



# Branch 2184 ... "Speaks"

Official Publication of Branch 2184, NALC, AFL-CIO

November/December 2014

**Branch 2184**  
**Western Wayne County, MI**  
**National Association**  
**of Letter Carriers**  
**AFL - CIO**  
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**Office Hours:**

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

**Calendar**

**Branch Meetings:**

January 7th, 2015  
February 4th, 2015  
(7:30 p.m. - Union Hall)

**Retirees Meetings:**

January 14th, 2015  
February 11th, 2015  
(12:30 p.m. - Union Hall)

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## Branch 2184 Official Election Results

### PRESIDENT

Mark Judd - 374

Don Oziemski - 142

### EXEC VICE PRESIDENT

Walt McGregory - 306

Jim Wolstencroft - 205

### FINANCIAL SEC-TREASURER

Cathy Tondreau - 346

Mike Tredway - 148

### TRUSTEES (3)

Patricia Linna - 373

Tim Bailey - 369

Gloria Warthen - 361

Heather Childers - 224

### SERGEANT AT ARMS

Scott Watts - 279

Jim Hales - 202

### Inkster Steward

Phil Ashford - 7

Sheldon Allison - 2

Respectfully Submitted,  
David Reise, Election Committee Chairperson  
November 24, 2014

### Officers

President .....	Mark Judd
Executive Vice President .....	Jim Wolstencroft
Vice President .....	Walt Gregory
Recording Secretary .....	Casey Pennington
Financial Secretary Treas .....	Cathy Tondreau
Sergeant at Arms .....	Darryl Clay
Health Benefits Rep.....	Jim Powell
Retirees Officer .....	Leonard Zawisa
Trustee .....	Joe Golonka
Trustee .....	Gloria Warthen
Trustee .....	Patricia Linna
Editor .....	Leonard Zawisa
Branch Scribe .....	Joe Golonka
Web Site Design .....	Jim Hales
Injury Compensation .....	Joe Golonka



*Branch 2184 Speaks* is published 6 times a year by Branch 2184, National Association of Letter Carriers.

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editorial staff or the officers of the branch.

We invite all members to contribute articles for publication. Copy should be typed, double-spaced and signed by the contributor. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit, delete or reject the article for the good of the branch.

In the hope that material contained herein may be of benefit to the goals of the NALC, permission is hereby granted to copy or use material in this publication with our best wishes.

### Stewards

Belleville.....	Lynn Taylor
.....	Gregory Bodziak (alt)
Dearborn (Main) .....	Darryl Clay
.....	Ted Nowc
.....	David Richardson (alt)
Dearborn (Annex).....	Melvin MacDonald
.....	Jacqueline Gregory
.....	Rose Miller (alt)
.....	Tom Klecha (alt)
Dearborn Heights .....	Richard Alaniz
.....	Jim Hales
.....	James Wolstencroft (alt)
.....	John Czuchrak (alt)
.....	Chris Tostige (alt)
Dundee.....	313-295-1640
Flat Rock.....	313-295-1640
Grosse Ile .....	Christopher Biegalski
.....	Kim Bumbul (alt)
Inkster .....	James Wolstencroft
.....	Phil Ashford (alt)
.....	Thad Dillard (alt)
Lincoln Park.....	Scott Watts
.....	Dave Reise (alt)
Monroe.....	Erik Venzke
.....	Chris Carmon (alt)
Northville.....	Beth Maleszewski
.....	Jim Holland (alt)
.....	Bridgette Sams (alt)
Plymouth.....	Don Oziemski
.....	Heather Childers
.....	Bob Venning (alt)
Rockwood.....	Gloria Warthen
Taylor.....	Michele Szafran
Temperance.....	313-295-1640
Trenton.....	Casey Pennington
Westland .....	Walter Gregory
.....	Katrina Jones
.....	Dawnyelle Coure
.....	Kim Clark (alt)
Canton.....	Samantha Hales
.....	Lois Fritz (alt)
Ypsilanti .....	Mike Tredway
.....	Paul Bordine
.....	Tanisha Payne (alt)
.....	Alan Grajczyk (alt)
.....	Rick Rider (alt)

### Address Correction Requested

When you move, change your name, leave the letter carrier craft, retire, or your phone number changes, we need to hear from you. Your member benefits, newsletter and other mailings may be affected if we don't have the new information. It only takes a phone call or drop us a note. We will do the rest.

**Call 313-295-1640**

# President's Report

## CCA Conversion Update

It has been a few editions of the "Speaks" since we had our last City Carrier Assistant conversion update. So what a better way to end the year and to begin the new year then to congratulate and welcome our latest group of career city letter carriers. Our congratulations go out to the following newly converted regular carriers. Yolanda Diaz, Sheyanne Perry, Mohamed Gazzali, Spencer Disney, Tameka Toliver, Stephen Roberts, Kimberley Cole, Talena Cooper, Kenneth Tillman, and Zena Washington from **Dearborn**; Gamil Duais, Justin Leal, Anthony Emerick, and Jason Stark from **Dearborn Heights**; Ibrahim Ashaif, David Brinston, Blair Lindsay, Brandon Montgomery, Leroy Whaley, and Louchinna Crumbley from **Inkster**; Shawn Allison from **Lincoln Park**; LeRona Brantley and Jennifer Drewyour from **Monroe**; Valerie Watkins, Keshya Boudreaux, and Lanette Dudley from **Northville**; Satinder Roji, Sonia Johnson, Tasia Edwards and Darren Powell from **Plymouth**; Dawn Gable, John Andras, Richard Andras and Scott Horn from **Taylor**; Lisa Tackett, Brian Sabbadin and Justin Cooper from **Trenton**; Tanina Goodman, Kimberly Pingston, Christopher McClane, Mark Walker, Stacy Little and Charles Harris from **Wayne/ Westland/ Canton**; Cardarius Pouncy, Caroline Nyilas, Alexstine Davis, Delorian McCormick, Nancy Cadorin, and Greg Bray from **Ypsilanti**. This now brings the total number of Branch 2184 CCAs converted to career letter carrier status to 109!

Please remember as new career city letter carriers your appointment entitles you to enroll in the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program to select a health plan, and also the opportunity to enroll in the employer sponsored life insurance plan. You only have 60 days from the time of your career appointment to make your selection and to take advantage of these important benefits. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask your steward,

or call the Branch 2184 Union office.

When choosing a health care plan please keep in mind the NALC Health Benefit Plan. It is owned by your Union and its members, and is operated for the benefit of all NALC members and associates. The NALC Plan is very cost competitive with the other major/name brand plans. If you are still in the 60 day period and did not sign up during the recent open season it is still not too late. For more information on the NALC Health Benefit Plan call the Branch office or visit the NALC website at NALC.org.

## MISALC Steward Award 2014

At our December Branch meeting, Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers Vice President Carl Blassingame was in attendance to make a special presentation. Carl was filling in for our State president and was here to present one of the runners up awards for the State Association's Steward of the year. Once again Branch 2184 is very proud to have one of our stewards selected as a runner up for the prestigious MISALC Fred Herman Award. This year's winner was none other than our long time Dearborn steward, Step A advocate, and Branch activist Darryl Clay. Along with Darryl's step A and steward duties, he is also a member of our Executive Board and serves as Sergeant-At-Arms, Darryl is currently a trainer for the Detroit District at the Carrier Academy, and has worked as a member of the past route adjustment teams. Additionally, Darryl is also a very active Branch 2184 volunteer. He participates and has helped at numerous Branch functions, including the NALC Food Drive, Labor Day parade, and the annual Branch Picnic. We here at the Branch are very proud of Darryl, and appreciate all his hard work on behalf of the Branch and its members.

## Special Presentation Part II

While Vice President Blassingame was here he also presented the Branch a plaque from the MISALC congratulating Branch 2184 for its "90 years of

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**Presidents Report**

outstanding service and dedication to letter carriers". On behalf of the Branch and its members I would like to thank the Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers and state President Dan Florkowski, not only for the kind sentiments represented on the plaque, but for being there whenever our Branch or our members need them. Thank You!

**Election Results**

Congratulations to all our elected Branch officers and stewards. The Branch elections are now complete and our elected officers and stewards will be sworn in at our January 7th membership meeting. A special thank you goes out to our election committee, Dave Reise the committee chairman, Len Zawisa, Joe Golonka, Jim Powell, Mel MacDonald, and our two alternate members Betty Karsten and Ted Nowc. They put in long hours both night and day to ensure that the Branch election went smoothly and without any problems. On a more personal note, I would like to thank the membership for the vote of confidence they gave me by re-electing me for another term as President.

**Happy Holidays!**

I would like to wish you and your families the happiest of holidays and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

-- Mark Judd  
President

**EVP's Report**

First I would like to congratulate the candidates that won their races in the Branch elections and wish them success in running the Branch. Second I would like to thank the members that have supported me in the past, and allowed me to represent them to the best of my ability. It is the membership that has been my top priority and that will not change. Because I will no longer be on the executive board for

the next three years, does not mean that I'm no longer part of the Branch. This Branch has a great history in leadership and I truly hope that continues.

What the membership needs to consider for the next elections in 2017 is clarification as to the functions of the election committee and an established written policy regarding the Branch's election process. For example the way nominations are placed on the ballot. There are different ways of doing this that could be explored.

The roll of the election committee/chair should be looked at.

Are they to handle ballots prior to tabulation night, after the ballots are mailed?

Should they attempt to find bad addresses after the ballots have been mailed out?

Should they be delivering the labels that are purchased by the candidates on the Branch payroll?

Should Stewards and officers solicit members asking if they need another ballot, and obtaining one without actually asking on their own?

Create a specific time, ASAP, when the election committee should meet after being selected.

Some of these issues are based on a non-written past practice (memory) while others are already in the by-laws of the Branch. None the less the issues should be addressed by the membership.

What I've observed from the past is that when the leadership of the branch actually does change the ousted one(s) usually leaves with no return. I will point to the last 4 presidents and the other officers that lost elections, never to return. I was puzzled why past elected officers that were removed, don't come back. Now I know. Human nature must kick in and this is quite understandable since rejection isn't a very pleasant feeling. This will not be the case with me. Even though I will not be at all the Branch meetings/activities I am not just going to walk away from the Branch.

In accepting positions in the union, one must have a thick skin to repeal certain attacks. Just as in past elections this election was no different in the dissention among the membership, but the Branch always will move forward. Unlike the past former

Branch officers, I will be right here in solidarity with the ones who really run the Branch," The Members".

I want to wish all a Very Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years.

-- Jim Wolstencroft  
Executive Vice President

## VP Report's

### SUNDAY DELIVERY

The branch has received multiple calls from letter carriers and shop stewards in our branch concerning what full time regular carrier should be working on Sunday first. The simple answer to that is Sunday is just another day or opportunity for management to utilize a regular OTDL carrier. Seniority has nothing to do with who works first on Sunday. As long as management is adhering to the provisions of Article 8.5.C.2 of our Contract, which is Equitable Distribution of Overtime Opportunities in a quarter for OTDL carriers, then it does not matter what OTDL carrier with what seniority works on a Sunday. Stewards, also please check and make sure that OTDL carriers are getting their 8 hour overtime pay guarantee even if they work less than 8 hours on Sunday.

### DON'T FORGET TO SCAN

It's that time of the year again. Just when we've finished Thanksgiving, the Christmas and New Year holidays are now right around the corner. As letter carriers, we deliver many packages during this time of the year. With today's technology, we are literally scanning nearly every package we are delivering. There has been a significant increase in letter carriers receiving bogus discipline (Letters of Warning) alleging "Discharge of Duties" and "Failure to Follow Instructions," as it relates to not scanning the parcel(s). Management will come around with a report and ask you if you scanned a parcel or package. No matter what your answer is, you can count on being called into the office the same day or soon thereafter for an Investigative In-

terview. The following day or very soon after that, you will be receiving discipline. Just remember to always request to have your steward present if management wants to do an Investigative Interview, and always exercise your right to fight this bogus discipline by initiating a timely grievance in response. This kind of discipline almost never meets the "Just Cause" burden of proof by management.

### CUSTOMER CONNECT

"This is our season". This is the new slogan that we hear on the TV commercial with the soon to be replaced Postmaster General, Patrick Donahue, featuring letter carriers getting ready to go out and deliver packages to our customers. Rarely would I agree with the PMG, given his past leadership decisions for our organization, but this time he is correct. This is our season. None of our competitors have the network to reach every home and business in America like we do, which now includes Sunday delivery.

Our competitors like UPS and Fed Ex are delivering packages that we can deliver cheaper. So when you see those trucks making deliveries to homes and businesses on your route, take a moment to get the sender info (company address and phone number) off of a package, and give that info to your Customer Connect Coordinator or shop steward. That just might be the next MILLION DOLLAR SALE! Keep in mind that even if your lead doesn't turn into a sale, the fact that you turned in that lead still helps your office in carrier participation, and your office may end up having a breakfast on the District in the future.

Since mid-2003, letter carriers have successfully used Customer Connect to take advantage of their special relationship with businesses, encouraging business patrons to ship with the U.S. Postal Service instead of with a private delivery service. Our work has raised \$1,925,329,813 and counting of new business for our employer. Yes, that is more than \$1.9 **BILLION!** Give yourself a round of applause if you have participated in the program thus far. If you haven't done so as of yet, what are you waiting

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**VP's Report**

for? That first BILLION dollar sale may be the lead that you turn in.

**CCA UNIFORM BANK**

The local branch is still collecting old uniforms for our City Carrier Assistant (CCA) brothers and sisters. If you have uniforms that you would like to donate, please give them to your shop steward or drop them by the Branch 2184 office. Thanks to all the retired and active carriers that have donated thus far. Our CCA brothers and sisters have taken good advantage of this uniform bank and we need to replenish it.

**COLCPE**

We are still signing up letter carriers at the branch for COLCPE. If you would like to do your part by contributing to our political education fund, see your shop steward for more information or just call the Branch 2184 office @ 313-295-1640. An officer will be happy to sign you up.

I would like to personally thank everyone that took the time and voted in our recent Branch 2184 Officer and Steward Election. It has always been an honor to serve our membership. I will continue to give 110% as your next Executive Vice President.

On behalf of all the officers of Branch 2184, Happy Holidays to you and your family.  
In Unionism,

-- *Walt McGregory*  
*Vice President*

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**THANK YOU**

I would like to thank the membership for re-electing me as a Trustee of the Branch and member of the Executive Board. During the next three years I will work hard to serve the interests of Branch 2184, The NALC, and our membership. Happy Holidays!

-- *Gloria Warthen*  
*Branch 2184 Trustee*

**Thank You**

First off I would like to wish the membership and their families a Happy Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year. I am grateful to the membership for having faith in me to continue as your Financial Secretary Treasurer. During the next three years I will continue to do my job as Treasurer to the best of my abilities. I will do my best to make sure the finances and the records of the branch are maintained in accordance with Nationals guidelines. Thank you again.

-- *Cathy Tondreau*

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To all of my Union Brothers and Sisters;

I want to thank everyone for your votes and confidence by electing me as Branch 2184 Sergeant-at-Arms. I am very proud of our Branch and am looking forward to serving our membership in any way that I can.

In Union Solidarity,

-- *Scott Watts*

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To all of my Union Brothers and Sisters;

I would like to thank you for electing me to the office of Branch 2184 Trustee. I will do my utmost to ensure that the Branch finances and records are always maintained with the utmost integrity. I would also like to wish all of our members and their families a Happy Holiday season.

-- *Tim Bailey*

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## Contract Corner:

"An informed and knowledgeable Letter Carrier is management's greatest nightmare."

**Q: A letter carrier in my office is injured and hasn't been able to do their assignment for over a year. Shouldn't the assignment be posted for bid?**

**A:** Not necessarily. There is a common but persistently false myth that an inability to do one's own assignment for more than one year automatically requires that their assignment is vacated and posted for bid. **This is not the case and has never been the case.** The relevant contractual provisions are found in Article 41 of the NALC/USPS Collective Bargaining Agreement, along with pertinent National level Memorandums and Settlements. These are detailed and explained in the 2014 Joint Contract Administration Manual (JCAM), pages 41-6 and 41-7.

The pertinent language provides that prior to removing a letter carrier from their bid assignment and posting it, management must first have received medical documentation from the employee's own physician (not a USPS contract doctor) that the medical condition is "permanent and stationary" and thus will preclude the employee from ever being able to return to the duties of their bid assignment. There is no existing negotiated or arbitrated time frame for making this determination, since each disabling medical condition is different and requires widely varying healing and recovery periods.

Of note, when management does receive medical documentation from a letter carrier's own physician that his or her medical condition is permanent in nature and will prevent resumption of their bid assignment duties, at that time the assignment can be vacated and posted for bid in accordance with normal Article 41 procedures, and awarded to the senior bidder.

Finally, the information discussed above specifically applies **ONLY** in situations where a letter carrier's disability and consequent work restrictions develop **AFTER** he or she is already assigned to a route or T-6 position. Letter carriers with existing

medical restrictions can also bid on and be awarded vacant assignments in accordance with their seniority. However, in these situations management can require medical documentation which indicates that the successful bidder will be able to assume all of the duties of the assignment within six months. This can be extended for an additional six months, but not longer than one year from the time of the bid.

**Q: Why isn't there a "try out" period for a new assignment after a letter carrier bids on it?**

**A:** First and foremost, there is nothing within the clearly defined bidding process and Contract rules defined in Article 41 of the NALC/USPS Collective Bargaining Agreement that allows for or even makes reference to "try out" periods. Thus, adoption of such a practice would be wholly inconsistent with our National Agreement. On a more practical note, to allow "try out" periods for successful bidders on assignments would open up the bidding process to unnecessary delays and game playing that could impede the timely awarding of a bid assignment on a permanent basis to a letter carrier that desires it. This, in turn, could also potentially delay the conversion of one or more CCAs to fulltime career status.

Of significance, each Contract cycle allows for a specific number of successful bids by letter carriers. In the current (2011-2016) contract cycle, up to seven successful bids are allowed by any fulltime carrier, per Article 12, section 3.A of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Additionally, bids to higher level (T-6) positions do not count toward the total for a contract cycle, nor do bids necessitated by the abolition of assignments due to route adjustments or other reasons where the provisions of Article 41, Section 3.O are invoked by the union. Thus, when a letter carrier determines that he or she does not want to remain on an assignment they bid on, they usually have ample opportunities to bid back on their previous assignment when it is posted for bid, or to bid on other subsequent vacancies that occur within that USPS Installation.

# COLCPE Contributors

## Belleville

- ✓ Gregory Bodziak
- ✓ Bruce Prevost
- ✓ Lynn Taylor
- ✓ Cindy Trzeciak (R)

## Dearborn Main

- ✓ Darryl Clay
- ✓ Wanda Ellison
- ✓ Lisa Franklin
- ✓ Patricia MacDonald
- ✓ Carol Macieczni
- ✓ Ted Nowc
- ✓ Robert Panchenko
- ✓ David Richardson
- ✓ Dan Smith (R)
- ✓ Ed Waldon
- ✓ Tammy Wheeler
- ✓ Leonard Zawisa (R)
- ✓ Margaret Zywicki (R)

## Dearborn Annex

- ✓ Carl Anderson
- ✓ Timothy Bailey
- ✓ Michael Bergin
- ✓ Peter Borella (R)
- ✓ James Bryant
- ✓ Mark Cornett
- ✓ Sherry Garcia
- ✓ Joe Garcia
- ✓ Mark Judd
- ✓ Thomas Klecha
- Joanne Kuzala (R)
- ✓ Roderick Lelental
- ✓ Melvin MacDonald
- William Mather (R)
- ✓ Jackie McGregory
- ✓ Rosemary Miller
- ✓ Karen Regentik
- Brian Rodden (R)

- ✓ Darren Smith

- ✓ Jerry Taylor

- ✓ Cathy Tondreau (R)

- ✓ Steven White

## Dearborn Heights

- ✓ Rich Alaniz

- ✓ Jim Hales

- James Likeric (R)

- ✓ Ian Mair

- James Powell (R)

- ✓ Richard Ramsey

- ✓ Alan Swintek

- ✓ Christopher Tostige

- ✓ Denise Viola

- ✓ James Wolstencroft

## Dundee

- ✓ Chatrina Gensler

- ✓ Jerome Mannlein (R)

## Flat Rock

- ✓ Lillian Bogosian

## Grosse Isle

- ✓ Christopher Biegalski

- ✓ Kimberly Bumbul

- ✓ Thomas Harris

- ✓ Virginia McNew

- ✓ Mary Renaud

- ✓ Gloria Warthen

## Inkster

- Phil Ashford

- ✓ Thad Dillard

- ✓ Eric Gant

- ✓ Roy McMahan

- ✓ Calvin Simmons (R)

## Lincoln Park

- ✓ Thelma Balogh (R)

- ✓ Richard Dedeaux

- ✓ Laura Fitzgerald

- ✓ Paula Hall

- ✓ Ronald Hausch

- ✓ David Kemp

- ✓ Nicole Pace

- ✓ Karen Purvis

- David Reise

- ✓ Barbara Scaggs

- ✓ Scott Watts

## Monroe

- ✓ Chris Carmon

- ✓ Joanna MacKinnon

- ✓ Kenneth Masserant (R)

- ✓ Erik Venzke

## Northville

- Betty Karsten

## Plymouth

- ✓ Heather Childers

- ✓ James Crossey

- ✓ Mary Ferrari (R)

- ✓ Tiffani Howell (R)

- ✓ Patricia Linna (R)

- ✓ Gary Macioce

- ✓ Kristie Nelson

- ✓ Ricky Rosales

- ✓ Robert Venning

## Rockwood

## Taylor

- ✓ Patricia Davis (R)

- ✓ Roger Gilliam

- ✓ James Kelly (R)

- William Lowe (R)

- ✓ Frances McGuckin

- ✓ Walter Modelski (R)

- ✓ Bob Parisi

- ✓ Bob Sedore (R)

- Anthony Santy

- ✓ Irene Sly (R)

- ✓ Michele Szafran

- Jeanie Youtsey

## Temperance

- ✓ Kari Guthrie

## Trenton

- ✓ Anthony Conley

- ✓ Dwayne Conley

- ✓ Colette Graves

- ✓ Gwen Heffinger (R)

- ✓ Dennis Lucas

- ✓ Casey Pennington

- ✓ Gary Ritchie

## Westland

- ✓ Arnita Adams

- ✓ Bertha Battista

- ✓ Lori Boljesic

- ✓ Veronica Chambers

- ✓ Michael Chevillot

- ✓ Wanda Clark

- ✓ Dawnielle Coure

- ✓ Ted Gagnon

- ✓ Albert Gilliespie

- ✓ Caprice Hughes

- Katrina Jones

- David Lehman (R)

- David Marshall (R)

- ✓ Walter McGregory

- John Meleski

- ✓ Ladonna Miller

- ✓ Marie Shannon

- ✓ Edward Sikora

- ✓ Carol Thornton

- ✓ Raymond Tobin

- ✓ Tammy Viecelli

- ✓ Amy Williams



## COLCPE Contributors

- ✓ Calvin Winbush
- ✓ Timothy Bowsher (R)
- ✓ Alan Grajczyk
  - ✓ Willise Jeffery
  - ✓ Gene Meadows
  - ✓ Tanisha Payne
  - ✓ Richard Rider
  - ✓ Larry Rowland
  - ✓ Randall Sano
- ✓ Michael Tredway

### Canton

- ✓ Lois Fritz

- ✓ Joe Golonka (R)
- ✓ Bonnie Price (R)
- ✓ Samantha Hales

### Ypsilanti

- ✓ Paul Bordine

**GIMME 5**

Protect your job "Join COLCPE today!"

Call 313-295-1640

- ✓ Check mark indicates you are signed up for automatic COLCPE contributions.

R - Indicates retired members.

Committee On Letter Carriers Political Education (COLCPE)

## Branch Uniform Bank Now Open!

As our new CCA Brothers and Sisters join us as new members, Branch 2184 is asking our retired and active carriers to donate new or used uniforms that they no longer need. If you would like to donate please bring them to the Branch office or give them to your Steward to drop off.

Thank you to **Irene Sly** (Taylor Retired), **Pat Kelly** (Dearborn Annex Retired), **Michele Szafra** (Taylor), **Linda Lamb** (Taylor Retired), **Bob Kraus** (Dearborn Main Retired), **Michele Manley** (Westland), **Mike Bergin** (Dearborn Annex almost Retired), **Gayle Neilly** (Lincoln Park) for their donations.

Lets make our new members feel welcome.

For more information call -- 313-295-1640

## Allie Brothers Uniform Store

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Thursday	9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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• 1-800-35-ALLIE

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(3 blocks south of 8 mile)

www.alliebrothers.com

## Branch 2184 Scholarship Program

Attention Mark Judd,

My name is Tyler Hamilton and my mother, **Nicole Pace**, works for the post office in Lincoln Park. I recently received \$500 through the scholarship at her work. I just want to start off by saying how grateful I am to have been awarded this scholarship. I am constantly doing homework and studying every single day and I also am a DI athlete so it makes it very hard for me to have time for a job. For that reason, this \$500 will be very helpful in reducing my debt that I have accumulated over my three years at Central Michigan University. Every little bit of money helps because I know by the time I get my Doctorates degree I will have a tremendous amount of debt that I will have to pay back. After my mom told me I had won \$500 through the scholarship at her work, all I could think is how blessed I was to have been given this opportunity. I know my mom works so hard each and every day and spends many cold days delivering mail just to help me pay for college. So I know that me winning this scholarship brought her tears of joy especially because she knows how hard I work in school. I know that nothing in life comes easy and so I am very thankful to

have received money that will help pay for school and that I don't have to pay back. Thank you again for awarding me with this money, it will definitely be put to good use.

Sincerely, Tyler J. Hamilton

Mr. Judd,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for receiving the higher education scholarship from Branch 2184. The \$500 scholarship award was a welcome surprise and helped me and my parents take care of some of first semester tuition fees at Winston-Salem State University. I am enjoying my college experience at WSSU and I thank you again for the scholarship award.

Kind Regards, Mercedes D. Webster  
(Daughter of **Robert Webster** from Northville P.O.)

Dear National Association of Letter Carriers,

Thank you so much for choosing me for the higher education scholarship. This money will help me continue my education at Eastern Michigan University and help get me a little closer to my future career path.

I greatly appreciate it!!

Sincerely, Nicole Carano  
(Daughter of **Anthony Carano** from Plymouth P.O.)



# Brookfield<sup>®</sup> Uniforms

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- Brookfield replaces uniforms lost due to fire and natural disasters!
- Brookfield, along with State and Local NALC Branches, has raised over \$500,000 for COLCPE.
- Brookfield provides assistance for Conventions, Seminars, and Charity fund raising events!

### Contact Your Brookfield Representative!

**Robert Kreager**

Branch 2184 Retired

1802 Ford Blvd. Lincoln Park, MI 48146-3956  
313-386-0527 (voice) 313-386-4037 (fax)

## OUR ADOPTED FAMILIES FOR CHRISTMAS 2014

The branch received some very special Christmas wishes. Again this year, the membership voted to adopt families through the Volunteers of America program. Three families were adopted this year; each family received a Meijer gift card. It was my pleasure to meet these very appreciative families; and I would like to share, with you, a little bit about them.

The first family is a family of four; a mom, teenage daughter, a nine year old boy and a six year old little girl. The mom had to quit her job due to health reasons. Due to these health issues she and her children had to move in with friends. With her eyes welling up with tears she said, "Thank you, tell everyone thank you from the bottom of my heart and Merry, Merry Christmas". And with those words gave me one of the warmest heartfelt hugs I've ever received.

The second family is a family of four; a father and mother with two teenage boys. The father has worked for the railroad for 16 years, but two years ago he injured his back at home and so, is not covered by worker's compensation. He had one surgery and may possibly have to have another one early next year. I spoke to both the father and mother on the phone; they were excited, amazed and happy to be adopted. They explained how difficult things have been these last two years but expressed a positive attitude for the future. When the mom came to pick up the gift card she hugged me and was genuinely open and honest with her emotions, so I became emotional and I had a hard time speaking to present the gift card to her, on behalf of the branch.

The third family is a single mother of two children ages newborn and 13 years old. The mother explained that she has had a rough couple years and is the only provider for her family. She was very excited about being able to give her new baby boy a nice first Christmas; and for her daughter too, who as she explained, is a "very good girl" and does "very well in school". Lots of hugs and thank you's later,

she asked me to "Thank everyone involved" and asked me to say "Merry Christmas and God Bless all!"

I would like to thank the membership for continuing to vote in favor of this program each year and to allow me the opportunity of being the one to contact these families and to share in the joy it brings them. I hope I have done justice in this article in conveying the appreciativeness expressed by each family.

Lastly, Volunteers of America does more than the Adopt a Family Program for Christmas. For over 118 years they have "taken on the most difficult tasks to help the most under-served". For example a Veteran's Program administered by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, a medical Clinic in Lansing to be a "place of healing for homeless" and Senior Housing Center(s) providing affordable apartments for seniors. They have provided children with backpacks and supplies for school, provided homeless families a safe place to stay during brief bouts of homelessness, helped service meals in Community Kitchens around Michigan and much more.

For more information and/or to make a donation,

visit [www.voa.org](http://www.voa.org).

Happy Holidays to all!

-- Casey Pennington

*Recording Secretary*

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## Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the membership of Branch 2184 for electing me by consent to the office of Branch Vice-President for the 2015-2017 term of office. I look forward to working with Branch 2184 President-elect Mark Judd, Executive Vice-President-elect Walt McGregory, and all of our officers and stewards for the benefit of our members during what will certainly be a very challenging three years for Branch 2184, the National Association of Letter Carriers, and the United States Postal Service.

-- Joe Golonka

**T**he Branch 2184 Officers and Stewards would like to extend to you and your families best wishes for a happy and joyous holiday season and a healthy, happy and prosperous new year. May you enjoy all the blessings of peace and liberty, and the benefits of the special strength that flows from solidarity.

**Mark Judd, President**

**James Wolstencroft, Executive VP**

**Walt McGregory, Vice President**

**Casey Pennington, Recording Secretary**

**Cathy Tondreau, Financial Secretary Treasurer**

**Daryl Clay, Sergeant at Arms**

**Jim Powell, Health Benefits Representative**

**Leonard Zawisa, Retirees Officer**

**Joe Golonka, Trustee**

**Gloria Warthen, Trustee**

**Patricia Linna, Trustee**



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