



Branch 84 Newsletter

Representing Letter Carriers in Southwest Pennsylvania May - June, 2018

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President's Report

Ted Lee

Food Drive

I want to thank all the members of Branch 84 for all their hard work and effort on the Food Drive day. We collected 1,145,439 pounds of food for 2018. This is the 3rd consecutive year we topped a million as a branch. It is all about the bags and your efforts on a day that is taxing. We are grateful for all your participation. McKnight topped all Postal facilities for the second straight year with over 79,000 pounds of food collected. I want to thank Tamara Hartman, Mike Fratto and Tom Frazier who were all interviewed by WTAE regarding this year's food drive. Nationally we were ranked #5 in the entire country last year. We are waiting for National totals so that we can find out our branch ranking for this year. Management helped and cooperated with us on the food drive day. McKnight management allowed Branch VP Pat Rothwell and I, the use of a two ton. We were then able to ride around the whole day and take food off McKnight carriers, that we then took back to the Station and then went back out and repeated several times on food drive day. (This was necessary, because their Postal trucks were filling fast). I would also like to thank Mike Plaskon he was once again, our food drive coordinator. Mike's greatest contribution to our branch food drive was securing bag donations from the United Steelworkers Union in 2016. These bag donations of 500,000 for each year since he first asked that they be donated, is the biggest reason we have collected over a million pounds of food for the 3rd straight year.

There were issues; too many bags in some areas, no bags in other areas. Some Station didn't take the bags at all and some Stations took the bags

on food drive day. Pat has volunteered to take a more active role with the bags and cards next year along with making sure we reach out to the District Manager earlier to make things smoother.

As a reward for all your efforts in meeting our million-pound goal we will have food and beverages at the June 28th branch meeting so be sure and spread the word. Again, thanks for another successful food drive, which would be impossible without all your efforts.

3996 reminder, they are not optional. If you believe you will not make it back in the time management expects, **fill one out!** *Recent Arbitrations have ruled against carriers who were disciplined and did not fill one out!* Do not roll the dice or think he or she doesn't fill one out. "why should I?" The answer is simple: ("He or she doesn't fill one out. Why should I?" is an argument/contention and a possible EEO). Not a winnable contention in an arbitration hearing. We always use that argument and it does not work! The reason is because, submitting a PS Form 3996 is part of a Carriers Reporting requirements. We cannot get past this rule in future appeals.

Thomas Flaherty scholarship

The scholarship committee met prior to the branch meeting on Thursday May 24th. The winners have been picked, confirmed and are as follows; Preston Sheridan, son of James Sheridan (Beaver Falls). Christopher

Sandecz, son of Charles Sandecz (Latrobe). And Bryna McDowell, daughter of Tina McDowell (Grant Street). We plan to invite the winners along with their parents to the June 28th branch meeting to be recognized.

Harassment

May 10th Canonsburg (Randy, Pat and myself were there to interview all carriers for a harassment grievance).

The reason for this action from all the branch officers, was due to the long history we have, on trying to improve the work environment at the Canonsburg Station. I believe this visit had a positive effect. The harassment grievance has been resolved. I also believe the statement made, with all the branch officers going to Canonsburg to interview every carrier about the work environment will show how seriously the branch takes harassment of Letter Carriers.

If you're experiencing harassment issues in your office email us and let us know (we will do the same for any office in Branch 84). Scottsdale is next on our list for threats and harassment by a manager. **You don't have to take threats, and intimidation that make it unpleasant to come to work.**

Steward Elections

Pat and I went to South Hills Station on May 11th we conducted the Steward election after receiving complaints about alleged threats and interference from management (with the initial steward election). Postal Inspectors, and H.R. were involved. We need to know immediately if management interferes with our Steward elections.

L/M Meetings

- City of Pittsburgh 2nd quarter L M Meeting was held May 31, 2018. The issues discussed, and minutes have been posted to the web site.

- We plan to request a L M Meeting in Greensburg soon and as always if you desire a L M Meeting at your station, please call or email us at the Union Hall.

Safety

Be careful school is out (or soon to be out). Watch out for kids, dogs and kids with dogs (seriously pay attention avoid backing, left turns, always wear your seatbelts, go the speed limit, blue tooth headsets (you should avoid wearing them, for the distractions they cause).

In Ohio; (from-New Carlisle News Ohio dated May 19, 2018)

A United States Postal Service Letter Carrier was ejected from his mail truck after striking a telephone pole on Saturday afternoon. (the responding Ohio State Trooper investigating the accident) stated; That preliminary investigations point to a 'failure to control' citation being issued to the Letter Carrier. Also, most of the evidence concerning this accident, points to the carrier not wearing his seatbelt!

Please be careful and make safety an everyday priority.

Shop Steward elections: election notices have gone out. Please return all notices to the branch office. (Even if there was no election) to update our files. We scheduled a new steward training for June 25th. We strongly urge all new stewards to attend the June 25th training and (experienced stewards are welcome as well). There is important paperwork that needs to be filled out and of course training to help you represent carriers in your section. The previous stewards training on May 21, 2018 we covered grievances pertaining to Article 1.6a violations (management doing our work) and scanning discipline.

Substance (Abuse) Use Disorder

Alex Criego, Health Benefits Coordinator

This starts with a single call. There is a confidential service that is provided at no added cost to you.

Your personal information will be kept confidential in accordance with state and federal laws.

The substance use disorder advocate will:

- 1) take time to fully understand your personal situation and guide you on the next steps are most helpful to you
- 2) educate you on appropriate treatment options and type of providers
- 3) arrange a face-to-face clinical evaluation for you by a trusted licensed substance use disorder provider- usually within 24 hours

The provider will conduct:

- 1) a thorough evaluation
- 2) create a personalized treatment strategy designed for you
- 3) and will get you the treatment you Need

The clinic can arrange for family support services as needed. A licensed care advocate will be assigned to you and your family. The ongoing support will be provided for up to six months to help ensure the best chance of recovery.

The Substance Use Disorder Helpline number is 1-855-780-5955.

Also, do not forget there is also help through EAP!

Brothers and Sisters, the last newsletter had an incorrect telephone number to the "Solutions for Caregivers". The correct telephone number is 1-877-468-1016.

Buying back your Military Time

Patrick Rothwell, Vice President

I served in the military and now work at the Postal Service. I heard that I can "buy back my military time" and have it counted towards my postal retirement. How can I do that, and should I do that? In accordance with Public law 97-253, employees covered under the Federal Employee's Retirement System (FERS) will receive credit for their Post-56 military service if a deposit is made under FERS.

For FERS employees, the deposit is 3% of basic military pay. An interest-free grace period will extend for three years after the date of the career appointment. At the end of the three-year grace period, interest will accrue on the unpaid balance. All military service must be honorable in order to complete a buy back.

1. Call the USPS HR Shared Service Center at 1-877-477-3273, Option 5. Tell the representative that you wish to buy back your military time.
2. The USPS will send you a packet which includes a form for obtaining your estimated earnings during military service. Follow the instructions in the packet for obtaining your estimated earnings and also your DD 214(Report of Separation) An official copy of your DD 214 must accompany your request for estimated earnings. The DD 214 must be a "Member 4" copy or one which contains character of service and time lost information.
3. After obtaining your estimated earnings from the U.S. Military, send the completed forms back to the Postal Service's HR Shared Service Center. Use the return mailing label included in the packet.
4. If you wish to make payment for your military service, you will need to complete Section 12, Election of Payment, on PS Form 2805, Military Deposit Worksheet and SF 3108, Application to Make Service Credit Payment (instructions and forms included in packet). You may make a lump sum payment by check or money order, Installment payments (\$50.00 minimum) also by check or money order, or payroll deductions (in \$5.00 increments).
5. When the deposit has been paid in full, your retirement computation date will be adjusted to include your military service.

Of course, the choice is up to you, depending on the amount of deposit and time added to retirement. The consensus is that if you retired from the military then you shouldn't buy back your military time and combine your military retirement and postal retirement. If you did not retire from the military (for example you served one or two enlistments like many people do) then the consensus is that you should buy back your military time and have that time added to your postal retirement.

Prime Hold-Downs

(Randy Ball, EVP)

Summer is here! Hooray! Summertime Prime time leave abounds with opportunities! Hold down opportunities for CCA's and Unassigned Regulars. Senior carriers can pick up to three consecutive weeks during summer prime time (typically between the Memorial Day holiday and the Labor Day holiday). That would make for pool of stability in a sea of insanity for CCAs who are bouncing around from cut to cut, route to route and station to station. CCA's and Unassigned Regulars are entitled to the hours of the hold down. While on the hold down they report at the posted starting time for the route's regularly assigned carrier.

After 60 days of employment CCA's can request to hold down a specific route. I recommend, advise and strongly urge that the request be put in writing.

(remember If its not in writing it didn't happen). The branch has a form (for hold-down requests) and some stations have such forms. However, a buck slip will work as well for your hold-down requests. The following should be listed on all hold-down requests: I (your name) request to hold down route (number) in whatever office and section you work in. for the duration of the hold-down. (sign and date the request). Make 3 copies. Keep one. give one to management and the last copy, you should give to your steward or send it to the Hall. The hold-down request slip once approved, entitles you to the hours of the route you are holding down. Once you have a hold down it is good for the duration of the hold-down. Which is until the regular comes back. The contract, under Article 41; provides for limited circumstances where a CCA may be "bumped" off a hold down temporarily. Excluding the specific Article 41 exceptions; if management fails to honor your hold-down request, let your Steward or branch officers at the Union Hall know immediately. (So that a timely grievance can be filed). As a related reminder if you are scheduled and you show up for work, you have a minimum work hour guarantee. City of Pittsburgh CCA's have a four-hour guarantee and Associate Offices CCA's have a two-hour guarantee.

Now let's review the relevant points for this article. Unassigned Regulars may request a hold down any time they are not presently holding down an assignment, after 60 calendar days of employment CCAs are entitled to request hold downs, the hold down request must be in writing, you are entitled to

the hours of the hold down assignment, under very limited circumstances CCAs may be bumped from the hold down, and if you report to work you have a work hour guarantee. Information regarding Unassigned Regulars rights can be found in Article 41. CCA rights can be found in the CCA resource guide.

MDA Bowling Event

The annual spring bowling event was held April 15, 2018. The event was held at North Versailles Bowling Center and was attended by over 70 carriers.

The 50 50 was won by Pat Rothwell, who donated part of it back to MDA. Also, door prizes were won by the following carriers:

Mitchell Faust- Olive Garden
Dave Bugay- Home Depot
Tamara Hartman- Longhorn Steakhouse
Ryan Kelly- Wine and Spirits store
Ashley Thompson- Target
Kim Hyser- Applebee's
Elaine Byrnes- Friday's
Tim Lynch- Best Buy
John Byrnes- Red Lobster
Christy Brunzell- Giant Eagle
Geoege Staab- Outlook
Dan Lauso- IHOP

Prizes were given to the following:

Paul Stack- Top Male Bowler
Sora Top Female Bowler
Paul Stack- 2nd place Male bowler
Christy Brunzell- 2nd place female bowler
The team of Rack Williams, Paul Stack, George Hickler, and George Staab won top series
The team of David Bugay, Ed Schmitt, Joe Hetrick, and Bill Danzuso won 2nd top series

We will be holding our MDA fall bowling event on **Sunday November 11th**. More details will follow in the coming months, but mark your calendars and start getting your teams together. We want to beat the 70 bowlers we had at the Spring event.



Branch 84 Annual Luncheon Honoring Our Recent Retirees And Milestone Members

Thursday, October 26, 2018
Le Mont Restaurant, Mt. Washington
11:30 am

Join us in a salute to our recent retirees and 50, 60 and 70-year members. This year's luncheon will be held in the award-winning Le Mont Restaurant overlooking downtown Pittsburgh. The Le Mont is located at 1114 Grandview Avenue in the city's Mt. Washington neighborhood. Valet parking will be paid by the Branch. Complete the registration form below, indicating your entree choice, and return it with payment to the Union office **no later than October 5th.**

Entrée choices are: Chicken En Coute Lightly Breaded free-range breast of chicken, sautéed to perfection, topped with fresh arugula, vine ripened tomato, olives, roasted garlic and basil finished with Balsamic aseto, or
Atlantic Salmon Char-grilled with honey-soy marinade and glaze

The program will include speeches from national and state NALC officers, presentations to our recent retirees and milestone members, and the spectacular, famous view from Mt. Washington.

Please note: Honorees will receive an invitation to the Luncheon under a separate mailing in the near future. They do not need to submit this form.

Entrée selection:

Name: _____ Chicken or Salmon

Guest: _____ Chicken or Salmon

Mail This form with a check for \$25 per person payable to NALC Branch 84 to:

**Retirees Luncheon
NALC Branch 84
841 California Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15212**

Deadline is Monday, October 5, 2018

Good of the Association

NALC APP

As you know, over the past year or so we've been urging NALC members to take advantage of the new NALC Member App for smartphones as the best way to stay informed and help advance our goals.

Financial Report

The Branch had the following bank balances as of May 31, 2018:

Associate Fund	\$ 57,893.02
Convention Fund	37,756.43
Officers Fringe Benefit Acct.	27,396.57
Building/Scholarship Fund	<u>39,966.07</u>
Total All Funds	\$ 163,012.09

Gateway Clipper Info

The Gateway Clipper Fleet is proud to announce a "LABOR UNION DAY" every Monday this summer from June 4 through October 22, 2017. All Labor Union Members can ride any Monday Three Rivers sightseeing Cruise for FREE! They also offer half-price Sightseeing tickets for any family members that accompany you on Mondays for up to 8 people. To receive this special offer, simply show a valid ID badge or Union Membership card at the ticket office on the day of the cruise to receive the offer. Please call the Gateway Clipper at (412) 355-7980 or visit www.gatewayclipper.com to check cruise times and availabilities. Not valid on holidays, or with any other offer or group discount. Certain restrictions apply.

Special note:

If you need a membership card, you MUST notify Branch 84 IN WRITING that you need a replacement card. The signed request can be sent to 841 California Ave Pittsburgh, Pa 15212, or can be faxed to 412-321-4955

We congratulate the following members on their recent retirements:

Bennett, Donna, Clairton
Betts, Kenneth, Slippery Rock, 30 years
Conway, Larry, Latrobe
Cortazzo, David, Greensburg
Deschamps, Cathleen, Wilkinsburg, 17 years
Drzemiecki, Patricia, Greentree, 31 yrs
Fike, James, Aliquippa, 33 yrs
Garsteck, Anthony, Greensburg, 22 years
Girman, Eugene, Canonsburg
Harrold, Edward, Greensburg
Hogue, David, Rochester 39 yrs
Hutter, Gerald, Sharpsburg, 30 yrs
Jarding, Thomas, Scottdale
Jurich, Steve, New Brighton, 37 yrs
Kinley, Wayne, Brentwood, 27 years
Koerbel, David, Mt Oliver
Kovach, Alex, Latrobe
Kubrick, Todd, Upper St Clair 34 yrs
Lombardo, Ila, Monroeville, 30 years
Lucarelli, Nicholas, North Versailles
Mangel, Mark, Coraopolis, 25 years
Maravich, Robert, Aliquippa, 37 yrs
Miller, Paul, McKnight
Paclawski, Henry, McKnight
Palladino, James, Ellwood City, 34 years
Pruden, Patricia, East Liberty, 30 years
Rattay, Richard, Upper St Clair, 32 yrs
Rubinstein, Larry, Pleasant Hills, 22 yrs
Sabatine, John, Greensburg, 31 yrs
Snyder, Ramona, Bentleyville
Stanford Jr, Donald, Grant St, 33 yrs
Ulrich, Gayle, Pleasant Hills, 30 years
Winters, Steven, New Brighton, 18 years
Yates, Kevin, Grant St

We have had 23 Conversions in the City, and 18 Conversions in the Associate Offices.

We have had 161 New CCA's join the union since the beginning of the year.



**Branch 84 Family
Picnic**

Sunday, Aug 12th
Riverplex at SandCastle
West Homestead next to the Waterfront

Noon until 6 pm

Food, Soft Drinks & Beer
Spin and Sand Art

Trackless Train
Door Prizes

Inflatables for the kids
Bingo

Bring the family! Come on out and have a good time! We had over 300 members and family last year we expect 500 or more this year
Pre-registration required

Total Cost per Family is \$5.00
Cost per Guest is \$15

Make check payable & mail to:
Branch 84 Picnic
841 California Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Deadline to Register: Mon. July 30th!

Discounted SandCastle tickets are available but are not included with the picnic. Tickets must be prepaid, and the price of each ticket is 21.00 and money can be sent in with this form.

****** **** **** Picnic Registration Form **** **** ******

Member & Family:

Guests:

Member: _____

Spouse: _____

Names and ages of Children:

National Assoc. Of Letter Carriers
Clyde Kelly Branch 84
841 California Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Non-Profit Org.
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Return Service Requested

Calendar

Jun 25	New Shop Steward Training-7pm
Jun 28	Branch Meeting- 7:30pm
July 4	Independence Day Holiday
July 16-20	71st biennial NALC Convention
July 26	Branch Meeting 7:30 pm
August 12	Sandcastle Picnic
August 23	Branch Meeting- 7:30pm
Sept 3	Labor Day Holiday
Sept 24	Shop Stewards Meeting- 7 pm
Sept 27	Branch Meeting- 7:30pm
Oct 8	Columbus Day Holiday
Oct 22	Shop Stewards Meeting- 7 pm
Oct 25	Retirees Luncheon @ the Lemont
Oct 25	Branch Meeting- 7:30

Clothing Donations:

Are you retired, getting ready to retire, or have you outgrown your uniforms? Please donate your old, clean uniforms to the Branch. Your donations help the new CCA's that don't get their clothing allowance until they are out of their probation. You can drop off any still wearable uniform items at the branch office during regular business hours or on any meeting night.