

BR. 14 NEWSLETTER



VOL 49, NO. 07

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF BRANCH 14, NALC

July 2020

Louisville, Kentucky

This is the official notice to all members of Branch 14 for nominations and the election of delegates to the Kentucky State Association of Letter Carriers convention which will be held in Bowling Green on June 13th and 14th, 2021.

Nominations for delegates to the convention will be accepted at the regular monthly meetings of Branch 14 on Tuesday, August 25th and Tuesday, September 22nd, 2020. The election of delegates will be held on Wednesday, October 28th, from 2:00 P.M. until 6:00 P.M., and on Thursday, October 29th, 2020, from 4:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. All nominations and voting will be conducted at the Branch 14 union hall, 4815 Poplar Level Road, Louisville, KY, 40213. 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 24th, 2020.

The number of delegates to the convention will be determined in accordance with the Article 5 of 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 delegates to the Convention. The Branch will determine by majority vote at the nominating meeting on August 25th the number of delegates, paid and unpaid, to the convention.

Any member 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 no later than October 16th, 2020. 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 29th, 2020.

All requests for ballots received after October 16th, 2020 and returned ballots received after October 29th, 2020 will be void. These requests and ballots will be kept as a matter of record by the Election Committee.

All qualified, regular members in good standing shall have the right to nominate a delegate to the convention and self-nomination is permissible. All qualified, regular members shall be eligible to be a delegate or an alternate delegate to the State Convention except as provided for in accordance with Article 5, Section 2 of the Constitution of the National Association of Letter Carriers, Article 5, Section 2 of the Constitution for the Government of Subordinate and Federal Branches and Article 7, Section 2 of the Branch 14 By-laws.

Steve Terry
Branch 14 Secretary



TONY WEDDLE
President

The morale on the workroom floor may be worse than most carriers have ever experienced. With some of the directives that are rolling out from our new Postmaster General (Louis DeJoy), such as delaying mail and essentially tossing the contract out the window, it's difficult for anyone to have a positive outlook for the future of the Postal Service. A lot of folks were concerned that the new PMG would implement painful changes and operate the business in a manner that could make many of the hardships the Postal Service is enduring even worse and it appears that's just what is going to happen.

Some of the postal news articles I've read in the past several days illustrate that many folks are concerned that the PMG's actions are deliberate and an attempt to hurt the Postal Service to the point of privatization. I'm not certain about all the negative political allegations that have been written about DeJoy, but I'll be the first to say that his integrity and honor are questionable since his actions indicate he doesn't respect our national agreement and employee rights. It could be that he's just clueless or a bit ignorant to postal operations. Nevertheless, we'll do our part to enlighten his ignorance through the grievance procedure and monetary settlements.

I've been on annual leave for few weeks and with all the stupid decisions management has made in the last couple weeks, along with all the grievances occurring throughout the branch, I'll have plenty of catching up to do when I return. Our EVP Ron Gast and VP Ron Osborne have handled most of the problems while I've been off and like usual they have done a great job of taking care of branch business.

As most of you know by now, the consolidated casing at the Martin Luther King station is ending at the end of the month and all of the assignments are going back to how they were before the initiative. Ron Osborne had to put in a lot of time to assist management in putting the routes back and I believe the Louisville installation may be the first installation that had a consolidated casing site which has completed the route adjustments.

Lastly, many of the COVID-19 related MOU's were extended by our national officers. These

MOU's have been in existence for quite a while now and many folks still aren't fully aware of these agreements. Know your rights better by reviewing these MOU's. They were established for our protections and since it appears we're entering a period of sour labor management relations, it would behoove our folks to read up, not only on those MOU's, but much of the contract as well so that you can protect yourself and coworkers.

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.

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

“Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds”. This saying has for some time been said to be the motto of the United States Postal Service. While the service has long since stated that it is the unofficial motto, history tells us that the saying goes back to Greek historian Herodotus who reportedly stated “*neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these “courageous” couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds*”. It is said that he stated this during the war between the Greeks and Persians about 500 B.C. in reference to the Persian mounted postal couriers whom he observed and held in high esteem.

Well, 2500 years later, here we are still using a form of the saying as the unofficial motto of the Postal Service. But in 2020, it appears that the current motto should be “*neither supervisor, station manager, Postmaster or Postmaster General will allow these couriers to complete their appointed rounds.*” I am of course referring to all of the hype that we have been hearing, whether on social media, or just passed along in conversation about some of the changes that we will, and are seeing in the Postal Service. I emphasize the word “service” because even though we have joked about it being in our name for years now, it appears that the new Postmaster General (PMG) has all but removed service from our title. We are hearing of situations where deliverable mail is just left on the floor, with no intention of being delivered today, and even tomorrow seems doubtful. And this is happening right here in Louisville. We have a station where I was told that up to 40 hours of deliverable mail was left in the office and never attempted, in one day. What are our customers to think when they hear of this? What are the carriers to think when they hear of this, and they themselves have been disciplined in the past for “delaying mail”? My answer is that I don’t have an answer. How can we sit here and tell the American public, “our public”, that their mail didn’t go out, because we just didn’t have the time. We just don’t have the personnel to get the job done. There just aren’t enough hours in the day to get “all” of the mail

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.....Ron Osborne
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.....Carol Gast
Trustee.....Jarett Sims

Branch 14 Stewards

40202/04.....Rick Cate
40203/08/10.....Vacant
40205.....Jarett Sims
40206.....Bob Cradic
40207.....Josh White
40209/14/15.....Ron Frye
40211/12.....Matt Weegens
40213.....Jarett Sims
40216.....Vacant
40217.....Jeff Richards
40218.....Matt Weegens
40219.....Logan Hickey
40220.....Vacant
40222.....Bill Davis
40228/91.....Tina Davis
40229.....Miklos Melton
40241/42.....Adriane Shanklin
40243.....Vacant
40258.....Josh Whaley
40272.....Josh Whaley
40299.....Jarett Sims
Bardstown.....Vacant
LaGrange.....Vacant
Lebanon.....Vacant
Shelbyville.....Dave Shuttleworth
Springfield.....Ron Osborne
Fort Knox.....Renee McCoy
Radcliff.....Reggie Sanders
Vine Grove.....Jose Montoya

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.

out, what do you expect?

Well, my answer is that I expect “ALL” mail to go everyday. If we have to curtail non-preferential mail within current postal standards, that’s one thing. But to curtail 1st class mail, for any reason, is simply unacceptable. Our customers expect more. Our employees demand more. But for some reason our new PMG feels that this is his company to exploit and make an example of, most likely with the intent of showing it as unnecessary and in desperate need of overhaul, so that he can dismantle it from the highest level and give the current administration all the reason they need to dissolve, privatize and destroy the oldest, most trusted agency in the United States’ history. This, if allowed to continue, would be a grave disservice to the American public.

So what do we do as letter carriers? Well, unfortunately we cannot make the Postal Service save this company. But we can do something. We can start by working hard everyday, taking out all of the mail that we are given, and challenge management when they do not allow us to do that. So let’s start at what is allowed. Is management allowed to tell us that we cannot take all mail that has been distributed to our case? The answer is no, unless we complete a PS Form 1571 (Undelivered Mail Report) sometimes referred to as a “cut slip”. On the 1571 you need to list all mail as “preferential” that is 1st or 2nd class or any mail that is dated for delivery. Ensure that you get managements endorsement on the 1571, get a copy and turn it in to your steward. When your steward contacts me, I will give them the guidance for filing the grievance.

What do we do if management does not distribute the mail to our cases and leaves it either on pallets, nutting trucks or other equipment in a staging manner? Well, then there is nothing we can do, basically. What I ask of our stewards is to report this mail to the Branch, namely myself or Tony Weddle, so that we can at least use that in our dealings with the Postal Service. As I have stated before, they have the right to curtail “non-preferential” mail, and we will have to continue to monitor that as needed.

I call on all members of Branch 14 to remain vigilant, and when you see issues that just don’t seem right to you, report to your steward. Stewards, when you get reports of possible violations, determine validity and file grievances accordingly and timely. If questionable, contact me for clarification and determination so that we can get these grievances in the system. We will

not bow down to local management. We will not bow down to area or even national management. Our new PMG is here for a reason. We will not allow that reason to be the dismantling of the Postal Service or the dissolution of the National Association of Letter Carriers. We are here to demand the proper treatment of letter carriers and the continuity of the Postal Service, and we will continue that fight until the end.

As of today, we still intend to have a union meeting on Tuesday, July 28. If so, hope to see many of you there. Stay strong, learn your rights and defend them everyday. Knowledge is power. Solidarity forever!

THE NEW SCANNERS



COMING

SOON!



You are all members of the NALC. You all have the same rights. Your rights will be defended no matter what type of member you are. This is the oath I took, and I will stand by it. What I am asking is what kind of a member are you? Are you a brother or sister, or is it all about "ME"? I hope to see as many of you at the next Union meeting and wish all of you well.



LCPF Disclaimer

By making a contribution to the Letter Carrier Political Fund, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your contribution is not a condition of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers or of employment by the Postal Service, nor is it part of union dues. You have a right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal. The Letter Carrier Political Fund will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office and undertake other political spending as permitted by law. Your selection shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled. Contributions to the Letter Carrier Political Fund are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the Letter Carrier Political Fund from soliciting contributions from individuals who are not NALC members, executive and administrative staff or their families. Any contribution received from such an individual will be refunded to that contributor. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year. Any guideline amount is merely a suggestion, and an individual is free to contribute more or less than the guideline suggest and the Union will not favor or disadvantage anyone by reason of the amount of their contribution or their decision not to contribute.



STEVE TERRY
Recording Secretary

Well, Postmaster General DeJoy sure didn't take very long to make a change in postal operations. He has instructed employees, I assume plant managers, that if the plants run late, they will keep the mail for the next day. I think there will be a lot of mail delayed in the future because this has been a consistent problem for many years after the consolidation of processing and distribution centers. This decision will compound our problems because we are struggling now to meet delivery deadlines for express mail every day.

I am sure this operational change by our new Postmaster General will not be the last. Some people think this decision is part of a plan being executed by President Trump to make Amazon pay more for having the Postal Service deliver their packages. I think it is part of a larger plan to weaken the unions representing postal employees. I say this because of President Trump's assault on other federal employees and his appointments to the National Labor relations Board.

President Trump has appointed 3 members to the NLRB, and they are Republicans. In the two years that Republicans have held the majority on the board, they have overturned NLRB precedent in more than a dozen cases. All these decisions overturning precedent favor employers, and none favor workers or unions. In none of these cases did the Trump board follow the NLRB's long-standing practice of seeking public input by impartial advisors or employees that could be negatively impacted before reversing precedent.

The actions by this President and his appointees to federal agencies is not good for public or private employees. They are trying to destroy unions. If they do, what will you lose?

If you don't believe what I am writing about is true, do your own investigation. I believe you will find out that President Trump is not a friend of labor.

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



RON OSBORNE
Vice-President

I know you were all happy to have a break from my articles last month as I did not submit one. So, I will have to make up for it in this month's article. This month I would like to talk to you about something that has been weighing heavy on my heart and mind for the last several months. That something is the difference in the types of Union members we have.

I will start by saying that we have **"Brothers and Sisters"** within our branch, and then we have **"Members"**. What's the difference you ask? Well here is what it is to me. I spend a lot of time away from home and family to work at the Union Hall or traveling to various places to address the needs of our Union and its' members. I get to meet many carriers, and sometimes their families, who are involved with the activities within our organization. Some of these activities, such as monthly meetings, food drive, political action events, MDA fundraisers, or other activities that are for the good of the branch or our communities. At each of these I see pretty much the same group of people involved and the group seems to be getting smaller all the time. These are the people that I refer to as our **"Brothers and Sisters"**. Always dedicated to whatever cause, whether it be working on grievances or planning the kids Christmas party. They give their time and sacrifice their families for the benefit of all of us who are part of the NALC. To this group of people, I am proud to call you **"Brothers and Sisters"** because you are the ones who truly keep our Union family together. In times of crisis, much like we are experiencing right now with the COVID 19 and the workplace issues, families stick together and fight together to survive. Unfortunately, this group of the dedicated is getting smaller all the time and the workload is getting bigger. If you are in this group, I thank you and I am proud to call you brother or sisters.

It is not my intention in any way to degrade any of our members. I understand that there are many of you out there that are doing the best you can by simply just being a dues-paying member. Many of you have family situations, health issues, or other good reasons why you cannot do more to support our Union. I get it, and I thank you for supporting

our organization in the best way you can. You are also **"Brothers and Sisters"**. What is disturbing to me is the growing number of members within our Union that seem to believe that the NALC is no more than a law firm which they have hired to represent their individual interests. I use the word individual very strongly, because this group of members does not seem to care about the carrier beside them or their problems. It's all about **"ME"**. As your Vice President, I deal with the discipline grievances for our branch. Many times, I hear **"I pay dues, so the Union needs to get me out of this discipline"**. Most of the time, the Union does get discipline expunged or reduced. However, sometimes you are guilty and need to accept this fact, learn from it, and move on.

This article may upset a few people who are part of this ever growing **"ME"** movement, but that is not my intent. My intent is to try to bring back into the family those that have strayed from the path. I know there are many of you out there who are sick and tired of having to work ridiculously long hours because one, or many, of your fellow members called in when they were perhaps not sick or had a sick family member and the burden once again fell on you. Gets old right. Guess what though, those members are entitled to the same representation that you are, and they get it. We, the leaders of your branch, fight and defend the rights of all our members, good or bad. What is unfortunate is that we can't change a person's morals or attitude. Most of our frustrations in the workplace have to do with poor decisions made by management, however, I can see the frustrations that are growing every day between the **"Brothers and Sisters"**, and the **"ME"** members.

We now have a new Postmaster General with strong affiliation to the current administration. The COVID thing is going. The letters and flats are falling, and the parcels are through the roof. Management doesn't want overtime or especially penalty overtime. ODL carriers can't be brought in on their scheduled off day without special permission. Wear a mask. Sanitize your vehicle and equipment. Social distance and be back in 8 hours. Just a few of the things we are dealing with. So, we just don't have time, if we are going to survive, for **"ME"** members. In past negotiations over our contract, we have always worked to improve pay and benefits for our NALC members. With all this stuff happening now, and a very uncertain future ahead, we must focus on protecting what we have.

UNION MEETING

Date: June 23rd, 2020

Br 14 Union Meeting Attendance by Zone	
Annshire 40205	0
Annshire 40213	0
Annshire 40218	7
DTCU 40202	0
DTCU 40203	0
DTCU 40204	0
DTCU 40208	0
DTCU 40210	0
Fern Creek 40228	0
Fern Creek 40291	0
Hikes Point 40220	0
Iroquois 40209/14	1
Iroquois 40215	0
J-Town 40299	0
Lyndon 40222	5
Lyndon 40241/42	1
Middletown 40243	0
MLK 40211	0
MLK 40212	0
Okolona 40219	1
Okolona 40229	1
PRP 40258	1
PRP 40272	1
Shelby 40217	1
Shively 40216	2
St Mathews 40206	1
St Mathews 40207	6
Bardstown 40004	0
Eminence 40019	0
Ft Knox 40121	0
LaGrange 40031	0
Lebanon 40033	0
Radcliff 40160	1
Shelbyville 40065	1
Springfield 40069	1
Vine Grove 40175	1
Retired	8
Guests	0
Total	40

Officers & Stewards Excused T.Davis,
Brown, Cate, Sims, Cradic, McCoy

Officers and Stewards Absent: Frye

MDA 50/50 Drawing.....\$105 to MDA

\$25 Door Prize.....KARINA BROWN

\$20 OFF AT Texas Roadhouse coupon:

1. S. Terry 2. D. Duvall
3. M. Harris 4. M. Melton
5. M. Weegens

IN MEMORIAM

"JACK JENKINS"

LAST PUNCH BUNCH

JOHN ROBERTS
RADCLIFF



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

*Steward Meeting 6:30 pm
United we bargain, Divided we beg*

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

The NALC Health Benefit Plan is your partner in healthy living. The Wellness and Preventive Care benefit provides a wide range of health screening programs for our members. Programs are available for Men, Women, and Children. Taking advantage of these programs can prevent chronic disease by being physically active and eating right. These services are CDC recommended.

When a PPO provider is used, preventive care services, screening, immunizations, and counselling are available at no cost. Preventive services can be gender specific. The NALC follow the CDC guidelines when determining which preventive care services and screenings we need to provide to our members.

Routine physical exams are covered at no cost to you when using a PPO provider. Members ages 3 and older are allowed one routine physical exam annually. Along with the exam, we also cover preventive medicine counseling by a covered provider care provider as recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. All these services are offered to you at no cost if you use a PPO provider.

Some preventive services are gender or age specific. It is the plans goal to keep you and your family as healthy as possible. Don't just go to the doctor you are sick, take advantage of these services that are available to you at no cost. A list of the services is in your 2020 brochure.

I hope to see you at the next Union Meeting, we follow all the recommended procedures and like the NALC Health Plan, we want you to stay healthy.

REVENUE PROTECTION**MISSY HARRIS*****Community Activities Coordinator***

Happy 4th of July to everyone. I hope you all got some much-needed rest and time with your families. We have all had some challenging times in our stations with all the routes down and vacation going into full complements. I think it's safe to say we are all a lot tired of it. I hope, in the coming days, that things open back up so our co-workers can come back and give everyone some much needed relief. As we all know we couldn't have the food drive, but you can donate or take up a collection for Dare to Care on our online drive found on the NALC website.

I have done one corn-hole board raffle so far and it seems to be a good choice, so be ready for the next one. I will sell chances for \$10 each and this time I will have 50 spots to fill since I ran out of spots for the first one. I will put the list on Branch 14 Facebook page along with my Facebook page. Also start getting your bowling teams ready for the first annual fall bowl a thon. Date to be announced soon. We all had a great time and seemed to be picking up teams so we thought everyone might want to come out and bring the family and have some fun bowling. As always, we will have lanes for the kiddos set up to bowl.

The last thing I need to ask you all to help with is contacting your Senators and asking them to support the Postal Service in the next stimulus. You can do that on the NALC website in just a few clicks. Go to the home page, click on Government affairs, click on "take action" and follow the instructions. Only takes a few minutes of your time. Our jobs are in jeopardy if the Postal Service does not get some much needed financial relief in the form of a bail out like all the big corporations got, not a loan, we all could be out of a job. I hope you will all get involved and be ready to fight for your jobs.



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BRANCH 14 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT
TREASURERS REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD OF JAN 1ST THRU MAR 31 2020

GENERAL CHECKING

CHECKING BALANCE	
BROUGHT FORWARD	\$ 48,869.35
DEPOSITS FOR THE	
QUARTER	\$ 89,370.38
TOTAL	\$ 138,239.73

DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 80,738.24
ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$ 57,501.49

GENERAL SAVINGS

DISBURSEMENTS	\$ -
ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$ 75,200.27

MORGAN STANLEY	\$ 101,295.92
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TOTAL CASH NET WORTH	\$ 233,997.68
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INCOME FOR THE PERIOD OF
1 JANUARY - 31 MARCH 2020

DUES	\$ 15.00
NEWSLETTER ADS	\$ 800.00
BUILDING FUND	\$ 625.00
DUES	
WITHHOLDING	\$ 84,324.10
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 3,606.28
(Golf Scramble, MDA, misc.)	

TOTAL	\$ 89,370.38
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SAVINGS	
INTEREST	\$ 32.29

TOTAL INTEREST	\$ 32.29
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GRAND TOTAL	\$ 89,402.67
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POSTAL RELICS



National Association of Letter Carriers
Falls City Branch 14
4815 Poplar Level Road
Louisville, KY 40213
07/20

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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

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