees and their covered spouses will be part of the new Silver Script plan. This is a new and improved prescription drug program. This program is designed to bridge the gap between Medicare Part B and Medicare Part D. The Silver Script Plan also includes Part B reimbursement.

The premiums for 2024 are very low when compared to other plans in the FEHB program. The number of nationwide providers in the NALC Plan is equal to or better than any of the other plans available to you. Compare coverage, services, and cost, and you will see that the NALCHBP is the best plan for you and your family,

To enroll; High Option Plan go to <https://liteblue.usps>. Use enrollment code:

- 321- Self only
- 322 Self and Family
- 323 Self plus one

To enroll in CDHP Plan go to <https://liteblue.usps>. Use enrollment code:

- 324 Self Only.
- 325 Self and family.
- 326 Self plus one.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



NALC
Health Benefit Plan





MISSY HARRIS
Community Activities Coordinator

Hey everyone, Christmas is upon us. Which means it's time for the kids Christmas Party. December 3rd, from 2-5 p.m. Bring your kids, grandkids, nieces, and nephews. We are getting everything ready to go for the day. We need some volunteers to work that day. If you are available, please call or text me at 502-759-2276.

The next thing I am raffling is a set of suitcases. Fifty chances at \$20 per chance. This raffle is open to everyone so feel free to ask your friends and family. All these Raffles are for Muscular Dystrophy. We have raised almost 10K this year and I would love to make it 12K. Help a Sister out! Call or text me at the above number. Pictures of the luggage are available at NALC Br. 14 website or on Facebook Branch 14 page as well as my personal Facebook page.

Be kind to each other. We are all having troubles or trials in our life. It doesn't cost one dime to be nice to each other. Have a Happy Thanksgiving and I hope to see you at the Kids Party!



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www.EAP4YOU.com

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ADRIANE SHANKLIN
Sergeant at Arms/Scribe

Welcome to my favorite month of the year, November! No, not just because it's my birth month. The holidays start flowing in and the weather is so nice. Well at least it used to be nice. Here recently we've had that bipolar weather where it's cold one day and hot another, which can easily make you sick. Hopefully the better days will come rolling in. By now you've seen the increase in flats, DPS, and packages. No, it's not Christmas yet, but it surely feels that way. All the holiday catalogs are being sent out, and the customers are getting the jump on the holiday shopping.

Are uniforms still a high priority? I know a lot of PTF's are being hired and we're in need of assisting them with uniforms. Due to time change, carriers are out in the dark more often than not, so we need to be able to show the customers that we're the Post Office not some porch pirate. Just as we are cautious, so are our customers. If you have any gently worn uniforms that you could donate, it would be greatly appreciated, because our uniform closet inventory is low. On the other hand, if you know any PTF's that make regular and haven't received their uniform allowance please send them to your steward to get that investigated. Results won't happen overnight, but we're our own team and we must look out for each other.

In closing I'd like to thank everyone who took the time to come out and vote for me. I truly appreciate it. Remember knowledge is power!



LAST PUNCH**RON MERCER****CAROL GAST**

Branch 14 Annual Children's Christmas Party

December 3, 2023 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Branch 14 Union Hall

4815 Poplar Level Road * Louisville, KY 40213

Good times for all-come join the fun!
Refreshments-Crafts -Face Painting
Pictures with Santa

Return this form to Branch 14 Union Hall by
November 29th or give to your Union Steward.



Branch Member's Name and Station: _____

of Adults _____ # of Children _____

UNION MEETING**Date: 10/24/2023****Br 14 Union Meeting Attendance by Zone**

Annshire 40205	1
Annshire 40213	2
Annshire 40218	1
DTCU 40202	2
DTCU 40203	0
DTCU 40204	0
DTCU 40208	0
DTCU 40210	0
Fern Creek 40228	2
Fern Creek 40291	1
Hikes Point 40220	0
Iroquois 40209/14	2
Iroquois 40215	0
J-Town 40299	3
Lyndon 40222	1
Lyndon 40241/42	2
Middletown 40243	1
MLK 40211	2
MLK 40212	1
Okolona 40219	0
Okolona 40229	1
PRP 40258	1
PRP 40272	0
Shelby 40217	1
Shively 40216	1
St Matthews 40206	2
St Matthews 40207	2
Bardstown 40004	0
Campbellsville 42718	0
Eminence 40019	0
Ft Knox 40121	0
LaGrange 40031	1
Lebanon 40033	0
Radcliff 40160	2
Shelbyville 40065	2
Springfield 40069	0
Vine Grove 40175	0
Retired	11
Guests	0
Total	45

**Officers & Stewards Excused: S. Terry,
Hawkins, McCormick, Schwede**

**Officers and Stewards Absent:
Frye**

**MDA 50/50 Drawing.....\$74 MDA
.....\$74 Tom Webb**

\$50 Door Prize.....Stephanie Diaz

**LCPF DRAWING FOR MAY 2023**

POT.....\$200

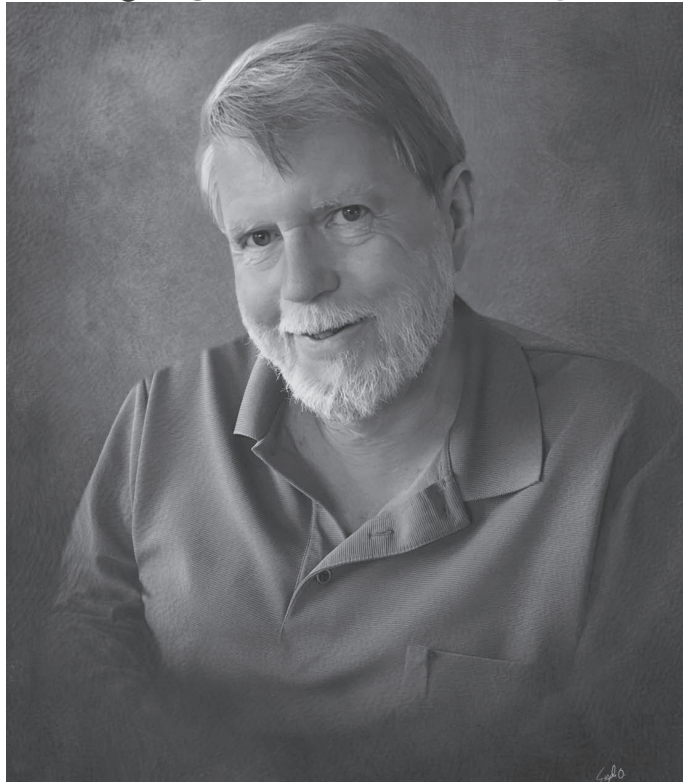
Last Month Winner.....Matt Brown

Last Month Winnings.....\$0

***Next Union Meeting
November 28th at 7:30pm***

United we bargain, Divided we beg

IN MEMORIAM



JAMES BUMANN



NALC Health Benefit Plan



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.

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.



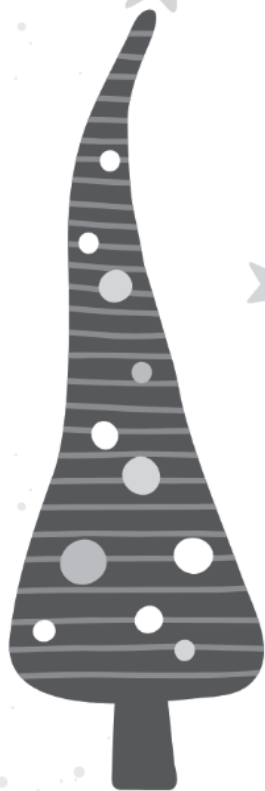
Kids Christmas Party

December 3, 2023
2-5 p.m.,

NALC Branch 14 Union Hall
4815 Poplar Level Rd
Louisville, KY 40213

Pictures with Santa,
Face Painting, Crafts,
Snacks & Cake

RSVP Missy Harris
502-759-2276 or
502-964-3200 and
leave a message



National Association of Letter Carriers
Falls City Branch 14
4815 Poplar Level Road
Louisville, KY 40213
11/23

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Room 166

Louisville, KY 40202

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our members. If we can't beat your
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*Restrictions Apply

