



MEMO To the Branch 2184 Leadership Council, July 11, 2023

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Jackie McGregory
Darryl Clay
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Jim Powell
Phil Ashford
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Erik Venzke
Felicia Davis
Leonard Zawisa
Dave Reise
Joe Golonka
Kris Shaw
Mark Owen
Scott Russell
Karen Russell
Tod Lilla
Ryan Zyngier
Byron Hendricks
Jillian Hudgins
Symone Coleman
Yvonne Jackson
Karl Tamburro
Damon Green
Shaun Fowlkes
Marwan Ghotemi
Chanel Harrison
Lillian Bogosian
Rachel Stachulski
Scherrie Lacey
Scott Watts
Valerie Watkins
Kristie Nelson
Diego Forshaw
Keith Benedict
Victor Siemiesz
William Douglas
Jeffrey Webb
Casey Pennington
Nakia Whitfield
Katrina Jones
Ananias Epps
Ramon Robinson
Shatyra Young
Paul Bordine
Mike Tredway
Danita Hill

This month's Leadership Council Memorandum will begin as usual with a Branch administrative update. As summer continues, and in accordance with our Branch bylaws, there will not be a regular membership meeting in August. The next regular Branch membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 6 beginning at 7:30 p.m. This meeting will take place at the Branch 2184 office.

Anyone planning to be nominated as a 2024-2026 convention delegate at the October membership meeting should be aware that for attendance and meeting credit purposes, the ten-month cycle of meetings occurring immediately prior to the next NALC National convention, which will take place in Boston on August 5 - 9, 2024 **begins with the September 2023 membership meeting.** As an FYI, the 2025 Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers convention will be April 26 - 29 at the Great Wolf Lodge near Traverse City. The 2026 NALC National Convention will be August 3 - 7 in Los Angeles.

Steward meetings in August are scheduled for Tuesday, August 8 and Monday, August 14, both at 7:00 p.m. The August 8 meeting will take place at the Branch 2184 office. The August 14 meeting will be conducted online via the use of WebEx. An executive board meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the Branch 2184 office.

As noted above, official nominations for Branch 2184 officers, station stewards, and convention delegates for the 2024 through 2026 three-year term of office will be taken at the regular Branch membership meeting scheduled on Wednesday, October 4, at 7:30 p.m. Any member in good standing can be nominated for any position, except for Branch Retiree Officer who must be a retired member, and station stewards who must be assigned to and working in the station where they are nominated for a steward position.

Also be aware that anyone nominated for any position **MUST obtain and complete the notice of acceptance of nomination and certification of non-supervisory status form and return it within 10 days of the time of nomination.** After some controversy was caused by a few nominees following the last cycle of Branch nominations, the Branch Bylaws were subsequently amended to make it clear that it is **sole responsibility of a nominee for any position to obtain and to return this form.**

Branch 2184 Contract enforcers should be aware that annual Region 6 (K.I.M. Region) Seminar conducted by National Business Agent David Mudd's office is scheduled for Saturday through Monday, October 7 through 9, which is the Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day holiday weekend. The K.I.M. Seminar will be held at the Radisson Plaza Hotel and Suites in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Branch President Walt McGregory determines the attendees for this valuable annual training seminar, but if you are actively involved in Contract enforcement or specialized member services in the Branch, you should already have been invited (and are strongly encouraged) to attend.

On Sunday, June 25 our annual Branch picnic for members and their families took place on the grounds of the Branch office. Severe weather had been forecast but fortunately held off for the duration of the festivities, which were attended by approximately 300 Branch 2184 members and family members. A splendid time was had by all on a warm and humid summer afternoon, perfect for an outdoor event. A special thanks goes to all our picnic volunteers for their hard work before, during, and after the picnic, especially to picnic committee chairperson Erik Venzke and his committee. Plans are already being made for next year's picnic, which will continue to be held on the grounds of the Branch 2184 offices.

While postal management has been busy during the past several months committing massive fraud and falsification of letter carrier safety training records throughout the United States, the summer season is well underway. There has already been at least one tragic loss of a 36-year veteran letter carrier to the intense summer heat, yet management continues to obsessively push and attempt to intimidate letter carriers into meeting unrealistic time expectations. Management's arrogant contempt for and callous indifference to letter carrier health and safety was perhaps summed up by the utterly disrespectful comment made by a postmaster in a Branch 2184-represented office, who snidely claimed that perhaps the carrier died "from going too slow." Stewards, you are the front line on the work floor and it is essential that 1) you lead each day by example, and 2) that every documented instance of abusive management conduct or intimidation toward any letter carrier in your station is appropriately addressed in a timely manner.

NALC National President Brian Renfroe has returned to his position following a leave of absence for personal reasons. Executive Vice-President Paul Barner, who had been acting President during Renfroe's absence, has returned to his EVP position. As many letter carriers are aware, internal charges have been filed against Renfroe by a member of the NALC executive board. The NALC Constitution prescribes a specific process for addressing matters such as this. Please do not repeat or otherwise spread rumors or innuendo concerning this or related matters, which will be addressed in the manner specifically prescribed by the NALC Constitution.

The NALC and USPS continue with a 60-day mediation period, attempting to reach agreement on a new National Agreement. Meanwhile, all the terms and conditions of the Contract which expired on May 20 remain fully in effect. Should mediation fail to result in a tentative settlement during the mediation period, the parties can choose to continue negotiating, even while preparing for interest arbitration. If a tentative negotiated settlement is reached, the proposed new Contract and a ratification ballot will be mailed to all active (non-retired) members in good standing. As always, non-members have no say whatsoever in this or any other business of the union. Branch 2184 officers and stewards will also be expected to fully apprise themselves of the terms and conditions of a proposed new Contract.