

BR. 14 NEWSLETTER



VOL 48, NO. 12

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

DECEMBER 2019





TONY WEDDLE
President

The new year is fast approaching and to some of us it appears that 2020 is going to be a very challenging year. Recently we were informed that the Postal Service intends to move forward with implementing additional sites for consolidated casing at the start of the year which will be a heavy burden on the union. Currently, the Iroquois station is next on the list for consolidated casing in the Kentuckiana district, but we haven't been officially informed when the Postal Service intends to implement it at that station. I've expressed to our membership about the chaos, poor workplace conditions, and excessive contractual violations at the Martin Luther King station since it started consolidated casing back in September, but the Iroquois station will likely dwarf the problems we've seen at MLK.

With the Iroquois delivery unit being comprised of three zip codes, two combination collection routes, two combination swings, a reserve letter carrier position, higher mail volume and almost twice as many route assignments as MLK, we expect the challenge to effectively defend our members rights to be twice as difficult. But what's odd and disappointing to many of us, is the decision by postal management and their arrogance to move forward with the initiative even though arbitration hearings on the consolidated casing dispute are currently underway. That's on top of the fact that the initiative is not working and causing additional hours to be used to get the mail delivered. Management's actions support what many members have been stating for several years now. Which is that it's almost as if the jokers in charge are purposely trying to drive the Postal Service out of business.

However, we're hopeful that upper management will reconsider implementing any further consolidated casing sites until the arbitrator reaches a decision. Exercising a little patience is obviously the smart move to make at this time which could save a lot of resources the Postal Service desperately needs. But we'll have to wait and see what their decision is in the next couple weeks.

On a less depressing topic, Christmas and New Year's is just around the corner and I'm sure

many of our folks will be glad to get the holiday season and the additional parcel deliveries behind us. Even with Amazon making most of their own deliveries in the city, many delivery units have been experiencing extremely heavy parcels this season. That's obviously a plus for business and the folks on the ODL have enjoyed the extra pay. We've even seen some carriers working 15 and 16 hours a day this month to get all their parcels delivered. Again, that sounds great to your wallet but it sure sucks delivering in the dark for that many hours.

Lastly, I want to thank our branch stewards for their efforts this past year at representing and defending our members rights. At times, being a steward can be a very stressful job which requires some sacrifice and time away from family, long hours of research and sometimes thankless actions from a few of our members. But I know what stewards go through and I appreciate everything you all do for the branch. I also want to thank our executive board members for all their hard work throughout the year in the grievance process, helping with all the events the branch conducts, and more importantly, for working together with a common goal, and that's representing our members the best we can.

Merry Christmas to everyone, Happy New Year's and I hope to see many of you at the January 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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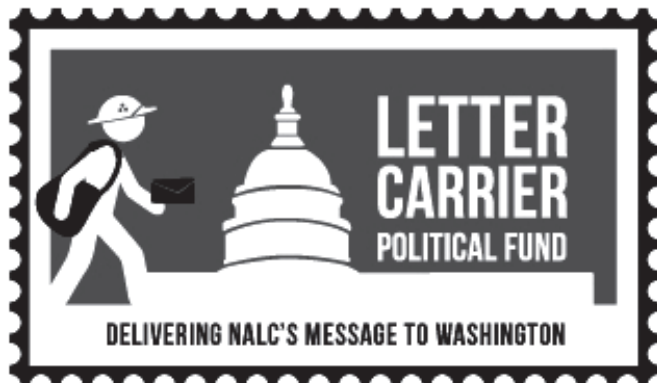
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(National Human Resources)

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<http://liteblue.usps.gov>

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 NEWSLETTER

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40202.....Jeff Houston
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40204.....Jeff Houston
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40206.....Matt Brown
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40209/14/15.....Ron Frye
40211/12.....Carlos Edmonson
40213.....Jarett Sims
40216.....Elisha Potts
40217.....Jeff Richards
40218.....Matt Weegens
40219.....Logan Hickey
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40222.....Bill Davis
40228/91.....Tina Davis
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40241/42.....Adriane Shanklin
40243.....Vacant
40258.....Josh Whaley
40272.....Josh Whaley
40299.....Jarett Sims
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LaGrange.....Vacant
Lebanon.....Vacant
Shelbyville.....Dave Shuttleworth
Springfield.....Vacant
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 its officers.

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

It's Christmas time again, which means that letter carriers have been working ridiculous hours, many of which in unsafe darkness, and mostly due to the ineptness of local management. Primary issue is CCA staffing, or lack thereof. Since the creation of the CCA category, the Louisville installation has had a complement of 112 CCAs to be on board. A couple of years ago this was improperly increased to 129. While this did create a big help in overtime work during the busy season, it was not contractually correct. This past year saw a national level grievance on CCA staffing nationwide, which did decrease allowances just about everywhere, and also put us back down to 112.

However, as of the writing of this article (13 days before Christmas), we have 81 CCAs officially on the rolls. But to break this down even further, 7 of these will be converted to full time by January 4, and 8 are still in the carrier academy. While we will see the 8 on the street before Christmas, they will not be able to provide the auxiliary assistance that will be needed. So while the executive staff of the Louisville Post Office sits in their offices on Gardiner Lane, the letter carriers will be working long days, to include some being forced on their non-scheduled days (Sundays too) and CCAs working even longer in most cases. Merry Christmas! Most recently it has come to light that word has been passed that any carrier caught committing any safety violation will be put off the clock. Merry Christmas! I have to tell you that the Holiday cheer is just overwhelming. There is no better way to tell your employees how much you value and appreciate their hard work than to threaten to take them off the clock without pay, or even terminate their employment because they don't want to work 15 hour days. I for one am just overcome with the good hearted feelings emanating from 1420 Gardiner Lane. Maybe 2020 will show some positive changes in these issues, just not holding my breath.

In looking forward to the new year, I am hopeful that we will see a new national agreement that gives letter carriers many of the benefits that are so richly deserved. We can also hope that the disaster known as consolidated casing goes away,

which is currently going on at the MLK station and is due to start next month at the Iroquois station, and is the subject of a national level arbitration. I also want to wish good thoughts and many happier days for all letter carriers and their families. Please take care of each other and your families, be safe and enjoy this Christmas season. See you all next year.





RON OSBORNE
Vice-President

Ok, so I'm sure everybody is tired of hearing me preach in my newsletter articles each month, so this being the last one of the year, I am going to keep it simple. I would like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope that each of you can find time to spend with family and loved ones and have some time to forget about the Post Office. I know it's tuff when we are all working these long hours and packing so much mail.

I would like to apologize because I feel like it is partly my fault that we are delivering all those packages. Though I am a big fan of Santa Claus, I just couldn't help myself when I filed the grievance against the Post Office for subcontracting our city letter carrier work to Mr. Claus. I had given a great deal of thought to getting Mr. Claus hired as CCA to serve as a remedy for the issue but determined that he is a runner, works off the clock far too much and has been observed operating his delivery vehicle in an unsafe manner, parking on rooftops to make deliveries and improperly entering customers homes. Don't feel bad for old Santa though because I hear he may be appointed to the Postal Board of Governors.

I would like to ask you all to be safe this holiday season whether it be at work or in your travels and want all of you to have a great New Year. Hope to see many of you at the January Union meeting. God bless and happy holidays.



Proposed By-Law change

Article XII

Current language:

Section 12: Station Stewards, \$1,455.57 per year, for expenses and dues refunds, payable quarterly. Stewards are required to attend the Branch 14 steward's meeting that precedes the regular monthly union meetings.

Proposed language:

Section 12: Station Stewards, *will be compensated based on the number of full time assignments they represent as follows:*

1-25 full time bid assignments: \$1,455.57 per year, payable quarterly

26-50 full time bid assignments: \$1,855.57 per year, payable quarterly

51-75 full time bid assignments: \$2,255.57 per year, payable quarterly

76-or more full time bid assignments: \$2,655.57 per year, payable quarterly

The number of full time bid assignments represented will be determined as of December 1st and will be effective starting on January 1st. Stewards are required to attend the Branch 14 steward's meeting that precedes the regular monthly union meetings.

Additional Responsibilities for Stewards:

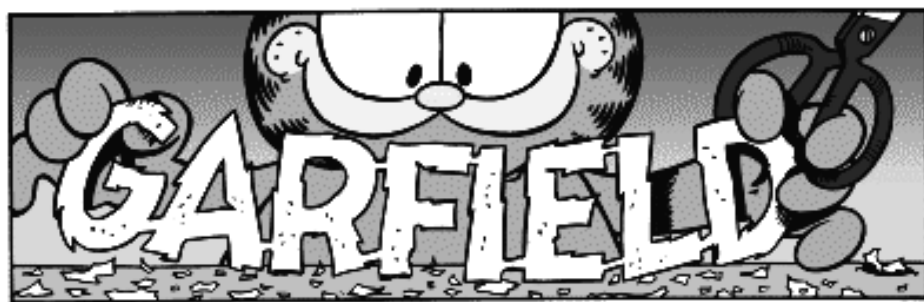
Branch Activities: Stewards will assist with publicizing the Bowl-A-Thon, Retiree's dinner, Branch 14 Golf Scramble, MDA Golf Scramble, Children's Christmas party and other branch activities and must participate in at least two branch activities.

Food Drive: Stewards will serve as the food drive coordinator for their work locations / stations and will be responsible for separating, transporting the bags and/or cards as well as ensuring they are distributed for delivery on the chosen date(s). They will coordinate the food collection and ensure the food is weighed and the totals given to the Branch 14 Food Drive Coordinator. Stewards will be required to be available unless absence approved in advance by Branch 14 President or his or her designee.

Membership: Stewards shall assist the Recording Secretary and Assistant Recording / Financial Secretary in maintaining accurate membership records to include names, addresses and phone numbers for all members under their representation, as well as promoting membership to all non members.

After meeting the requirement of participating in at least two Branch Activities as listed above, each steward will receive a \$100 holiday bonus in their December compensation. Failure to participate in two or more Branch Activities will result in a forfeiture of the holiday bonus.

All of these changes will take effect on January 1, 2020.



UNION MEETING

Date: November 26th, 2019

Br 14 Union Meeting Attendance by Zone	
Annshire 40205	0
Annshire 40213	1
Annshire 40218	2
DTCU 40202	1
DTCU 40203	0
DTCU 40204	0
DTCU 40208	0
DTCU 40210	0
Fern Creek 40228	0
Fern Creek 40291	0
Hikes Point 40220	2
Iroquois 40209/14	2
Iroquois 40215	0
J-Town 40299	0
Lyndon 40222	3
Lyndon 40241/42	4
Middletown 40243	1
MLK 40211	0
MLK 40212	0
Okolona 40219	2
Okolona 40229	0
PRP 40258	0
PRP 40272	1
Shelby 40217	2
Shively 40216	4
St Mathews 40206	2
St Mathews 40207	3
Bardstown 40004	0
Eminence 40019	0
Ft Knox 40121	1
LaGrange 40031	0
Lebanon 40033	0
Radcliff 40160	1
Shelbyville 40065	1
Springfield 40069	1
Vine Grove 40175	1
Retired	13
Guests	0
Total	48

Officers & Stewards Excused: Houston,
T.Davis, Melton

Officers and Stewards Absent: None

MDA 50/50 Drawing.....\$68 to MDA
.....\$67 to Paul Sinnott

\$25 Door Prize.....Robin Willis
\$15 Kroger Card from
Galls.....Delson Craig



BRUCE
SMITH



LAST PUNCH
KENNY
HORNBACK

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

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



TOM WEBB
Health Benefits/Retirement

By the time you receive this Newsletter the 2020 Open Season will be closed. I hope you made the right decision concerning health benefit coverage for you and your family. For Branch 14 members who have the NALC plan, I am usually in the branch office on Tuesday afternoons to help solve any problems that you have with a provider or the NALC office.

Recently, Branch 14 held a Retirement Training given by Robbie Gardiner and it was most informative. I am sorry that so few took advantage of this training. Retirement is one of the most important decisions any prospective retiree can make. Retirement decisions are life-long decisions, that affect not only the retiree, but their family as well. There will be retirement training session in the future, I urge anyone who is within one year of retirement to attend one of these sessions. The information you get at the training can be the most useful few hours you spend after many years of caring mail.

This is the Holiday Season, a time to enjoy and celebrate the season with family and friends. I wish each and every one of you a most joyful holiday season. However, you and yours celebrate it, may it be the best ever. Take the time to think about those who are not as blessed as you are. Assist them in any way you can. You will feel better for doing so. Remember our men and women in the armed forces around the world as they stand watch so that we can have the freedom to celebrate in any way we see fit.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



USPS at your service —
7 days a week this holiday season



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