

# BR. 14 NEWSLETTER



VOL 53, NO. 07

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

JULY 2024

Louisville, Kentucky

This is the official notice to all members of Branch 14 of the nominations and elections for all officer positions for the three (3) year term beginning January 1, 2025. There will also be nominations and election of delegates to the 2025 Kentucky State Association of Letter Carriers convention.

Nominations will be accepted at the regular monthly meetings of Branch 14 on Tuesday, August 27 and Tuesday, September 24, 2024. Elections will be held on Wednesday, October 23 from 4:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. and on Thursday, October 24 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 Kentucky State Association Convention will be held in Bowling Green, Kentucky on June 8 & 9, 2025.

The number of delegates allowed to attend 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.nalcb14.com](http://www.nalcb14.com) and read at the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 26, 2024.

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 25 and October 10, 2024. 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 24, 2024. All requests for ballots received after October 10 and returned ballots that are received after October 24, 2024 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 an officer, 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 and Article 7, Section 2 of the Branch 14 By-laws.

Stephen A. Terry Sr.  
Branch 14 Secretary

**BRANCH 14 NEWSLETTER**

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



**TONY WEDDLE**  
*President*

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.....Yodari Balcarcel
- 40204.....Leroy Gutierrez
- 40205.....Thomas Derringer
- 40206.....Vacant
- 40207.....Russell Johnson
- 40209/14/15.....Josh Shelby
- 40209/14/15.....Mark Wright
- 40211/12.....Damon Braxton
- 40213.....Kyle Moert
- 40216.....Jon Endelmann
- 40217.....Vacant
- 40218.....Jarett Sims
- 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

I hope everyone enjoyed a little time off for the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. As I usually do every year, I took a couple weeks off for July 4<sup>th</sup> with most of my family where we always enjoy our time together. Consuming lots of cold beverages, fishing, boating and lighting off fireworks makes it even better. Although watching dollar signs burst in the air with each firework kind of stings. However, being off for an extended number of days means I fall behind a little on branch affairs and must rely on other branch officers to cover my absence. But as I expected, other branch officers covered my absence and last month’s union meeting without any problems or issues (Thanks guys!).

Next month is the national convention and like most of you, I’m hoping we receive some worthy updates on a new contract. If we’re lucky, maybe we’ll hear that our national officers reached a tentative agreement before the convention. But, after waiting all these months I’m not confident that will happen. Like all other carriers, branch presidents don’t receive updates as some folks think so it doesn’t do much good asking me what the latest information is on a new contract, because I don’t know either. Like everyone else, I’m anxious to hear of a fair contract with substantial pay raises which rewards letter carriers for our hard work and getting past these past few tough years that we’ve experienced with the understaffing, excessive workhours and poor working conditions.

If you’ve been keeping up with current affairs related to contract negotiations, you’re probably aware that many union representatives across the country have expressed a lot of criticism for not having a new contract by now. Heck, it’s obvious that even our national officers haven’t been working very cohesively to achieve a new agreement either with all the bickering they’ve been doing amongst themselves. I also get the feeling that a handful of these reps are just jockeying for position to move up a notch on the ladder of leadership and I wonder if they’ve forgotten that at the end of the day representing the

*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 its officers.*

members is what is most important.

So, I'm concerned that this next national convention could be considerably contentious among delegates and that this convention will turn out to be very unproductive. But what could avoid a lot of criticism for our national officers from some delegates and a handful of ambitious folks who appear to care more about moving up a step in NALC ranks than the members of this union, is obtain a tentative agreement now!

I hope to see many of you at the next union meeting. Until then stay safe and try to stay cool. But remember, if you're going to do the job, you might as well take the time it takes to do the job right.



**RON GAST**

*Executive Vice-President*

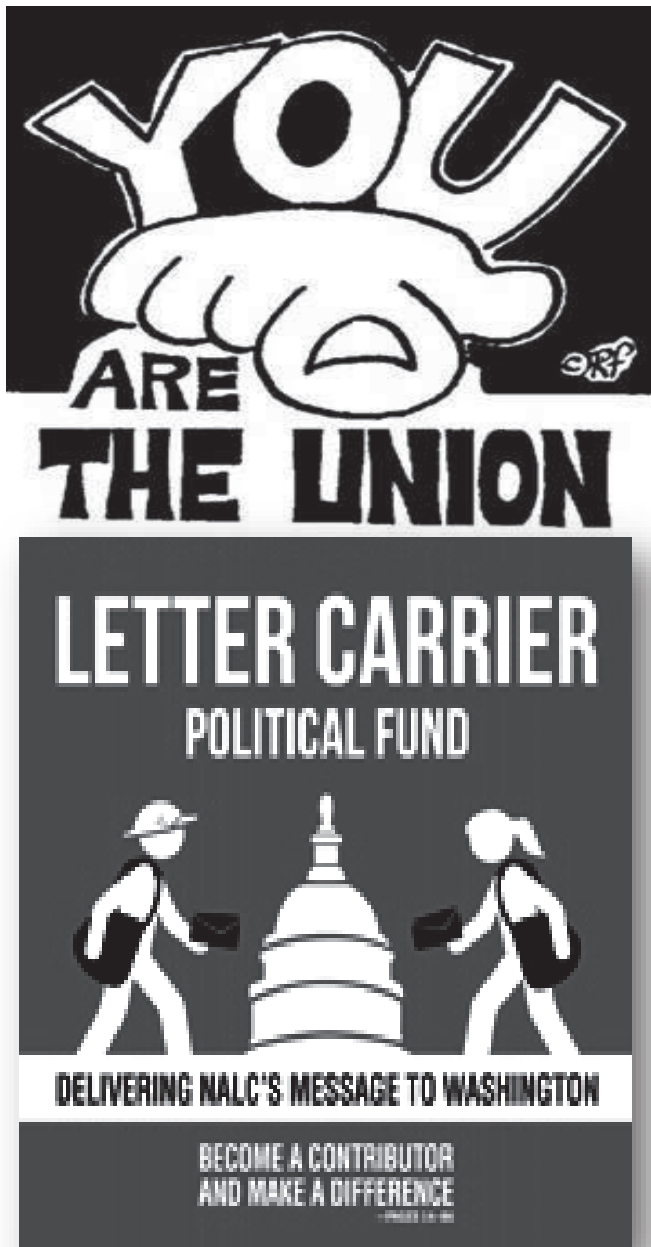
We are just around the corner from another political season. This November will be extremely important for Letter Carriers as to how the Postal Service continues. While this is not a normal subject for me, I do feel that there is an important issue regarding the political season that I should mention, and that is the Hatch Act.

If you have never heard of the Hatch Act, then maybe you should do some investigating. The NALC website has a plethora of information regarding the issue, along with Do's and Don'ts. The Hatch Act, a federal law passed in 1939, limits certain political activities of federal employees, as well as some state, D.C., and local government employees who work in connection with federally funded programs. The law's purposes are to ensure that federal programs are administered in a nonpartisan fashion, to protect federal employees from political coercion in the workplace, and to ensure that federal employees are advanced based on merit and not based on political affiliation.

Until 1993, active letter carriers were barred from taking any significant volunteer role for any political campaigns. The primary sentiment behind the law was to protect federal employees from being strong armed and intimidated into helping their bosses run for re-election. But as times and campaigns changed, many recognized that federal employees were being wrongfully left out of the political process.

So, in 1993, Congress amended the Hatch Act to allow federal employees to take an active part in political campaigns for federal offices. While there are still some restrictions on what federal employees (including you and your fellow active carriers) can do, there is much greater latitude for letter carrier political participation in campaigns for president, the Senate and the House of Representatives, as well as for state and local elected officials. Remember: Retirees, spouses and family members are not bound by the Hatch Act.

So, what are some of the things that you are



allowed to do without violating the Hatch Act? Active letter carriers may – on their own time, away from work, out of uniform and without using a postal vehicle:

- Be candidates for public office in non-partisan elections (that is, elections in which none of the candidates are to be nominated or elected are representing a political party)
- Register and vote.
- Sign and circulate candidate nominating petitions and ballot initiative positions.
- Assist in voter-registration drives.
- Speak and write publicly and otherwise express opinions about candidates, ballot measures and issues.
- Attend political rallies, meetings and other events.
- Attend fundraisers and contribute money to political organizations and campaigns.
- Volunteer for political campaigns and encourage others to volunteer.
- Participate in phone-banking and precinct-walking for candidates and ballot measures.
- Display bumper stickers, lawn signs and other campaign paraphernalia.
- Raise money for the Letter Carriers Political Fund from other NALC members. (Note: Letter carriers while detailed to 204b or other higher level assignments should not solicit contributions to the Letter Carrier Political Fund from postal employees who may be viewed as their subordinates.)
- Volunteer, run for and hold an office in a local or state political party or club.

Active letter carriers may not – while on the clock, at the workplace, in a postal uniform or in a postal vehicle – engage in any of the otherwise permissible political activities listed in the “Do’s” above. For example, while on the clock, at the workplace, in a postal uniform or in a postal vehicle, you may not:

- Send or forward a partisan political e-mail.
- Wear or display any political or campaign material, even as a computer screen-saver or desktop wallpaper.
- Circulate partisan political materials to co-workers.
- Sign up electronically to contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund or solicit other letter carriers to contribute.

While the above listed information is not an all-inclusive report on the rules governing the Hatch

Act, it is intended to give you a basic starting point on what you are allowed to do, and not to do. I strongly urge you to educate yourself further by consulting the NALC website at [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org) under the government affairs and political tabs. You can also access info regarding the Hatch Act at <https://osc.gov/Services/Pages/HatchAct.aspx>. Be prepared and make sure that you do not place yourself in a position where your actions can be called into question.

Hope to see many of you at our next meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 pm.

Knowledge is power. Solidarity forever!





**JARETT SIMS**  
*Vice-President*

In antiquity, the Israelites had traversed the desert for nearly 40 years. After the long journey, they faced the Jordan River, which raged and caused severe challenges. It has been written that as the Israelites were to cross the river, it was dammed, and the river was easily passable.

Archeologists, in researching the possibility of this phenomenon have discovered that very often, earthquakes cause the cliffs above the Jordan River near the town of Adam to fall and dam up the river. This is not a one-time event. The last time was in 1927.

So, what does that have to do with NALC Branch 14? I believe that unfortunately we are still wandering through the proverbial desert of the Postal Service. A journey that has been happening for over five years now. It is my hope that very soon, we will find ourselves at the precipice of the river. We aren't there, but we are making plans when we get there. When the Jordan river was dammed and those below were allowed to cross, it is significant to illustrate that there are works upstream that we may not understand now, but we will eventually see the fruits.

As I have written before, part of my job as the Vice President is to prepare cases for the Step B team. That team often gives us interpretative language which allows us to know more about the contract and how the union and management should understand how it works. If we do it correct locally, we receive good decision or at least know how we can prepare better the next time.

I have been learning the process continually in my term. I know what to argue, I know what to ask, and I appreciate what I have to do differently to be more successful in the next case.

Most recently, one of our members was removed from their position with the Postal Service. Many of these cases are very difficult to argue and win. That is very unfortunate. I want each of the carriers in our city to be able to come to work, be safe, and ultimately retire from the

postal service, should that be their goal.

While the loss of the job of any carrier is terrible, the most recent case, the Louisville Installation was able to secure additional rights for all carriers in the city. This is the process of working upstream. We have to understand that Branch 14 will not always be successful, but when we can glean something positive from a failed decision, we must always pursue that avenue.

As someone who represents the carriers of Branch 14, I won't give up hope. I know and understand that this will not be an easy process. I also know that we have the opportunity to build blocks now that will secure better rights and better settlements for our carriers. As long as I represent you, this shall be my ultimate goal.

A few additional notes: Branch 14 is looking for softball players for a co-ed softball league. In this newsletter, there is info. It is also listed on our branch website. Letter carriers hit the pavement seven days a week, I also can't wait to see our members hit the softball!

Our next meeting on July 23 at 7 pm. Lots of big things to be discussed. Hoping to see many of you there. Please be very safe in this extreme heat. Wear sunscreen and drink plenty of water. In unionism.



**Brother Greg Ray, trying to beat the storm, grooming your union hall lawn.**

# BRANCH 14 COED SOFTBALL

LXC League @ Tom Sawyer Park



Deadline to Sign-Up Aug. 10



Shirts



League fee

Fee

**\$65**

**REGISTER NOW**

**Damon Braxton**



502-403-7268



dbraxton17@gmail.com

bring your own glove! All games are Sundays between  
5-8pm, first game Aug. 25th

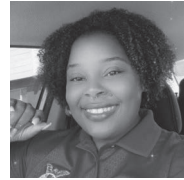
# LAST PUNCH



**DAVID MUCKER**



**MISSY HARRIS**



**ADRIANE SHANKLIN**  
*Sergeant at Arms/Scribe*

If you haven't noticed the heat outside, well maybe you've noticed the heat in the office! The Post Office is back to the summer games and challenges. One thing that hasn't changed is management's ability to see/say that you should get more time on the street for free! Yes, we're back talking about pivot, and everyone back by 8pm. With the decrease in mail volume, and the need to cover routes, pivot is a daily push. Just because you're told that your route is under doesn't mean you can't evaluate your route for yourself. By checking your DPS, parcels, tub mail, flat volume, and accounting the time you had while waiting for parcels to be thrown (in Lyndon it's a hit or miss), you may realize you're not going to make that pivot time and need to fill out a 3996! Fill out the form and have that discussion with your supervisor and get the final instructions.

That being said. Make sure you are hydrating the night prior and checking for signs of dehydration while out on your route. Is your skin very dry? Yes, you should be sweating. Are you feeling dizzy? Headaches or seeing spots? Is your heartbeat beating at a rapid speed? Do you have rapid breathing? Although sometimes it doesn't feel like it, your priority should always be your own safety! If you have any of the symptoms listed and feel like you're not going to make it, call 911. If you're able to contact your supervisor, do that also. Always pack more than enough water, try a hydrate rag, and stay prepared and download the heat index app!

On another note, Lyndon lost one of our carriers, Marty Messex, on June 29<sup>th</sup>. No one knows when our last day will be but remember that this is just a job. Kindly keep his family, and especially his two daughters in your prayers.

Remember, knowledge is power!

**Visit the Branch at our website: [NALCBr14.com](http://NALCBr14.com) and Like us on Facebook**



**TOM WEBB**

*Health Benefits/Retirement*

Melanoma, the most serious type of skin cancer. Melanoma is the cancer letter carriers most likely will have. The nature of your jobs exposes you to the sun's rays. This cancer is the easiest to be treated, if it is caught in time. There are some things that you do to prevent melanoma.

Dress properly, wear a lightweight long shirt and pants, wide brimmed hats, also sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher, use sunscreen on cloudy days. Avoid tanning beds, one session can increase your risk of skin cancer. Examine yourself in front and back in front of a full-length mirror with your arms raised. If a suspicious mole or growth is found, contact a dermatologist and they can treat the area in the office most of the time.

Summer is here and the 90 plus weather is at its best, take you of yourself, keep hydrated, take all necessary comfort stops. If you start to feel lightheaded, sick in the stomach or not sweating, get out of the sun and call the office or 911 and get help.



**MISSY HARRIS**

*Community Activities Coordinator*

Hey everyone, I hope you are doing well. Please take the time to hydrate and eat light when it's extremely hot outside. Snack on fruit, crackers, water, Gatorade, or electrolyte replacements. Hopefully management is providing water and Gatorade in your station.

I will be raffling off a projector and an outdoor screen to raise money for MDA. Tickets will be \$20 a ticket. There will be 100 tickets available. We have raised over \$5k for MDA this year so far and have a ways to go, so watch for the raffles on Facebook or at the Union Meetings. I will also have tickets for Labor Day at the zoo. Tickets for this event are \$20 just like last year. Lunch is provided with cost of tickets.



**UNIONS**  
 are workers who band together in a cohesive unit to raise the standard of living, and lift the entire group up.

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**Deliver the Cure**

**MDA**



**NALC**  
Health Benefit Plan



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



# UNION MEETING

Date: 6/25/2024

Br 14 Union Meeting Attendance by Zone	
Annshire 40205	1
Annshire 40213	3
Annshire 40218	0
DTCU 40202	0
DTCU 40203	1
DTCU 40204	0
DTCU 40208	0
DTCU 40210	0
Fern Creek 40228	0
Fern Creek 40291	0
Hikes Point 40220	1
Iroquois 40209/14	10
Iroquois 40215	1
J-Town 40299	4
Lyndon 40222	1
Lyndon 40241/42	2
Middletown 40243	1
MLK 40211	0
MLK 40212	1
Okolona 40219	0
Okolona 40229	2
PRP 40258	0
PRP 40272	1
Shelby 40217	0
Shively 40216	2
St Matthews 40206	0
St Matthews 40207	5
Bardstown 40004	0
Campbellsville 42718	0
Eminence 40019	0
Ft Knox 40121	0
LaGrange 40031	1
Lebanon 40033	1
Radcliff 40160	0
Shelbyville 40065	2
Springfield 40069	0
Vine Grove 40175	1
Retired	12
Guests	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>

**Officers & Stewards Excused: Weddle, Hawkins, Derringer, Gutierrez, T.Davis, Richards, Watson**

**Officers and Stewards Absent: None**

**MDA 50/50 Drawing.....\$61 MDA  
.....\$61 Tim Rasche**

**\$50 Door Prize.....John Endelmann**

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please provide the branch with your updated address if/when you move to a new delivery address. Aside from the fees incurred by the branch for undeliverable mail pieces, we are required by the NALC national constitution to attempt to maintain an updated mailing list of all members. In addition, there are items in the monthly newsletter that we are constitutionally required to notify all members of, in writing. Our newsletter is the best method to accomplish this. Please contact Steve Terry or Bill Davis when you move....Thank you!

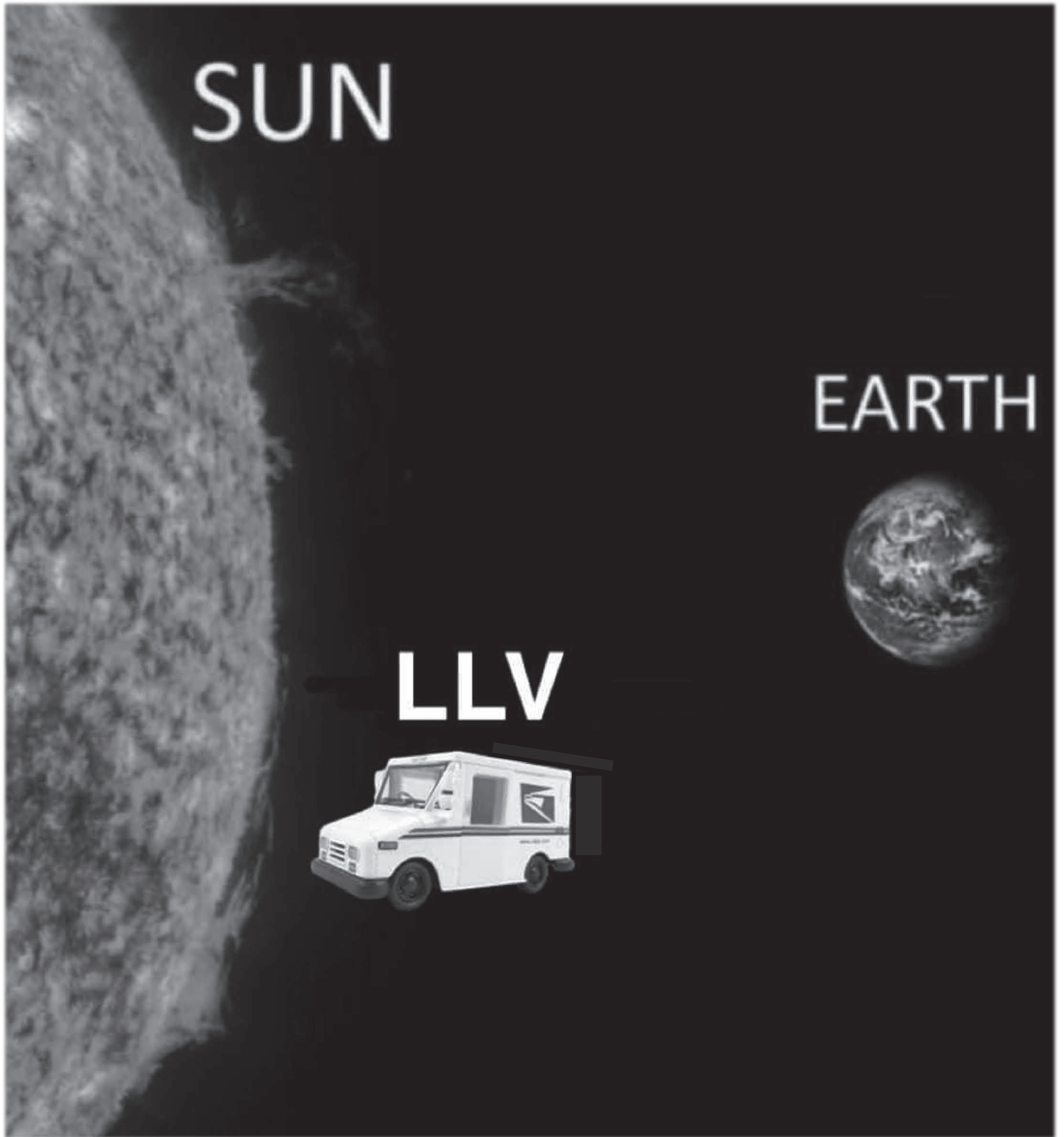
**KNOW YOUR WEINGARTEN RIGHTS**

**"IF THIS DISCUSSION COULD IN ANY WAY LEAD TO MY BEING DISCIPLINED OR TERMINATED, OR AFFECT MY PERSONAL WORKING CONDITIONS, I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT MY UNION REPRESENTATIVE BE PRESENT. WITHOUT REPRESENTATION, I CHOOSE NOT TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS."**

AFL-CIO

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

**United we bargain, Divided we beg**



# NALC

## Health Benefit Plan



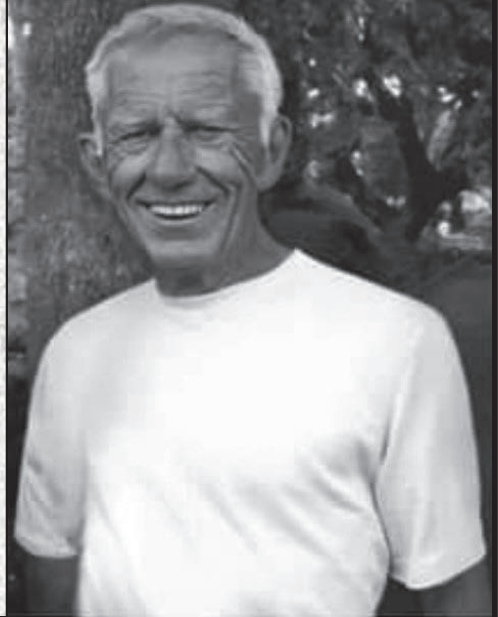
# IN MEMORIAM



## RUDY METZMEIER

Rudy was a retired letter carrier and remained active in union activities. He was frequently seen at branch golf scrambles where he never passed up the opportunity to cook burgers for his brothers and sisters.

Thank you Rudy



## MARTY MESSEX

Marty was an active letter carrier at the Lyndon Post Office. He was well liked and respected among his brothers and sisters and his presence will certainly be missed. Thoughts and prayers go out to Marty's family.



National Association of Letter Carriers  
Falls City Branch 14  
4815 Poplar Level Road  
Louisville, KY 40213  
07/24

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Louisville, KY 40232-3303

**Email:** [lfou@louisvillefou.com](mailto: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

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We strive to have the lowest rates for  
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\*Restrictions Apply

