



# MEMO To The Branch 2184 Leadership Council, March 7, 2023

Walt McGregory  
Jackie McGregory  
Darryl Clay  
Mel MacDonald  
Cathy Tondreau  
Jim Powell  
Phil Ashford  
Tracy Mitchell  
Erik Venzke  
Felicia Davis  
Leonard Zawisa  
Dave Reise  
Joe Golonka  
Kris Shaw  
Mark Owen  
Scott Russell  
Karen Russell  
Tod Lilla  
Ryan Zyngier  
Bryon 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  
Elizabeth Bays  
Kristie Nelson  
Diego Forshaw  
Keith Benedict  
Victor Siemiesz  
William Douglas  
Jeffrey Webb  
Nakia Whitfield  
Katrina Jones  
Ananias Epps  
Ramon Robinson  
Denise Viola  
Paul Bordine  
Mike Tredway  
Danita Hill

This month's Leadership Council memo will begin as usual with an update concerning Branch 2184 administrative matters. Our next regular membership meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be conducted via WebEx, continuing the format currently established. To participate, please call the Branch 2184 office at (313) 295-1640 or contact EVP Jackie McGregory at [ravier7498@gmail.com](mailto:ravier7498@gmail.com). Please provide your name and the email address you want to use for the WebEx link to log in. The link will be sent at least two days prior to the meeting. The Branch website (NALC2184.org) also has a telephone number and access code if you want to participate in the meeting telephonically.

April steward meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, April 11 and Monday, April 17, both at 7:00 p.m. Both meetings will also take place online via WebEx, again utilizing the format currently established. An executive board meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Convention delegates that are planning to attend the Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers convention at the Motor City Casino in Detroit on May 1 and 2 will be receiving additional information from Branch President Walt McGregory about the convention as well as about their responsibilities as delegates. Please read this information carefully after it is received.

The convention itinerary will many scheduled activities, including a TIAREAP update and Article 8 training, as well as an important legislative presentation. As always, there will be nominations and elections of MISALC officers for the next two-year term of office. Additionally, NALC National Director of Safety and Health Manny Peralta is scheduled to attend the convention and will address the delegates. Manny's informative and charismatic presentations are always entertaining and are a "must see" for NALC activists.

Branch 2184 convention delegates should be aware that the forthcoming MISALC convention is the final union convention for our currently elected delegates. Delegates for the 2024 through 2026 NALC conventions will be nominated following Branch 2184 officer and steward nominations for the 2024 through 2026 term of office. This will take place at the October 4, 2023 membership meeting. Forthcoming National conventions are scheduled in Boston in August 2024 and in Los Angeles in August 2026. The location and dates of the 2025 MISALC convention will be determined by a vote at this year's State convention.

At the regular membership meeting on March 1, the membership voted to spend up to \$7500 for the Branch retiree celebration that will take place on Sunday, March 19. Additionally, Branch President Walt McGregory has received notification from NALC headquarters that National Vice-President James Henry would be attending our retiree celebration.

Branch 2184 continues to place a strong emphasis on and commitment to training for our stewards, officers, and Branch activists. On March 14 through

17, four of our own will be attending the School of Stewards I training conducted by the National Business Agent's office at the Branch 4374 (South Macomb Letter Carriers) union office. They are Branch 2184 Vice-President Darryl Clay, Recording Secretary Mel MacDonald, Taylor steward Victor Siemiesz, and Trenton steward Jeffrey Webb. Also, on March 26 through 29 two of our own will be attending regional arbitration training conducted the National Business Agent's office at the Branch 39 (Indianapolis) union office in Indiana. They are Taylor steward Keith Benedict and Allen Park formal Step A designee Kris Shaw.

At the Branch membership meeting on March 1, the membership voted to uphold the Branch Bylaws committees' recommendations regarding proposed changes. On March 2, Branch President Walt McGregory electronically submitted the current Bylaws and the changes approved by the membership to the National Committee of Laws at NALC headquarters. Following their approval, the changes will become effective immediately.

Branch 2184 continues to make plans for this year's NALC Food Drive, taking place on Saturday, May 13. The Branch is fully committed to resuming our participation in the Food Drive at the same level as we did prior to the Covid pandemic. Branch station coordinators and stewards should continue to pay close attention Food Drive-related announcements and activities as this information becomes available.

The National Business Agent's office has informed us that all letter carriers identified by the union and/or the Postal Service as having not been placed in the new Step "P" as they should have last November have now been placed in the correct step, which should be seen with checks dated March 17. Retroactive pay should follow within two or three pay periods. In Branch 2184, individual letter carriers in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Grosse Ile, Northville, Taylor (2), Trenton, Westland/Wayne/Canton (3), and Ypsilanti were identified as affected. Stewards, please notify the Branch 2184 office immediately if the correction has not occurred and/or retroactive pay not subsequently received.

On February 22 negotiations opened between the NALC and the USPS for a new collective bargaining agreement to succeed the current one which expires at midnight, May 20. It remains to be seen whether the three-month negotiating period will result in an agreement being reached at or before the time the current contract expires, although recent history indicates that this will likely not be the case.

If agreement is not reached by May 20, the National parties can choose to extend negotiations for an additional period, or they can declare an impasse and enter a fact-finding process and potentially, interest arbitration. Regardless of the path followed, if there is not a negotiated settlement of May 20, the terms of the current contract will be extended and would remain in place until there either an interest arbitration award or the parties reach a proposed agreement that is subsequently ratified by the active (non-retired) membership in a ballot referendum. An interest arbitration award would not be subject to ratification and its terms would become binding on both the NALC and the Postal Service.

At the time this Leadership Memo is being composed, former United States President Jimmy Carter, who is the oldest living President in our nation's history, has entered hospice care. After his passing, it is likely that the USPS will participate in a National Day of Observance, as has been the case following the deaths of several former United States Presidents. Each time a National Day of Observance occurs, there is inevitably a flood of misinformation that spreads throughout the ranks of USPS employees, especially involving those whose nonscheduled day coincides with a Day of Observance.

To be as proactive as possible, ALL Branch 2184 stewards and Branch officers should take the time to read and review the May 4, 2000 NALC/USPS Memorandum of Understanding; Re: Clarification of Regulations for National Day of Observance, which accompanies this Leadership Council Memo and can also be found in the JCAM on pages 10-20 and 10-21.