

BR. 14 NEWSLETTER



VOL 52, NO. 01

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

JANUARY 2023



TONY WEDDLE
President

Happy New Year Branch 14! The New Year is well underway which brings opportunity for many folks to set goals and new commitments for the year. For others, they're just glad to put the old year behind them. But it's my opportunity, which I have done many times in years past, to ask our members to make a commitment to attend a few more meetings this year and to participate or help with branch activities. It's a great opportunity for members to build unity and comradery. Not to mention learning your rights and protections in accordance with the national agreement.

With the beginning of the New Year for the branch, we have a new Vice-President to finish out the term for Ron Osborne. Ron was asked by our national president to work for the national team which he accepted. As such, I appointed Jarett Sims as the new VP. Jarett was fortunate to receive a little experience in the job a few months back when I appointed him acting VP to fill in for Ron's absence for a while as Ron was

playing a significant role in developing the new route adjustment process, TIAREAP, which rolled out last year. Although Ron will be working at headquarters, he'll still be an asset to our branch when called upon. I hate to lose Ron as VP, but he's worked very hard these past couple years for the branch and for headquarters and he deserves the opportunity to work for all members of the NALC. Congratulations brother, we'll miss you around here.

With Jarett's appointment as the new VP, I want to express to our members that I have the utmost confidence that he'll do a great job. The duties of the VP position at the branch, for those that aren't aware, oversees all grievances originating for the smaller offices we represent and all discipline grievances out of the Louisville installation. Jarett has already handled some tough cases and has done a fine job. He's eager to learn, eager to improve, and appears to be a natural when it comes to grievance negotiations. So, I'm confident we won't skip a beat, so to speak, defending the rights of our members.

On another topic, in my article last month, I stated that the branch would attempt to work with Louisville management one more time in our efforts to retain new workers and insist that

management follow the terms of the New Employee Experience and Retention program. Well, as most of you should know by now, the Louisville installation has another new, acting postmaster. So, it appears we're going to be off to a rough start already as we try kick start the retention program with yet another new postmaster who will initially be focused on becoming familiar with Louisville operations and working conditions. I don't even try to keep up with how many postmasters we've had these past few years, but it's getting ridiculous. Nevertheless, we have discussions scheduled on the retention MOU and we're going to do what we can on our side to improve the retention of new workers. We can only hope that management will do theirs.

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.



LCPF CONTRIBUTORS DRAWING

Beginning in January 2023, in an effort to increase contributions and membership attendance, Branch 14 will conduct a LCPF drawing at each union meeting. For those that are unaware, the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF) is vital to the future success of the US Postal Service and the National Association of Letter Carriers. More information on the LCPF can be found at [Letter Carrier Political Fund | National Association of Letter Carriers AFL-CIO \(nalc.org\)](http://Letter Carrier Political Fund | National Association of Letter Carriers AFL-CIO (nalc.org).).

Each month all branch 14 contributor's* names will be placed in a jar and one name will be drawn at the end of the meeting. If that member is present at the meeting, the brother or sister will win the current pot. The Pot will start at \$100. If a member's name is drawn and that member is not present, that \$100 will go in the pot and the following month the pot will be \$200.

The LCPF drawing is in trial phase and will continue throughout 2023. The intention of the drawing is to boost contributions and, hopefully, Branch 14 meeting participation numbers. The future of the LCPF drawing is contingent upon the success of the drawing. Come out on January 24th for your chance to win.

* Members must contribute the minimum recommended annual amount (\$130 or \$5 per PP) to be eligible for the drawing.



BRANCH 14 NEWSLETTER

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4815 Poplar Level Road
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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.....Vacant
- 40206.....Jason Hawkins
- 40207.....Russell Johnson
- 40209/14/15.....Missy Harris
- 40211/12.....Damon Braxton
- 40213.....Jarett Sims
- 40216.....Vacant
- 40217.....Jeff Richards
- 40218.....Matt Weegens
- 40219.....Ron Frye
- 40220.....Carol Gast
- 40222.....Adriane Shanklin
- 40228/91.....Tina Davis
- 40229.....Billy Maraman
- 40241/42.....Adriane Shanklin
- 40243.....Ron Gast
- 40258.....Greg Craven
- 40272.....Greg Craven
- 40299.....Carol Gast
- Bardstown.....Vacant
- LaGrange.....Stephanie Diaz
- Lebanon.....Ryan McCormick
- Shelbyville.....Vacant
- Springfield.....Vacant
- Fort Knox.....Vacant
- Radcliff.....Reggie Sanders
- Vine Grove.....Jose Montoya

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



JARETT SIMS
Vice-President (Acting)

For those of you who are unaware, on January 1, 2023, I was appointed as the Vice President of Branch 14. I want to thank President Tony Weddle for the appointment, and for his trust in me assuming this role. I look forward to working with Ron Gast and the rest of the Executive Board. I would also like to congratulate Ron Osborne on his new position at NALC Headquarters in Washington. While Mr. Osborne is no longer working in Branch 14, he will continue to be a vital and important asset for our members.

As a brief introduction: I have been a letter carrier for nearly eighteen years, the past seven working as a shop steward. I have carried mail over all the city of Louisville, but my current bid assignment is in Camp Taylor at the Annshire Annex. I have a wonderful wife and I have two great kids.

The Branch has invested a tremendous amount of time and capital in my training to prepare me to represent the carriers of Branch 14, and I take those responsibilities seriously. I recognize that the contract and the grievance process are bulwark of protection for Letter Carriers in both disciplinary matters as well as contractual cases. It is a distinct honor and privilege to be in a position to represent the Letter Carriers of Branch 14 and to fight to protect our contractual rights.

While the grievance process at times can seem slow and unwieldy, it is important to note that each violation of the contract begins with a single carrier, and that each carrier is in fact the union. I

implore each of you to study and learn your rights under the contract. Read your local agreement and make yourself familiar with provisions that are unique to your installation. In Louisville, most city carriers should have received a copy. If not, there is one on our branch website. For each of our auxiliary offices (except Campbellsville) your local agreement is also on our branch website.

Read the Handbook M-41 the City Delivery Carriers Duties and Responsibilities Manual. Learn your daily and weekly job duties and carry mail accordingly.

Familiarize yourself with Article 8 of the National Agreement which deals with Overtime grievances, and we know we have a lot of those around here. Study Article 16 as well, which dictates your rights in the discipline process and the obligations that management must meet in order to issue proper discipline.

Come to a union meeting. It is the last Tuesday of every month with the exception of holiday weeks. Your rights are openly being discussed and the union discusses how we are working to protect our rights against management. If you have questions or concerns, this is an open forum to express them and receive feedback and answers. *Bonus: You get two free drink tickets and at the middle meeting of the quarter we serve food.*

I reiterate what a distinct honor it is to be elevated to this position. Hope to see at our next union meeting.

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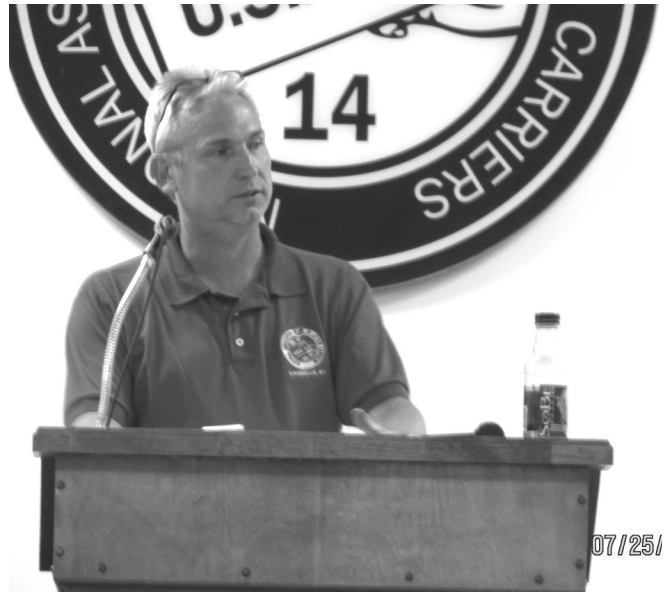


ADRIANE SHANKLIN
Sergeant at Arms/Scribe

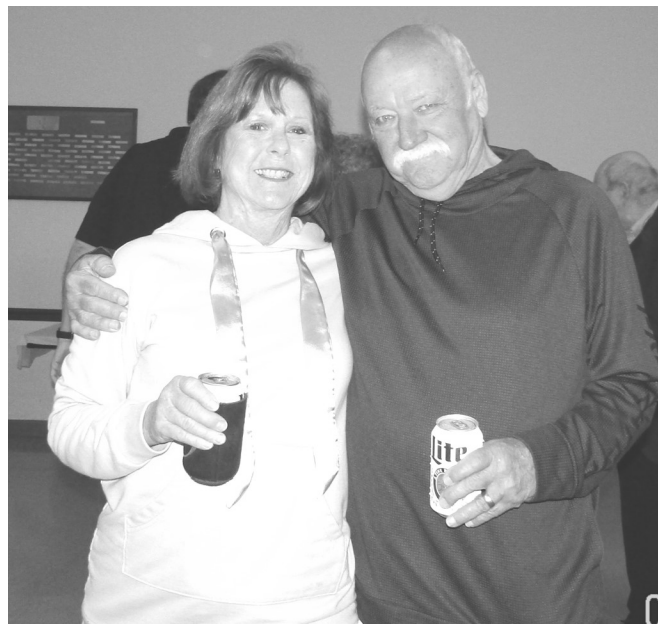
Happy 2023! I hope everyone is being safe, and still dodging COVID. Carriers are out left and right, and attendance at the Post Office is ready to use that against the carrier this year. Not only do we not have enough carriers, and it's the beginning of the new quarter, carriers are already over carrying extra time. Before you refuse to take time, please read 8.5.D (in the JCAM), and or request to speak with your steward. The last thing you want is discipline for refusing to follow!

With our recent incidents in the city please keep our carriers in prayer as they strive to be safe here in our city. This new generation has come up with no care for the life of others, and we need to be careful and keep our heads on a swivel to make it back home the way we came in. Your safety is the most important thing. Nothings worth losing your life for.

In closing, just stay safe, and remember knowledge is power!



07/25/



Dog Bite Prevention Tips

- Don't step over a dog.
- Never hand mail to a customer in front of a dog.
- Don't tease a dog through a mail slot.
- Don't walk close to a dog that is chained.
- Try not to run in the presence of a dog.
- Don't turn your back on a dog. Walk away, keeping the dog in your vision.
- Don't pet or feed a dog.
- Don't put your face near a dog's face.
- Don't stare at a dog.
- Don't attempt to deliver mail if you feel unsafe.





MISSY HARRIS
Community Activities Coordinator

OK ladies and gentlemen, it's time to get ready to rumble for Superbowl Champions! We have Superbowl squares for sale at \$20 each. Paid out \$250 for 1,2,3 and end of game. If interested please check my Facebook page or text me at 502-759-2276 to purchase some squares, please include your email. You can send payment via Cash app, Venmo, or PayPal. Just text me and let me know which one. Once all the spots are sold, I will hit the generate button and you will receive an email of the board. Good luck!

The March fundraiser will be a Bowl a Thon on March 19th at Ken Bowl Lanes at 7021 Southside Drive. Please take up a collection at your station, I have the donation forms and will give them to your steward to distribute. Anyone who can help me gather some raffle items please let me know. We are always in need of raffle items, and I will be out of commission after February 3rd for Shoulder surgery. Any help is appreciated. Looking to do a Cornhole tournament in April but haven't set the date yet so stay tuned!

Also, with all the new carriers coming in, be patient and help them along. If they are on a route you know, give them pointers to make their day easier. Tell them where the clean restrooms are and where there is a good lunch spot. Also instill in them that this is a good paying job and has a good retirement. I don't know about everyone else, but I raised three kids on my Postal salary, and I am thankful for this job. We have all been through so many changes and challenges since Covid. It's time to come together and stand side by side to make the Postal Service a place of employment for the next generation. We need our kids and grandkids to have good jobs so they can get out of our houses. HaHa! In closing, just be good to each other and tell your loved ones you love them every chance you get. You never know when it will be your last.

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

A New Year and new problems for some of the members of the NALC Health Benefit Plan. In mid-December of 2022 some members, using Baptist Health providers, have received a letter telling them that they may not be covered for certain services. These letters were not received until after the 2023 Open Season had closed. I have contacted both Cigna and the NALC Health Plan and they both say that they could not reach a contract for 2023. What does this mean to our members using the Baptist Health providers? It means that some providers will not honor the NALC Plan or that you will have to pay the out-of-network rates for services. Contact your provider or the NALC Plan prior to an appointment and make sure that you understand what their policy is concerning your health services.

NALC Plan High Option members that opted for the Aetna Medicare Advantage Plan, you should contact your health provider to find out if they are part of the plan. Since you have new ID Cards, many providers do not have the new insurance information in their system. When you need information or assistance contact the Aetna phone number on your new card. It will take a little time for Aetna to get all the new data into their system.

I look forward to seeing you at the next Union Meeting.

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.

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.



UNION MEETING

Date: 11/22/2022

Br 14 Union Meeting Attendance by Zone	
Annshire 40205	0
Annshire 40213	1
Annshire 40218	1
DTCU 40202	1
DTCU 40203	0
DTCU 40204	0
DTCU 40208	1
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	1
Lyndon 40222	1
Lyndon 40241/42	2
Middletown 40243	1
MLK 40211	2
MLK 40212	1
Okolona 40219	1
Okolona 40229	1
PRP 40258	0
PRP 40272	1
Shelby 40217	1
Shively 40216	1
St Matthews 40206	1
St Matthews 40207	3
Bardstown 40004	0
Campbellsville 42718	1
Eminence 40019	0
Ft Knox 40121	0
LaGrange 40031	1
Lebanon 40033	2
Radcliff 40160	1
Shelbyville 40065	0
Springfield 40069	0
Vine Grove 40175	0
Retired	12
Guests	0
Total	40


Officers & Stewards Excused: Maraman, Sims, Weegens

Officers and Stewards Absent: NONE


**MDA 50/50 Drawing.....\$91 MDA
.....\$90 Reggie Sanders**

\$25 Door Prize.....Russell Johnson

LAST PUNCH



**CERE
MYRICK II**



**JIMMY
OLSON**

LCPF DRAWING FOR JANUARY 2023

POT.....\$100

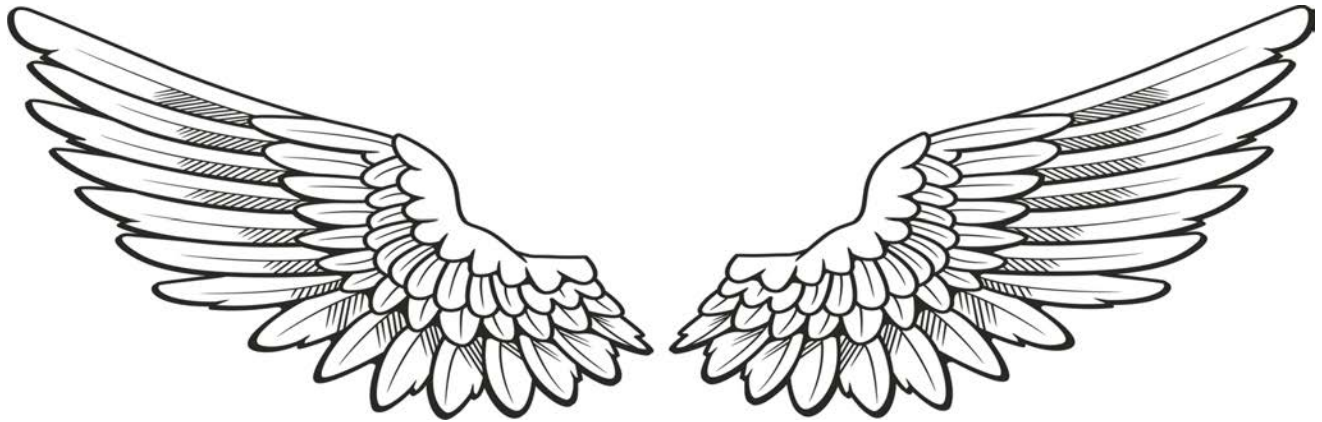
Last Month Winner.....No Drawing

Last Month Winnings.....\$0

**Next Union Meeting
January 24th at 7:30pm**

United we bargain, Divided we beg

IN MEMORIAM



**JOSEPH GARY
BENNETT**



**CARSON LUTHER
WOODCOCK**



RON JOHNSON



NALC
Health Benefit Plan





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Credit Union

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