

## Branch 84 Newsletter

Representing Letter Carriers in Southwest Pennsylvania Sept.-Oct. 2016

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### President's Report

#### Branch Election Info

In accordance with Article V Section 4 of the branch By-Laws. The Nominations for all the branch officer positions were held at the October 20th Union meeting. Branch officers were elected by acclamation excluding two positions which are as follows; Executive Vice President has two nominees (Randy Ball) (George Reffert) and The Office of Assistant Secretary Treasurer also has two nominees (Tom Hein) (Marilyn Viggiano). As a result of the two contested officer positions I appointed an election committee in line with Article V Section 6b of the Branch By-Laws consisting of the following individuals: Chairperson John McDowell, Co-Chairperson Dennis Donahoe, Mike Plaskon, Bob (Rack) Williams, Dan Kliber, Joshua Rocker, Mark Provenza, Scott Voelker, Mary Roberta, and Gary Monsch. It was also decided at the October branch meeting that if there is a conflict of scheduling with some of the Election committee members, some may have to be removed and others added. If such action must be taken, all nominees will be advised of such changes ASAP. On a final note I would like to congratulate all of the Branch Officers elected by acclamation. I would also like to thank the membership for electing me your new Branch President at the October meeting by acclamation. I am humbled and plan to do everything in my power to benefit the membership.

#### Phone Banking

The Branch conducted a phone bank October 17th the day of the Shop Stewards meeting. As you all know our branch supports the candidates endorsed by our National. These candidates are always those who support the issues that relate to Letter Carriers (regardless of party affiliation). Please keep that in mind when you cast your votes November 8th. You may obtain slates of our nationally endorsed candidates from your Union Steward or from us at the Union hall.

#### Branch Election Results

Branch 84 President \*Ted Lee

Executive Vice President nominees (Randy Ball & George Reffert)

Vice President \*Patrick Rothwell

Secretary Treasurer \*Gary Bluestone

Assistant Secretary Treasurer nominees (Marilyn Viggiano & Tom Hein)

Health Benefits Representative \*Alex Criego

MBA Representative \*Carole Anne Connelly

Senior Trustee \*Dennis Kaminski

Trustee (2) positions

\*Ed Heide \*Paul Mooney

OWCP/Retirement Officer \*Joe Roman

Allegheny County Labor Council (5) positions

\*Darryl Ulyas, \*Ron Blank, \*Dave Zavaski,

\*Bob Muse, \*Dave Bugay

\*indicates elected by acclamation

## **Job Insurance**

**Randy Ball, Vice President**

Eventually this election season will end and another will start. There will be another politician attempting to chip away at our wages, benefits and working conditions. Recent attempts have been made to end six day delivery and door to door delivery. If five day delivery had been legislated there would be about thirty thousand less city carriers on the street. I do not know the impact of cancelling door to door delivery. We must be vigilant in watching what happens on Capitol Hill and 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Recently, Congress required new federal employees to pay towards their retirement, the 1 percent per year of service annuity. Those employees hired in 2013 pay 3.1 percent and those hired in 2014 and after pay 4.4 percent. These increases do not increase the employee's benefits in any way. The increase in contribution amount is a pay cut. This is one example of how those individuals who roam the Halls of Congress affect your wages. Congress has also floated the idea that federal employees do not need a Union. Imagine the work floor environment if we all were not protected by a Collective Bargaining Agreement; it would multiply the abuses of letter carriers that occur regularly without grievance or consequence. This is where the Letter Carrier Political Fund helps to protect and preserve our wages and benefits. The Letter Carrier Political Fund pays to have letter carriers released from their postal duties to work with AFL-CIO affiliated campaigns. This would include candidates for the House, Senate and President. The released letter carriers would conduct voter outreach via telephone or door to door contact. Then as Election Day approaches their attention would turn to voter turnout. Your contribution would be going to pay their salary. Then there are the usual campaign contributions to candidates for office donation. The donations help our legislative liaisons in their attempt to get the candidate to agree with our issues. Those congressional allies we support that have crossed party lines have helped us fight off numerous attempts to end Saturday delivery. The Letter Carrier Political fund has made donations to Democrats, Republicans and Independents. The notion that we only give to democrats is wrong. Our National Union leaders have cultivated relationships with members of both parties. This phenomenon is not an accident.

The proof is in the number of Republican cosponsors for House Resolution 12, this is for maintaining 6 day delivery and House Resolution 54 to reinstate the service standards prior to 2012. There are 60 Republican cosponsors to H.R. 12 and 52 for H.R. 54. Our National Union leaders work tirelessly to improve our wages, benefits and working conditions. The vehicle for them to be able to influence our elected officials is our Letter Carrier Political Fund. We letter Carriers as individuals cannot match the ability of billionaires to pour their millions into campaigns, but by each of us giving as little as \$5.00 per pay we can level the playing field and be able to maintain our wages and benefits. I know there are some letter carriers who are not comfortable giving but we have to look at where we would be without the wages and benefits this job provides us. I view a contribution to the Letter Carrier Political Fund as a form of job insurance. It is a way to help our National Union officials fight off all the attacks from not so worker friendly politicians.

As a member of the NALC, there are several easy ways to give to the Letter Carrier Political Fund:

1. **Payroll deduction:** Contribute automatically, using PostalEase (either online or by phone) to set up an allotment deduction from your USPS paycheck.
2. **Direct bank withdrawal:** You can authorize the fund to withdraw a monthly electronic contribution directly from your personal checking account
3. **Annuity deduction:** Retired letter carriers can elect to give monthly via an automatic deduction from your monthly annuity.

You can sign up by using the form next to this page. Fill out the pledge card on the opposite page and mail it to the branch office or to the address on the form.

# LETTER CARRIER POLITICAL FUND

## Delivering NALC's message to Washington.

As a federal employee, your career and livelihood are stringently controlled by government policies and legislation. Members of Congress wield absolute power when it comes to collective bargaining rights, worker protections, job security, retirement benefits, and a strong Postal Service that provides quality, universal service to all Americans.

There are many ways to be a part of the NALC's network of legislative and political activists. Giving to the Letter Carrier Political Fund is one of the simplest.

Just as your shop steward guides you on the workroom floor, NALC must navigate the political process, working to elect candidates who will protect us and promote our issues.

NALC works to educate letter carriers about the candidates and the issues to help ensure that, when we cast votes, we are making informed decisions. And NALC works to educate members of Congress so our message gets delivered to Washington.

These efforts are reinforced by building and using political capital to elect—and re-elect—those who stand by us.

## How can I contribute?

As a member of the NALC, there are several easy ways to give to the Letter Carrier Political Fund:

### Payroll deduction

Contribute automatically, using PostalEase to set up an allotment deduction from your USPS paycheck.

### Direct bank withdrawal

You can authorize the fund to withdraw a monthly electronic contribution directly from your personal checking account.

### Annuity deduction

Retired letter carriers can elect to give monthly via an automatic deduction from your monthly annuity.

Choose which method works best for you, fill out this pledge card and return it to your local PAC coordinator or mail it to NALC Headquarters.

Mail to:

**The Letter Carrier Political Fund**

100 Indiana Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20001

## Why give to the NALC Political Fund?

Under federal law, labor unions are strictly prohibited from spending dues money on contributions or expenditures in connection with federal elections. So in 1975, the NALC established a PAC to become proactive in the electoral process.

Support for letter carriers and the Postal Service comes from all political parties, so the fund is committed to supporting pro-letter carrier candidates, regardless of their political affiliation.

Every year, our PAC grows and NALC's voice in Washington gets stronger.

# JOIN US TODAY!

I, \_\_\_\_\_

from branch \_\_\_\_\_

want to become a member of the Letter Carrier Political Fund. I elect to make my contribution to the Letter Carrier Political Fund:

- Every pay period via my USPS pay check (Postal Ease)
- Monthly via my bank account (I have attached a voided check)
- Monthly through my OPM annuity
- One-time personal check or cash contribution (cash cannot be more than \$100)

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Detach here to make your voice heard in Washington!

*By making a contribution to the National Association of 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 may 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.*

## From the Health Corner

Alex Criego, Health Ben. Rep/ MDA  
Coordinator.

### Open Season:

The Start date of Open Season for FEHBP (Federal Employees Health Benefits Plans) is November 14, 2016 and ends on December 12, 2016.

### City Carrier Assistant (CCA) Information:

1. You can choose self only or self and family coverage in the USPS Noncareer Plan and receive a \$125.00 contribution to the premium every two weeks.
2. As a NALC Member, you can choose to become a member & select self plus one or self and family coverage (not self-only) from the NALC Consumer Driven Plan or Value Option Plan and receive the \$125 bi-weekly contribution from USPS.
3. You can choose self-only, self plus one or self & family coverage in any plan offered through the FEBH Program -but- receive NO contribution toward premium costs.

\*If you have NOT completed a 360 day period of service, YOU HAVE ONLY ONE PLAN OPTION:

1. You can choose to enroll in USPS Noncareer plan (with either self-only or family coverage) and receive the \$125 bi-weekly premium contribution from the Postal Service. HOWEVER, if the NALC prevails in its disputes with the USPS, you may also have the option in the future to choose self & family coverage under either version of the NALC Consumer Driven Plan or Value Option Plan and receive the \$125 bi-weekly contribution from USPS.

NOTE: City Carrier Assistants (CCA) should visit our website at [www.nalchbp.org](http://www.nalchbp.org) for information.

Once CCA's are converted to career status, they have 60 days to enroll in a FEHB Plan. The coverage of any CCA enrolled in the USPS Non-Career Employee Health Benefits Plan terminates the last day of the month that is 28 days after the conversion to career status. Coverage in a FEHB plan will begin the 1st day of the 1st pay period after Human Resources receives the employee's election for coverage.

Any carrier who does not enroll during the 1st 60 days after being converted to career will have to

wait to enroll during Open Season - UNLESS - They have a Qualifying Life Event (QLE).

Please give consideration to joining our union's health plan. Our health plan's rates and benefits are as good as or better than the other plans that are open to our members.

### 2017 Active Letter Carriers Premiums:

Type of Enrollment	Bi-weekly Amt
High Option Self Only	\$65.09
High Option Self Plus One	\$149.76
High Option Self and Family	\$139.35
CDHP Self Only	\$44.46
CDHP Self Plus One	\$96.17
CDHP Self and Family	\$96.39
Value Option Self Only	\$36.49
Value Option Self Plus One	\$78.93
Value Option Self Plus One	\$79.14

### MDA Raffle at December Meeting

At the December meeting, we will be once again having the Chinese auction. We are asking each station to make a gift basket to be auctioned off at the meeting. Please bring baskets to the meeting or drop off at the hall prior to the meeting. To all who have supported MDA in the past, thank you.

## Membership Report

**The Branch welcomes the following new members:**

Bryan Bell	Devin Karwowski
Nicole Brooks	Michael Livingston
Michael Carpenter	Kevin Metro
Jesse Champion	Gregory Parker
Charles Davis	Tyreem Robinson
Derrick Fiore	Joshua Smith
Jeffrey George	Darian Tyler
Joshua Haeefe	Demetrio Vega

**We congratulate the following members on their recent retirements:**

Terri Annarumo	Melanie Slogick
Nicholas Hryadil	Yvette Stevens
William Jaehne	Dennis Streno
KevinReidmiller	

**The following carriers were converted during the month of October:**

Whitley Baker	Bryan McGlynn
Beth Benson	Michael McGlynn
Adam Bostwick	Craig Schrum
Anthony Carter	Ben Sidon
Shaelynn Goodwine	Aaron Smith
Jon Greening	Sierra Smith
Leonard Hammonds	Darren Stevens
Torress Hattens	Kara Trasp

## NALC Member App

Free and available now in the iPhone App Store and the Google Play Store for Android. This app puts the most up-to-date information and resources into the hands of our stewards and members. The app contains links to workplace resources, including the National Agreement, the JCAM, the MRS, CCA resources and more. It also includes legislative tools, such as a bill tracker, an individualized list of your congressional representatives and PAC information. And one of the coolest features: an Interactive Non-Scheduled Days calendar. You'll see the latest news and social media posts from facebook and twitter. Read them, like them, share them, retweet them. This is your social media.

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*The administration of the Postal Pulse Survey began on October 4. Employees will be able to complete the survey either electronically including using LiteBlue. Employees will be provided sufficient paid time at work to complete the survey. Only one response will be accepted from each employee.*

## Stop Staples Rally

The latest demonstration was at the McKnight Road Staples on October 16, 2016, and was well attended. The demonstration was hosted by the Western PA Postal Workers Solidarity Committee, and there were over 30 members in attendance. All APWU crafts were represented, along with Letter Carriers, Mail Handlers Retirees, and non postal supporters, as well as a number of children.

The next Rally will be on November 13, 2016 at the Monaca Staples. The rally will be from 11:00-12:30 and there will be pizza and beer afterwards. If you live in the area please make an effort to stop by the rally and show your support.

### Moving/Recently moved?

Let us know of any changes in your mailing address!

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Name

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Address

---

City

State

Zip

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Phone Number

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E-mail

Mail Changes to:

NALC Branch84  
841 California Ave  
Pittsburgh, Pa 15212

## Retirees Luncheon

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, the Branch held our annual luncheon at the LeMont Restaurant to honor our recent retirees and milestone members. National Director of Life Insurance Myra Warren, National Business Agent Bill Lucini and PA State Assoc President Joe Antal were on hand to help honor our retirees. Listed below are our recent retirees and milestone members honored this year. The Officers of Branch 84 add our thanks and congratulations to brothers and sisters who built this great Union and continued their membership into retirement.

### 70-year member:

Francis Quinlin

### 60-year members:

Robert Graziano

Frank Gyescek

Joseph Horne

Robert Jones

T A Koenig

Charles Nice

Michael Paranzino

Harold Stewart

Michael Uhren

John Vorko

### 50-year members:

Robert Benz

Richard Boss

Frederick Bozic

R E Buchholz

Anthony Canavan

Leonard Cichowski

E B Clark

C E Crum

Edward Cygnarowicz

C A Dedes

Tom Kaylor

John C Kreuzer

Ronald McCulloch

Audley McGinnis

B H Miller

R J Molinaro

Joseph Nagy

Howard Neidig

R E Nolla

Paul Pribik

T P Prisbylla

Raymond Schnupp

Edwin Szewczyk

C F Talarico

R D Wolny

### Recent Retirees:

Donald Bennett

Gary Bluestone

William Brimmeier

Carol Ann Connelly

Joyce Costa

Stephen Courtwright

Paul Dorsey

Karen Fuchs

Mark Garrity

David George

Brian Guthrie

Steven Hinney

Lawrence Hoffman

Kevin Kacin

Patrick McGlynn

Thomas Minnick

Michael Moravec

Henry Platts

Moses Simmons

Steven Stefanik

Gregory Szarejko

Norbert Teklinsky

Dean Vete

Louis Waldschmidt

Nihla Wallace

### Notable Luncheon Honoree:

At the luncheon we were able to honor Joseph Horne who joined the Post Office in 1949 which gives him 67 years of membership. He carried mail for 45 years, and 40 of those years were on the same route in the Hill District. His father was instrumental in starting the fireman's union, so he has strong union ties.

## Color-Coded Calendars

The Branch is once again offering the six-color rotating off-day calendars at a cost of \$5.00 each. The proceeds from the sale will benefit MDA. They'll be available from the Union office and at Shop Stewart and Branch meetings for November and December, while supplies last.

## Financial Report

The Branch had the following bank balances as of September 30, 2016:

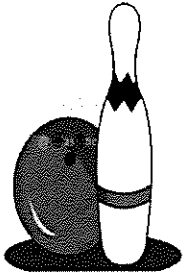
Associate Fund	\$ 82,924.09
Convention Fund	16,709.63
Officers Fringe Benefit Acct.	16,359.93
Building/Scholarship Fund	51,071.09
Total All Funds	\$167,064.74

## Monthly Meeting Changes

The next two monthly membership meeting dates will be changed as follows:

November 24 to November 17, 2016, and  
December 22 to December 15, 2016.

**December Branch meeting is also our Holiday Party catered by Birdies. Please come and enjoy the food and socialize with your fellow carriers.**



# Branch 84-MDA Bowling Day!

**Sunday, December 4, 2016 – 11:30 a.m.**

(Steelers play a 4:30 game)

**Part of NALC-MDA Deliver the Cure Bowl-A-Thon**

Food, Refreshments, Door Prizes, 50/50 Raffle after bowling

**North Versailles Bowl  
350 Lincoln Hwy (rte 30)  
N. Versailles, PA 15137**

Cost is \$15 per person – All proceeds go to MDA!  
Each member may bring one guest  
Prizes for high game and series.

**Bowlers are encouraged to get pledges and to bring donations for MDA.**

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Return this portion with registration fees to  
Branch 84, NALC  
841 California Avenue  
Pittsburgh PA 15212

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pre-Registration is required  
Deadline is November 11<sup>th</sup>**

Would like to bowl with team: \_\_\_\_\_

**Stations are encouraged to submit 4 person teams to compete against other stations!!!  
Cost includes 3 games of bowling, shoe rental, snacks, and lunch after the event.**

**Remember all proceeds go to MDA!!!!  
Join Branch 84 Members to help deliver the cure!!!**



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

Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage Paid  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Permit No. 3141

**Return Service Requested**

**Branch Elections:** Just a reminder that branch elections are currently taking place.

Ballots and Instructions will be mailed to each member. Instructions, also, will be posted on union board in each office.

Election rules provide that a member may request a ballot if one is not received by **Thursday, November 10, 2016** by writing to:

**JOHN MCDOWELL, CHAIRMAN  
BRANCH 84 ELECTION COMMITTEE  
245 WESTVIEW AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15229-2242**

Requests for ballot must be received by the Election Committee Chairman no later than 10:00 AM Thursday, November 10, 2016.

**.IMPORTANT: IN ORDER TO BE  
COUNTED, YOUR BALLOT MUST BE  
RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 9:00 AM ON  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2016 IN POST  
OFFICE BOX 1317, WEXFORD, PA 15090-  
1317.**

**Calendar**

Nov. 6	Daylight savings
Nov. 8	Election Day – VOTE!
Nov. 14 – Dec. 12	Open Season for Health Benefits
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Holiday
Nov. 17	Monthly Meeting 7:30
Nov. 21	Shop Steward training 7:00
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 4	Br. 84 MDA Bowl-A-Thon 11:30 a.m. North Versailles Bowl
Dec 12	Shop Steward training 7:00
Dec. 15	Branch Monthly Meeting – 7:30 pm Installation of Officers
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Holiday
Jan. 1	New Years Day Holiday