

# Branch 2184 ... "Speaks"

Official Publication of Branch 2184, NALC, AFL-CIO

May/June 2007

**Branch 2184  
National Association  
of Letter Carriers  
AFL - CIO**

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Taylor, MI 48180-1815  
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**Office Hours:**

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

**Calendar**

**Branch Meetings:**

August - No Meeting

Sept 5, 2007

7:30 p.m. - Union Hall

**Retirees Meetings:**

August - No Meeting

Sept 12, 2007

12:30 p.m. - Union Hall

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## President's Report

Congratulations to our Branch 2184 Steward of the year Cindy Trzeciak! Every year we are asked by the Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers to nominate a worthy candidate for the Fred Herman Steward of the Year Award. This award is presented at either the MSALC Off Year Training Seminar or at the State Convention. This year at the State Convention in Troy, Cindy was nominated and was the runner up for the State Award. Cindy has been the Steward and Step A Designee in Belleville for over fourteen years. Along with her duties in Belleville, Cindy has also been the Branch Recording Secretary for the last ten plus years. In addition to her elected duties Cindy has volunteered to be the Activities coordinator for the Branch as well as heading up duties as the picnic chairman, the MDA Coordinator and co-chairman of the yearly Branch food drive. On behalf of the Branch I would like to once again congratulate and thank our Steward of the Year.

### Branch Food Drive

This year we collected over 290,000 pounds of food. That is an almost 9% increase over last years total! To accomplish this despite the hard economic times our region is facing is just outstanding. Special thanks go out to our hardworking Branch Food Drive Coordinators Cathy Tondreau and Cindy Trzeciak, and to all our station coordinators and members who made it possible.

### State Convention

This years Biennial State Convention was held at the Somerset Inn in Troy the weekend of May 18-19. Our MSALC Officers were elected and sworn in including our Branch EVP Jim Wolstencroft who was re-elected to a second term as a member of the State Executive Board. The keynote speaker was NALC Executive Vice President Fred Rolando.

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Officers**

President .....	Mark Judd
Executive Vice President .....	Jim Wolstencroft
.....	Carol Clark
Recording Secretary .....	Cindy Trzeciak
Financial Secretary Treasurer .....	Cathy Tondreau
Sergeant at Arms .....	Walt McGregory
Health Benefits Representative.....	Jim Powell
Retirees Officer .....	Leonard Zawisa
Trustee .....	Casey Pennington
Trustee .....	Patricia Linna
Trustee .....	Gloria Warthen
Editor .....	Leonard Zawisa

**Stewards**

Belleville .....	Cindy Trzeciak
.....	Bruce Prevost (alt)
Dearborn Main .....	Cathy Tondreau
.....	Darryl Clay
.....	Ed Williams (alt)
.....	Nikki Passage (alt)
Dearborn Annex .....	Melvin MacDonald
.....	Darrin Mifsud
.....	Roderick LeLental (alt)
.....	Tom Klecha (alt)
Teleford.....	John Czuchrak
Dearborn Heights .....	Linda Pollack
.....	Jim Hales
.....	Greg Silvestri (alt)
.....	Ian Mair (Alt)
Flat Rock.....	Gloria Warthen
Grosse Ile .....	313-295-1640
Inkster .....	Bryon Hendricks
Lincoln Park.....	Dave Reise
Monroe.....	Chad Zion
.....	Chris Carmon
.....	Eric Venzke
Northville .....	313-295-1640
Plymouth.....	Don Oziemski
.....	Paul Pastula
.....	Bob Venning (alt)
.....	Heather Smallwood (alt)
.....	Ricky Rosales (alt)
.....	Patricia Linna (alt)
Rockwood .....	Gloria Warthen
Taylor.....	Carol Clark
.....	Andrea Smith
.....	Bob Parisi
Temperance.....	Kari Guthrie
Trenton.....	Casey Pennington
.....	Gwen Heffinger
Wayne .....	Walter McGregory
Westland .....	Ted Gagnon
.....	Joan Hicks
.....	Raymond Tobin
WW - Canton .....	Sue Broge
.....	Dianne Daley
.....	Kathy Hayes (alt)
Ypsilanti.....	Alan Grajczyk
.....	Rick Rider
.....	Jim Riddle (alt)
.....	Scott Hurd (alt)



*Branch 2184 Speaks* is published 6 to 10 times a year by Branch 2184, National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO.

The opinions expressed in this publication, May/June 2007, 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.



**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**

*(Continued from page 1)**President's Report*

Fred gave a very informative power point presentation on "Confronting the Threat of Contracting Out". He also answered questions and reviewed pending National Level Arbitration's. EVP Rolando addressed the issue of handling the sequenced addressed ADVOs as a third bundle. He said that the issue was being covered in the already filed national level grievance regarding third bundles. While we wait for the third bundle decision, we must be sure to handle these ADVOs in the same manner as we do with any other addressed piece of mail. Letter Carriers must learn to take the time that is necessary, and to work in a safe and professional manner to ensure the proper handling of this mail.

### **Outlaw "Contracting Out"**

United States Senator Tom Harkin Democrat of Iowa introduced legislation in the U.S. Senate that would protect city and rural carriers from having their work contracted out by the USPS. The bill is S. 1457 and is titled the "Mail Delivery Protection Act of 2007". National President Bill Young is urging all Letter Carriers and their families to contact their U.S. Senators to cosponsor S.1457. Our two U. S. Senators for Michigan are Senator Levin and Senator Stabenow. To contact Senator Levin call 202-224-6221 and to reach Senator Stabenow call 202-224-4822. Please be polite and ask them to cosponsor the Harkin bill S.1457 the mail delivery protection act. For those of you who have not contributed to COLCPE now is the time to get involved! Federal law prohibits the use of any of your dues dollars from being used to lobby Congress on your own behalf. Money to support the Harkin legislation must come from our Political Action Committee (COLCPE) that is why it is so vitally important that



we all contribute to COLCPE. For those of you who have donated in the past year by check I would like to thank you and ask that you renew your contribution for this year as soon as possible. Please send in your donation to COLCPE here at the Branch or go on line and sign up for payroll deduction. However you contribute the time is now for all letter carriers to be heard.

### **Farewell Brother**

It is with great sadness that I must report that passing of our good friend and long time Branch activist Dan Stacho. Danny was not only a Branch officer he also was an elected State officer. Danny loved the NALC and loved being involved in Letter Carrier issues and politics. If there was a local politician who could help further the cause of the NALC, Danny was bringing him to the Branch office to meet with the Executive Board. If you have been at one of our Branch meetings during the past year or so you would have known that Brother Dan was not doing well. He had been fighting a serious illness for the last couple of years and the disease was now getting the better of him. He started to loose a lot of weight , then he started to miss our monthly meetings. We last saw Danny at our Branch Christmas Party. He and Helen stopped by to say hello and to catch up on the latest news regarding our national contract. About two weeks before Dan passed the Executive Board was planning on stopping by his house to check in. The week of the State Convention I called Helen to confirm the date of our visit when Helen informed me that Dan had taken a turn for the worse and was now in intensive care. Not a week went by when Helen called to report his passing. Rest well dear Brother, we will all miss you.

-- *Mark Judd*  
*President*

# Financial Secretary Treasurer Report

Members that are planning on retiring soon, here is some information you should know. To be a regular member of the NALC you must retain your membership upon retirement by completing an 1189. If you retiree from the USPS and you are not a member of the NALC or do not retain your membership when you retire, regular membership in the NALC is lost forever. Retirement dues are \$12.00 a year that is deducted from your annuity check.

Don't forget that members that are off on OWCP must pay their dues directly to the Branch. Contact me to make arrangements for payment. If your dues are not current you could jeopardize your membership in the NALC.

All members that have reached 25, 30 or 40 years of membership the National has pins available, if you believe you fall into this category let me know so I can verify your membership with National and have a pin ordered for you.

We recently had a problem with Death benefits. The member did not specify a beneficiary on his/her Death and Retirement card. The By-laws preclude us from paying benefits to any non-listed beneficiary. Please make sure the Death and Retirement card that you completed when you became a member, is up to date. Don't forget to change your status if you recently got: married, divorced or have new children. Also keep your address current, if you are not receiving your monthly "Branch 2184 Speaks..." newsletter make sure we have your correct address. See your steward to get a D&R card to make changes or update.

-- *Cathy Tondreau*  
*Financial Secretary Treasurer*

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## UPDATE YOUR BENEFICIARY INFO

We recently had the sad news that one of our Branch members passed away. He was a member in good standing all the years he worked as a letter carrier, which was close to thirty years. Our Branch By-laws allow for payment of a death benefit from the Death and Retirement Fund to go *only* to a beneficiary listed on file at the branch office. An officer pulled his D&R card to check his beneficiary for death benefit to be paid. Unfortunately he had completed the D&R card soon after being hired and the beneficiary listed on the card had long since been deceased.

Don't let this happen to you, see your Steward or come by the Branch office during regular business hours, or attend our monthly member meetings the first Wednesday of the month (except July and August). Ask your Steward for a D&R card to make changes or updates.

--*Patricia Linna*  
*Trustee*

### **Death and Retirement Card Corrections Requested**

When you move, change your name and/or beneficiary, leave the letter carrier craft, retire, or your phone number changes, we need to hear from you. Ask your Steward for a D&R card to change outdated information .

**Only you can bring it up to date.**

# Branch 2184 2007 Scholarship Application

## Qualifications:

1. Must be a dependent child of a Branch 2184 member in good standing (active or retired) or a child of a member now deceased and cannot be 24 years of age or older the year of application.
2. Applicant's parent must be a member in good standing of Branch 2184 for at least one (1) year prior to making application, with the exception of children of members now deceased who were previously members in good standing of Branch 2184 at the time of their death.
3. Must be a high school senior, high school graduate, GED recipient, or attending college or technical school (undergraduate) at the time of submitting the application, and attending an eligible school in the fall.\*\*
4. Only one application per child per year. Only one scholarship per family will be awarded each year.
5. Student must have maintained a 2.0 grade point average or above. A copy of grade transcript or equivalent must accompany application for scholarship.
6. If the NALC parent of a successful applicant is suspended by the Branch or makes an application for a supervisory position before monies are paid, the scholarship will be canceled. Children of members who have applied for a supervisory position are excluded from making application for two (2) years following withdrawal of the supervisory application.
7. Students with full scholarships are not eligible.
8. Eligible schools: accredited and licensed college, trade school, community college and schools of higher education only. The institution's eligibility shall be determined by the scholarship committee.
9. All decisions of the scholarship committee will be final.

\*\* TO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP YOU MUST BE ENROLLED IN OR ENTERING AN ELIGIBLE SCHOOL FULL-TIME IN THE FALL OF 2007

## Awards:

1. The scholarship committee shall award the scholarships by random drawing of all eligible applicants.
2. Scholarships will be on a yearly basis and will be awarded at the October monthly meeting.
3. Scholarships will be awarded in allotments of \$500.00. Two (2) scholarships of \$500.00 each shall be allocated.
4. Two (2) alternates will be selected in the event that any scholarship winners are later ruled ineligible. The alternates' names will not be disclosed.
5. The scholarship will be disbursed to the student when a copy of a receipt for tuition, room and board or books is provided to the committee. The student must be full-time as established by their school or college.

Member's Name:		Member's Phone Number:	
Member's Station:			
Applicant's Name and (Date of Birth):		Name of School:	
Address:		Address:	
Signature of Member:		Date:	
Signature of Applicant:		Date:	
Signature of Steward or Officer:		Date:	

**THIS APPLICATION  
MUST BE MAILED TO  
THE FOLLOWING  
ADDRESS:**

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE  
BRANCH 2184, NALC  
6969 Monroe  
Taylor, MI 48180-1815

**Applications  
Must be Received by  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2007**

## EXECUTIVE BOARD NOTES

Date: April 30, 2007

Absent: Patti Linna, Jim Wolstencroft

The X-Board made a motion to bring to the membership a motion to purchase a TV and a DVD player, not to exceed \$500.00.

Cindy and Cathy reported on the commercial they did with Comcast regarding the upcoming NALC Food Drive. It will be aired on Channel 25, week of May 7<sup>th</sup>. The Commercial will cover 25 different communities.

Mark Judd reported on the up-coming State Convention on May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

Congratulations to the Monroe Stewards who got the biggest overtime pay out for their station from the B-Team in the history of Monroe Post Office.

--Carol Clark  
Vice President

## EXECUTIVE BOARD NOTES

Date: May 21, 2007

Absent: Leonard Zawisa

Mark Judd discussed the different options for the Branch Stewards and the Step A's Designee to attend the K.I.M. Seminar scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

The X-Board made a motion to bring to the membership to spend \$600.00 for the Labor Day Parade. The Labor Day Parade is September 5<sup>th</sup>. All volunteers are welcomed.

The X-Board made a motion to bring to the membership to spend \$10,000.00 for new windows and the wrought iron window shields, new carpet for the front offices and the painting of the exterior of the Hall.

The X-Board donated money for a remembrance tree and a plaque for Dan Stacho that will be placed on the Branch Property. Any donations will be accepted for this purpose.



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**Robert Kreager**

Branch 2184 Retired

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Saturday	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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## New Members

Linda Landis	Gross Ile
Gary Schulte	Westland
Guillermo Valles	Northville

**Welcome To Branch 2184**

## Calendar of Events

Holiday .....July 4th  
 No July Branch Meeting  
 Steward Meeting ..... July 17th at 7:30pm  
 Steward Meeting ..... July 23rd at 7:30pm  
 Executive Board Meeting ... July 30th at 7:30pm  
 No August Branch Meeting  
 Steward Meeting ..... August 14th at 7:30pm  
 Secretary Treasurer Training ..... Aug 19,20,21  
 Steward Meeting ..... August 20th at 7:30pm  
 Executive Board ..... August 27th at 7:30pm  
 Branch Meeting ..... September 5th at 7:30pm

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## Branch 2184 Delivers 290,656 Pounds of Food

On May 12, 2007 Branch 2184 participated in the annual NALC Food Drive. Together we collected and delivered 290,656 pounds of non-perishable food items to various food banks and pantries in our surrounding communities.

Considering the state of Michigan's economy, we were very pleased that our totals were up from last year's total of 265,484.

The success of the NALC Food Drive is always dependent on its volunteer's. Below are the following ingredient's necessary for a successful food drive.

1. Our members who volunteer to be the Food Drive Coordinator in their office. This commitment requires struggling with management for time, and often using their own time to plan and coordinate the publicizing of the Food Drive, ordering t-shirts, recruiting volunteers, scheduling with the food banks, organizing a luncheon, and many other tasks.
2. Our brothers and sisters of the NRLCA and APWU who volunteer to promote and participate in this letter carrier event.
3. Family members and friends who volunteer their time to assist letter carriers on the day of the Food Drive with collecting and delivering food.
4. The management personnel that supports and encourages the success of this event. (Yes, some actually do.)
5. The letter carriers of Branch 2184 that collect the food items on their route that day. Somehow no matter what the weather conditions are or what DOIS predicts, you always step up to do what needs to be done.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers for helping the NALC

***Stamp Out Hunger!***

-- Cathy Tondreau and Cindy Trzeciak

*Branch Food Drive Coordinators*

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## Branch 2184 2007 Food Drive Totals

Belleville	8,200	Plymouth	18,000
Dearborn Main	11,500	Rockwood	5,600
Dearborn Annex	20,700	Taylor	36,000
Teleford	2,900	Temperance	4,150
Dearborn Heights	11,300	Trenton	28,500
Flat Rock	6,000	Wayne	5,018
Grosse Ile	2,267	Westland	20,146
Inkster	40,000	Canton	15,375
Lincoln Park	9,000	Ypsilanti	11,000
Monroe	12,000		
Northville	23,000	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>290,656</b>



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## 2007 COLCPE Contributors

### Belleville

Cindy Trzeciak  
Bruce Prevost

### Dearborn Main

Darryl Clay  
Robert Kraus  
Henry Strange  
Cathy Tondreau  
Ed Williams

### Dearborn Annex

Nancy Altman  
Timothy Bailey  
John Dainus  
Rhona Diamond  
David Gilbert  
Mark Judd  
Thomas Klecha  
Joanne Kuzala  
Roderick Lelental  
Melvin MacDonald  
Darrin Mifsud  
Karen Regentik  
Daniel Smith  
Scott Wandyg

### Dearborn Teleford

John Czuchrak  
James Likeric

### Dearborn Heights

Roger Corpolongo  
Frank Grosso  
Jim Hales  
Linda Pollock  
James Powell  
James Wolstencroft

### Flat Rock

### Grosse Isle

Kimberly Bumbul

### Inkster

Thad Dillard  
Bryon Hendricks  
Roy McMahan

### Lincoln Park

Dave Reise

### Monroe

Chris Carmon  
Kenneth Masserant  
Erik Venzke  
Chad Zion

### Northville

Elizabeth Karsten

### Plymouth

Heather Childers  
Patricia Linna  
Robert Venning  
Felecia Wallace

### Rockwood

Gloria Warthen

### Taylor

Carol Clark  
Andrea Smith

### Temperance

Kari Guthrie

### Trenton

Benita Gilcrest  
Dennis Lucas  
Casey Pennington

### Wayne

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Aaronette Howell  
Raymond Tobin

Calvin Winbush

### WW Canton

Sue Broge  
Dianne Daley  
Joe Golonka

### Ypsilanti

Richard Rider

### Retired

Rito Bela  
Carl Belvees  
John Bostek  
James Kelly  
William Lowe  
William Mason  
William Mather  
Brian Rodden  
Clarence Schukofsky  
Gino Stellabuto  
Leonard Zawisa



## The Weingarten Declaration

"If the discussion I am being asked to enter could in any way lead to my discipline or termination or impact my personal working conditions, I ask that a union steward, representative or officer be present. Unless I have representation I respectfully choose not to participate in this discussion."

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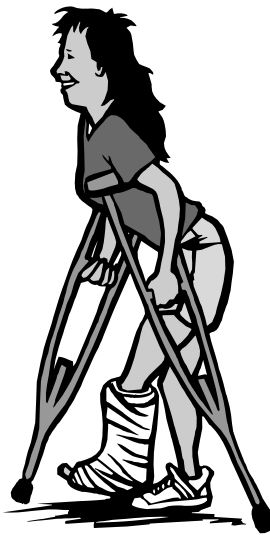
# EVP's Report

## ATTENDANCE

One of the biggest benefits that we have as letter carriers comes from Article 10 of the Contract Bargaining Agreement. This article explains what our leave benefits are. In Section 2 of this article, the ELM (Employee & Labor Relations Manual) Subchapter 510 is addressed. Subchapter 510 contains specific regulations controlling leave for career employees. For Stewards these are provisions that are commonly used to fight discipline regarding attendance. Anyone may research and learn about their rights by reviewing these provisions.

Discipline for attendance has always been around and will always be around. At the Branch we are seeing an increase in such discipline. Of course some of the discipline is not warranted or as we like to say not for just cause. I would like to touch on the discipline that is for just cause. What constitutes just cause is not as clear as you might think, but is looked at on a case by case basis. Of course it's management's burden of proof to show just cause in any discipline action taken on a carrier. When management is successful in showing 'just cause' the carrier might have not known what

their rights are. One misconception is 3 unscheduled sick days in a quarter and you get a letter of warning. This is not true. Another misconception is you must call everyday you are incapacitated. This is not true. There is no set amount of days you can take before discipline is issued and if you know that you will be absence more than one 8 hour tour



notify management as to how long you think you might be out. For example, if I know that I will be out for 2 days due to illness I should report both days at the same time. The reason I would do this is to avoid the second day as unscheduled leave. Of course we never know when we will get sick or how long we will be sick for, but I can avoid my leave being unscheduled.

This is the difference between discipline that has merit or not. You should at all times try to avoid unscheduled leave, because this is where carriers will get themselves in trouble.

-- *Jim Wolstencroft*  
*Executive Vice President*

Address Service Requested

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6969 Monroe

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