



Branch 2184 ... "Speaks"

Official Publication of Branch 2184, NALC, AFL-CIO

July/August 2011

Branch 2184
Western Wayne County, MI
National Association
of Letter Carriers
AFL - CIO
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Web Site www.nalc2184.org

Office Hours:

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

Calendar

Branch Meetings:

October 5th, 2011
November 2nd, 2011
(7:30 p.m. - Union Hall)

Retirees Meetings:

October 12th, 2011
November 9th, 2011
(12:30 p.m. - Union Hall)

In this issue:

Presidents Report	1-3-4
EVP Report	5-6
Food Drive Results	7
Picnic Pictures	8-9
Branch Scholarship	10
COLCPE Contributors	11
Customer Connect	13
Summer of Pivot	14
Retiree Article	15
Election Notice	16

President's Report

The End is Near; A perfect Storm; The Wolf is at The Door...

These are just a few of the headlines from papers across the country, lamenting the fact that our Employer is ready to go under. Don't believe me, just ask the fine folks running your unit or office. You probably do not even have to ask, everyone by now should have received a mandatory stand up talk! You know - the one that starts with a proposal about assuming control of the postal employees retirement system and health care benefit plans and ends with "Oh by the way, we need Congress to give us the right to throw out your Collective Bargaining Agreement." Rightsizing, streamlining, network optimization, change in delivery standards, legacy costs? Sound familiar? As if we don't have enough on our plates this year with the opening of Contract negotiations, the hostile Issa legislation, and the good but not perfect Carper legislation, our Employer has decided to go for broke literally, by announcing that we would be in technical default as soon as the middle of September. That's right; we will be unable to meet our obligations to prepay the Congressionally-mandated \$5.5 billion in pre-funded retiree health benefits. While our National office quickly responded to this doomsday scenario, it is apparent that the goal was to win the battle of public opinion, and influence the anti-worker politicians in Washington to help them in making their case against UNIONS!

It would be easy to dismiss the Employer's actions as just scare tactics being used during a bargaining year. It's not like they have not tried to influence public opinion in the past. However, in light of the mood of the nation and the current make up of Congress and its current anti-union slant, this would be foolhardy. Just look at what happened to the public sector employees in Wisconsin, Indiana, and Ohio who did not take the consequences of the last election cycle seriously. Their collective bargaining agreements and rights were taken away by the vote of their state legislatures.

(Continued on page 3)

Officers

President	Mark Judd
Executive Vice President	Jim Wolstencroft
Vice President	Carol Clark
Recording Secretary	Joe Golonka
Financial Secretary Treas	Cathy Tondreau
Sergeant at Arms	Walt McGregory
Health Benefits Rep.....	Jim Powell
Retirees Officer	Leonard Zawisa
Trustee	Patricia Linna
Trustee	Gloria Warthen
Trustee	Casey Pennington
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.....	Bruce Prevost
.....	Gregory Bodziak (alt)
.....	Lynn Taylor (alt)
Dearborn (Main).....	Darryl Clay
.....	Jacqueline Wiggins
.....	Ed Williams (alt)
Dearborn (Annex).....	Melvin MacDonald
.....	Roderick LeLental
.....	Tom Klecha (alt)
Dearborn Heights.....	Jim Hales
.....	James Wolstencroft
.....	John Czuchrak (alt)
Dundee.....	Deborah Standifer
Flat Rock	Gloria Warthen
Grosse Ile.....	Tom Harris
Inkster	Bryon Hendricks
Lincoln Park	Dave Reise
.....	Scott Watts
Monroe	Erik Venzke
.....	Chris Carmon (alt)
Northville.....	Bridgette Sams
.....	Beth Maleszewski (alt)
.....	Jim Holland (alt)
Plymouth.....	Don Oziemski
.....	Dan Marek
.....	Bob Venning (alt)
.....	Patricia Linna (alt)
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Trenton	Casey Pennington
Westland	Walter McGregory
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.....	Ted Gagnon
Canton.....	Dianne Campbell
.....	Lois Fritz
.....	Kathy Hayes (alt)
Ypsilanti	Rick Rider
.....	Mike Tredway
.....	Alan Grajczyk (alt)
.....	Malcolm Muscato (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

(Continued from page 1)

President's Report

The same game plan was used in identical fashion by the anti-union forces in those states. The affected public sector Union members are now being forced to recall the legislators and governors who did it to them. Their task to get back what they had is much more difficult than it would have been had the legislation not passed. Can the same game plan be used at the National level? Why not, all the elements are there. The very same anti-union sentiments are being expressed by right-wing republicans bent on destroying all Federal employee unions including those that represent postal workers (see the Issa and Ross proposed legislation).

While we cannot deny the financially precarious position we find ourselves in, the solution is readily apparent. President Rolando has outlined the Union solution to anyone willing to listen. That, my friend, is the key - anyone willing to listen. House Resolution 1351, proposed by Congressman Stephen Lynch from Massachusetts, corrects a longtime actuarial error that has resulted in the USPS over funding its pension obligations by tens of billions of dollars. These overpayments could be used to fund our future retiree health benefits which would help balance the USPS budget. After all, the \$5.5 billion mandate is the biggest source of our current financial problem and must be addressed. The key is finding someone who wants to listen.

The talking heads on cable TV have all had their say, our employer is hell bent on downsizing us out of business, and hostile anti-union legislators have us in their sights. So the end is near? That's all she wrote? Turn off the lights, the party's over? Well not so fast, friends. The end is not near, far from it. The key is getting our message out to those in power and to those who help shape public opinion. NALC headquarters and your Branch officers are doing what they can to get the message out. Now it is up to you. Unlike those state and municipal employees who were blindsided by the legislation stripping them of their collective bargaining rights,

the issues facing us could not be clearer. We must take the action necessary to shape public opinion and to lobby our elected officials. Our strategy we will use is a sound one, and effective, it also has been talked about endlessly at Union meetings and in all Union publications. It also is very simple, the key ingredient is YOU!

Here is the winning formula. Step 1: Sign up for COLCPE. To be successful we will need the funds to lobby our congressional leaders. Don't know how to sign up? Call the Union office and we will help you (313-295-1640). Step 2: Sign up and become an E-Activist. As an E-Activist you will receive e-mail messages from the National office keeping you informed on the latest Congressional actions that might affect your job. Step 3: Join the Carrier Corps and get involved. Lobby your congressional representative, call and write your congressional leaders and get involved. As we have said many times, the job you save WILL be your own! Get involved and stay involved!

Picnic

Picture perfect weather greeted those in attendance at this year's Branch picnic. It seemed that the "weather gods" were making up for last year's difficult weather. Approximately 300 members showed up and had a chance to get together and have some fun. This year our own longtime Congressman John Dingell and his wife Debbie stopped by to say hello. I would like to thank all those who volunteered and who helped make this year's picnic such a success. Special thanks go out to our long time sponsors and friends Allie Brothers and Brookfield Uniforms. The Allie Brothers Dunk Tank for MDA was the hit of the picnic!

Congratulations!

Trenton carrier Dave Bartaway has done it again. He is this year's 2011 NALC Central Region Hero of the Year. This is not the first time Dave has been recognized for his heroism, back in

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

President's Report

2004 Dave was selected Central Region Hero for risking his life by diverting a truck which was heading toward people attending a street festival in Trenton.

On April 12, Dave noticed an unfamiliar person in the neighborhood he delivers, walking up to various houses and knocking on doors. Later that day Dave noticed the same fellow walking around a customer's yard apparently looking for an open door or window. Brother Bartaway grew concerned and called the local police to inform them of the suspicious activity. With Dave's help police were able to locate the suspect, and arrest him. Police obtained a confession and he was eventually charged and sent to prison. "The streets of Trenton are a much safer place with the keen eyes and ears of Mr. Bartaway" Sergeant Richard Lyons of the Trenton Police wrote to the postmaster. Needless to say Branch 2184 is very proud of Brother Bartaway and congratulate him for his professionalism and heroism along with his dedication to his job and his community! Keep up the great work, Dave.

Farewell

It is with a note of sadness that I have to report that our long time Recording Secretary Cindy Trzeciak has decided to move to Florida with her family. Cindy has been the Branch Recording Secretary for the last three Branch Presidents and will be sorely missed. In her absence I have appointed Joe Golonka to fill out the remainder of her term. We wish Cindy and her family all the best and will be thinking about them when it's time to break out the snow shovel. Thanks again for all your help and your selfless dedication to the Union movement, but most of all for being there whenever your Branch needed you.

-- Mark Judd
President

Contract Corner:

Q: A letter carrier in my office has been off work for more than a year. Shouldn't the carrier's route be posted for bid and awarded to another carrier?

A: Absent other information about this situation, the answer is clearly NO. It is common but entirely false myth that an absence of more than a year due to illness or injury means that the carrier's assignment should be vacated and posted for bid. However, this is not and has never been the case. The relevant Contractual information can be found in Article 41, section 1.C. of the Collective Bargaining agreement and accompanying discussion in the Joint Contract Administration Manual (JCAM). There is no set or predetermined timeframe for vacating a bid assignment due to the incumbent carrier's long term illness or injury. The absent employee continues to hold the assignment unless and until their own physician (not management's) provides medical evidence to management that the employee's condition is "permanent and stationary" and will prevent him or her from ever returning to the duties of the bid assignment. Upon receipt of such evidence, then (and only then) may management vacate the assignment and post it for bid in accordance with regular Article 41 procedures.

Q: I wasn't paid for some of the overtime I worked during a recent pay period. How can I investigate this?

A: The first thing that any employee should do in this situation is notify their steward or the Branch 2184 office ASAP, so that we can investigate. Unfortunately, for many years some management representatives in Branch 2184-represented offices and throughout the United States have fraudulently altered and/or deleted employee time records with the intent of cheating employees out of wages earned in order to make management's "numbers"

(Continued on page 14)

EVP's Report

Are You Ready?

Since this is the year of negotiations for the USPS and all the crafts that collectively bargain for wage and working conditions, you should not be surprised at some of the rhetoric that is being thrown out there in the media by our employer. On August 11, 2011, Postmaster General Donahoe has proposed, through the media, legislative action to ask Congress to take away our Health and Retirement benefits as Federal Employees. He also wants to do away with any layoff protections. It just so happens that contract negotiations are to open on August 18 with the NALC. The Postmaster General feels that the Postal Service would be better off running its own health and retirement benefit plans to cut cost and to have total control of the plan.

Since when does the Postmaster General need Congress to negotiate the Postal Services Collective Bargaining Agreements with its employees?

The answer is that he doesn't need Congress to negotiate any contracts, but he does need Congress to do away with negotiated contracts. And here in lies the problems that we face. The USPS cannot meet its obligation to pay this postal-only mandate to future retiree health benefits by the end of this fiscal year. So when this happens the Postal Service will fall back on Congress to fix this wrong, and also ask to grant these radical proposals that basically take away our collective agreement. This cannot happen, but with the anti-worker agenda that is currently in all levels of government this can happen. So you better get ready to act if called upon to stop this madness.

The NALC endorses H.R. 1351, which corrects the overburdening mandate that the USPS currently has. If not for this \$5.5 Billion per year requirement, the Postal Service would be making a profit. Over the last 4 years the Postal Service's \$20 billion in losses can be attributed to these payments. So take care of what needs to be taken care

(Continued on page 6)



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Contact Your Brookfield Representative!

Robert Kreager

Branch 2184 Retired

1802 Ford Blvd. Lincoln Park, MI 48146-3956
 313-386-0527 (voice) 313-386-3270 (fax)

(Continued from page 5)

of first. Passing HR 1351 is that first step. As of this writing, 5 Congressional Representatives from the state of Michigan have signed onto as co-sponsors for H. R. 1351. The other 10 Representatives in the state have not yet signed on.

This is where you come in and need to be ready to act. I'm going to make this as easy as I possibly can for you to do. I'm going to give the

phone numbers of southeast Michigan Congressional Representatives that serve Branch 2184 members. The numbers will be both local and in Washington you can chose. Call your representative and ask them to co-sponsor H.R. 1351, if they have not already done so. If you need taking points go to WWW.NALC.ORG and they will have fact sheets that you can refer to or call this branch office. If they have co-signed HR 1351 then thank them for their support.

Here are the Congressional representatives that have already co-signed **HR 1351** and their phone contacts.

<u>Congressional Rep.</u>	<u>Local Phone #</u>	<u>Washington Phone #</u>
Rep. Dale Kildee 5 th District	Flint 810 239-1437 Saginaw 989 755-8904 Bay City 989 891-0990	202 225-3611
Rep. Gary Peters 9 th District	248 273-4227	202 225-5802
Rep. Sandy Levin 12 th District	586 498 7122	202 225-4961
Rep. Hansen Clark 13 th District	313 962-7700	202 225-2261
Rep. John Dingell 15 th District	Dearborn 313 278-2936 Monroe 734 243-1849 Ypsilanti 734 481 1100	202 225-4071

Here are the congressional Representatives that have not co-signed **HR 1351** and their phone contacts.

Rep. Tim Walberg 7 th District	517 780-9075	202 225-6276
Rep. Mike Rodgers 8 th District	517 702-8000	202 225-4872
Rep. Candice Miller 10 th District	586 997-5010	202 225-2106
Rep. Thad McCotter 11 th District	734 632-0314	202 225-8171
Rep. John Conyers 14 th District	Trenton 734 675-4084 Detroit 313 961-5670	202 225-5126

Find your Representative and give them a call. And be ready to help do your part in keeping your Federal Government Job. Don't wait for the other guy to do this; it is all of our responsibility. Thank you in advance for your efforts, together we will surely overcome this crisis.

In Solidarity,

-- James Wolstencroft

Executive Vice President

19th Annual NALC Food Drive.

The NALC food drive was started by city letter carriers some nineteen years ago. On May 14, 2011 Branch 2184 letter carriers, with assistance from co-workers and a variety of volunteers, collected and delivered 193,000 pounds of non-perishable food items to food banks and pantries in our surrounding communities. Every year Branch 2184's local food drive coordinators are met with a number of challenges. Usually the biggest challenge comes from local management not providing them with the time needed to prepare for a successful drive. This year USPS Headquarters provided another challenge by not contributing their share of the money to provide the Food Drive postcards to each household. As always our Food Drive Coordinators stepped up to the challenge. While the total number of pounds collected was down, our Branch this year gave to a record number of food banks, and organizations, who requested our help.

A special thanks to our local coordinators:

Lynn Taylor -(Belleville)
 Darryl Clay, Lisa Franklin, Anita Jones, and Jackie Wiggins -(Dearborn Main)
 Makeba Juner, and Jamie Hunter -(Dearborn Annex)
 Natasha Smith and Sparkle Henry -(Dearborn Heights)
 Mark Amos -(Dundee)
 Amy DeGrand -(Flat Rock)
 Sharidy Harrington -(Grosse Ile)
 Pritesh Patel -(Inkster)
 Paula Hall -(Lincoln Park)
 Tracy Williams -(Monroe)

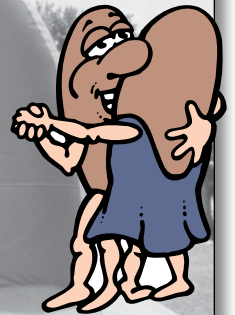
Branch 2184 Food Drive Results

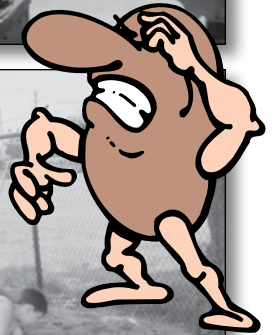
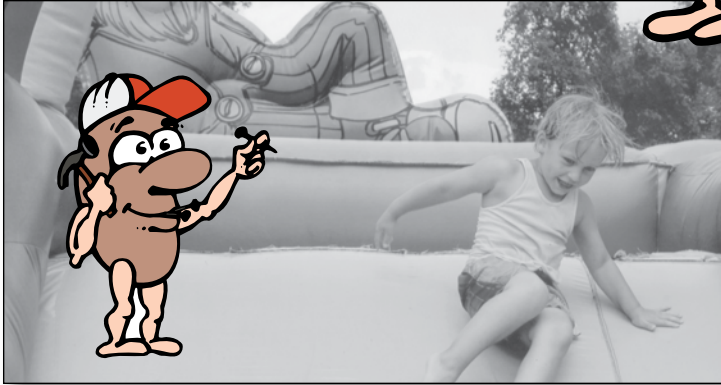
OFFICE	2010	2011
Belleville	11,300	11,844
Dearborn Main	12,064	5,111
Dearborn Annex	23,000	13,619
Dearborn Heights	19,600	18,000
Dundee	1,775	325
Flat Rock	2,200	3,800
Grosse Ile	8,160	2,045
Inkster	11,000	8,000
Lincoln Park	16,000	11,000
Monroe	14,000	9,000
Northville	18,500	11,000
Plymouth	14,200	7,200
Rockwood	9,480	4,240
Taylor	21,000	21,000
Temperance	4,600	4,615
Trenton	31,000	17,000
Canton	16,600	11,998
Westland	32,866	23,976
Ypsilanti	13,748	9,501
Grand Total	281,094	193,094

Betty Karsten -(Northville)
 Dan Marek and Don Oziemski -(Plymouth)
 Gloria Warthen -(Rockwood)
 Roger Gilliam and Sue Arnett -(Taylor)
 Kari Guthrie -(Temperance)
 Dave Bartaway and Keisha Barnes -(Trenton)
 Monique Shorter and Gloria Gorny -(Canton)
 Joan Hicks, Felicia Bryant and Calvin Winbush -(Westland)
 Mike Tredway and Kimika Griffin -(Ypsilanti)

We would also like to thank the city letter carriers, rural letter carriers, clerks and all other postal employees and numerous volunteers for helping the NALC stamp out hunger.

-- *Cindy Trzeciak and Cathy Tondreau*
Branch Food Drive Coordinators





Branch 2184 2011 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.
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 cancelled. 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 colleges, trade schools, community colleges 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 OR PART-TIME IN THE FALL OF 2011.**

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. Four (4) scholarships of \$500.00 shall be allocated.
4. Four (4) 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 or part-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 26, 2011**

2011 COLCPE Contributors

Belleville

- ✓ Gregory Bodziak
- ✓ Bruce Prevost
- ✓ Lynn Taylor

Dearborn Main

- ✓ Darryl Clay
- ✓ Daniel Smith
- ✓ Jackie Wiggins
- ✓ Ed Waldon
- ✓ Ed Williams

Dearborn Annex

- Nancy Altman
- ✓ Timothy Bailey
- ✓ Michael Bergin
- Hubert Brown
- ✓ Mark Cornett
- Joe Garcia
- ✓ Mark Judd
- ✓ Roderick Lelethal
- ✓ Melvin MacDonald
- ✓ Carol Macieczni
- ✓ Karen Regentik

Dearborn Heights

- ✓ Roger Corpolongo
- ✓ Jim Hales
- ✓ Alan Swintec
- ✓ Christopher Tostige
- ✓ Denise Viola
- ✓ James Wolstencroft

Flat Rock

- ✓ Amy Degrand

Grosse Isle

- ✓ Kimberly Bumbul
- ✓ John Nellis
- ✓ Thomas Harris

Inkster

- ✓ Bryon Hendricks
- ✓ Roy McMahan

Lincoln Park

- ✓ Paula Hall
- Dawn Hickman
- Lawrence Jesue
- Karen Ourvis
- David Reise
- ✓ Scott Watts

Monroe

- ✓ Chris Carmon
- ✓ Lillian Bogosian
- ✓ Joanna MacKinnon
- ✓ Kenneth Masserant
- ✓ Jennifer Neikirk
- ✓ Erik Venzke

Northville

- Elizabeth Karsten
- ✓ Beth Maliszewski
- ✓ Bridgette Sams

Plymouth

- ✓ Heather Childers
- ✓ James Crossey
- ✓ Patricia Linna
- ✓ Gary Macioce
- ✓ Dan Marek
- ✓ Ricky Rosales

Rockwood

- ✓ Gloria Warthen

Taylor

- ✓ Roger Gilliam
- ✓ Bob Parisi
- ✓ Fran Phillips
- ✓ Michele Szafran

Temperance

- ✓ Kari Guthrie

Trenton

- ✓ Anthony Conley
- ✓ David Bartaway
- ✓ Gwen Heffinger

- ✓ Dennis Lucas

- ✓ Casey Pennington

Westland

- ✓ Arnita Adams
- ✓ Michele Barnes
- ✓ Lori Boljesic
- ✓ Felicia Bryant
- ✓ Kenyatte Byron
- ✓ Veronica Chambers
- ✓ Wenoia Clark
- ✓ Ted Gagnon
- ✓ Albert Gilliespie
- ✓ Joan Hicks
- ✓ Caprice Hughes
- ✓ Katrina Jones
- ✓ Tamara Martin
- ✓ Walter McGregory
- ✓ Ladonna Miller
- ✓ Kurtis Ranney
- ✓ Sharonlynn Roulo
- ✓ Marie Shannon
- ✓ Edward Sikora
- ✓ Christen Tharp
- ✓ Raymond Tobin
- ✓ Tammy Vieceilli
- ✓ Amy Williams
- ✓ Calvin Winbush

Canton

- ✓ Dianne Campbell

- ✓ Lois Fritz

- Douglas Koluch
- Gilbert Pruiett

Ypsilanti

- ✓ Alan Grajczyk
- ✓ Kimika Griffin
- Malcolm Moscato
- Mike Radecki
- ✓ Richard Rider
- ✓ Michael Tredway

Retired

- ✓ Mary Abbott
- ✓ Thelma Balogh
- George Bolash
- ✓ Timothy Bowsher
- ✓ Joe Golonka
- ✓ Mike Karjala,
- ✓ James Kelly
- William Lowe
- John Meleski
- Jerome, Mannlein
- William Mather
- ✓ Walter Modelski
- James Powell
- Brian Rodden
- ✓ Irene Sly
- ✓ Cathy Tondreau
- ✓ Cindy Trzeciak
- ✓ Margaret Zywicki
- ✓ Leonard Zawisa

Protect your job "Join COLCPE today!"

Call 313-295-1640

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

Committee On Letter Carriers Political Education
(COLCPE)

Sign up NOW!

The Future Of Letter Carriers Is In Our Hands

By the time you read this article, Contract negotiations for City Letter Carriers will have begun, officially scheduled to open on August 18, 2011.

Postmaster General Donahoe has made it clear to the NALC with his most recent announcement that he intends to use the financial crisis caused by the deep recession and the crushing pre-funding mandates ordered by Congress to strip postal employees of our collective bargaining rights. There have been multiple service talks given across the country on the workroom floor by management about the current economic condition of the Postal Service. A lot of this information is false and intentionally distorted by senior management officials from USPS headquarters.

In addition to stand-up talks, the Postal Service issued a press release to the media and distributed two "white papers" to congressional decision makers. One paper, "Postal Service Health Benefits and Pension Programs" asks Congress to allow the USPS to set up its own health plan and pension plans outside the FEHBP and the FERS/CSRS systems that presently cover all Federal and postal employees. The other paper "Workforce Optimization" takes the extraordinary step of asking Congress to void the no lay-off provisions of the various postal labor contracts.

All the information that has been disseminated over the years by your NALC leaders about contributing to COLCPE has been to help fight off attacks on letter carrier wages and benefits such as those discussed in the previous paragraph.

The writing is on the wall, my fellow union brothers and sisters. What are you going to do? Are you going to continue to believe that nothing can happen to your good wages and benefits? Are you going to believe that since you have had a "good" contract your entire career with the postal service, that the next one won't be any different?

If so, then I'm here to tell you, brothers and sisters – WAKE UP! The time is now and we need every letter carrier actively participating in COLCPE.

For those who have stepped up and done their part to protect their wages and benefits, I personally thank you. I only ask of you that you pass the word on to your co-workers about why you have signed up for COLCPE. For those that have yet to sign up for COLCPE, what are you waiting for? The time has come for us all to fight together or fall apart. The way to protect your families is through COLCPE.

I want to end this article with this thought to all of my sisters and brothers of Branch 2184: I know that there are a lot of you that are upset with the changes that are going on currently with JARAP and your routes. Brothers and sisters, I urge you to concentrate on what is happening *legislatively* with your jobs. If we don't have people on Capitol Hill fighting for letter carrier issues, WE WON'T HAVE ROUTES TO BE UPSET OVER!

It's that simple. Do the right things and fight for your wages and benefits now by signing up for "COLCPE Gimme 5." Call the Branch 2184 office at 313-295-1640 and speak to any officer to get signed up. Contact me at walt2184@prodigy.net and I will guide you through signing up.

-- *Walt McGregory*
COLCPE Coordinator

K.I.M. Region Seminar
October 8-10, 2011
Motor City Casino Hotel
Detroit, Michigan

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HAPPY!*

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday

9 a.m. - 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday

9 a.m. - Noon, Saturday

24559 Van Born Road

Taylor, MI 48180

(313) 292-7422

Customer Connect

Congratulation to the following Branch 2184 carriers who turned in customer connect leads which turned into sales.

Gilbert Pruiett (Canton) - \$12,000.00

Tom Klecha (Dearborn Annex) - \$24,450.00

Pam Maus (Dearborn Annex) - \$24,600.00

Gordon Sudz (Grosse Ile) - \$12,000.00

Scott Watts (Lincoln Park) - \$15,000.00

David Reise (Lincoln Park) - \$900.00

Paula Hall (Lincoln Park) - \$18,860.00

Lon Smith (Ypsilanti) - \$25,000.00

Through Customer Connect, letter carriers are taking advantage of their special relationships to encourage business customers to use USPS instead of private delivery services. Since the startup in mid-2003, letter carriers have generated more than **ONE billion** in new revenue.

Branch 2184 Web Site

www.nalc2184.org

Retirement Information

OWCP Information

"OWCP" Forms

Branch Calendar

"FMLA" forms

Online "SPEAKS" Newsletter

Carrier Pay Chart

Online Forms 3971, 3996, 3189

2011 Scholarship Application

Steward Resources:

Grievance Forms

Grievance Guidelines

National Agreement

Defenses to Discipline

JCAM, MRS, M-39, M-41

2184 Memo of Understanding

The Summer Of Pivot

As the weather gets hotter and mail volume declines, the ugly spoken word "PIVOT" becomes more common. During the summer more routes are likely to experience light volume. This is when management tries to capture more so-called "pivot time." We typically see this when they exaggerate their mystic DOIS numbers.

For example, a letter carrier will be told "you have 30 minutes undertime." In response the carrier could (and should) say "I would like to know how you determined that." In response to that, management might typically say "because the DOIS numbers are showing you under." Again in response the carrier could (and should) say "I want to see those numbers."

When management does "show "the DOIS numbers, there are still some important questions to ask. 1) Is all of the volume entered?" 2) Are all of the parcels counted in those numbers? 3) Does my accountable mail show in those numbers? 4) How about all of the extra travel for the pivot – is that in those numbers? The answer you will probably hear to all of those questions is "No!"

When this happens and you know their DOIS-based nonsense is wrong, the right thing to do is to complete form 3996 and verbally tell them that you are sure you will be over 8 hours. DON'T shortchange yourselves! Don't forget about the hot weather during the summer and the issues that it brings, such as more stops for drinks and more comfort stops to make it through the heat, etc.

If they insist on 8 hours then go out and try; but when you can't make their prediction it is essential that you call and let them know that you will be over their assumed time. At this time they are required to give you a clear instruction which will either be to finish or to bring the mail back. Keep in mind that intentionally conflicting instructions by management as well as forced overtime for non-

ODL letter carriers under the guise of a "pivot" are both grievable issues.

Also, as an added reminder – as of now the Lincoln Park office has lost to other stations over 20 vehicles that were loaded with GPS devices. The replacement vehicles have over 100,000 miles on them and are noticeably unsafe. So everyone try your best to be safe and have a fun summer.

-- Scott Watts

Lincoln Park Steward

(Continued from page 4)

Contract Corner

look better or to create false data for purposes of evaluating assignments for route adjustments. It is a sad commentary on the current state of the USPS that cheating and stealing from employees is such a common and tacitly encouraged management practice. Two additional notes: First, all letter carriers should routinely keep their own time log of hours worked to match up with their paystub. Second, when you suspect that management has engaged in time and wage fraud, do NOT call the OIG or Postal Inspectors yourself. Time and wage fraud is a removable offense, but apparently only for craft employees. For management, cheating and stealing is more likely to get them promoted. Let your union conduct the investigation.

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."

Keep in mind if you do not **REQUEST UNION REPRESENTATION**, then you are considered to have waived this valuable right.

(Clip and keep with you while working)

My Post Office History 1945-1981

As a retired mail carrier I have time to reminisce, so I take out my pen and tell it like it is, or better yet how it was 65 years ago buying my own uniforms and also making very little dough. 84 cents an hour, and also as a sub I was always on call. All for straight time and no paid vacations or

"You have to like people in order to be a good carrier and I did not like the factory."

sick leave of any kind. That is for sub carriers, and a car was a necessity. You carried a mounted route

and was paid a small fee for driving your own car.

I started mail delivery Sept 16, 1945, on a rural route. There were 725 mail boxes to deliver. There was no paid overtime on that rural route and the hours were quite a few. When the rural carrier's vacation was over Postmaster Adam talked me into staying on. The Post Office test was given

two years later. I did pass the test. I remember after a month on that rural route I started at 5:30 a.m. I picked up mail on the corner mail boxes, then at 7:00 a.m. I delivered parcel post until 9:00 a.m. and then delivered mail for the carrier's relay boxes to be delivered by them.

Then I delivered parcel post until 5:00 p.m. Later I took a mounted route and that lasted five years, took care of the mail trucks so that every carrier had one assigned to them, and sent out for repairs etc. (VOMA) There were 67 trucks at that time and I did have my own office until I retired 1981. You have to like people in order to be a good carrier and I did not like the factory. I have now been retired for 30 years.

-- *George Douglas*

Retired Branch 2184 member, and 60 years a member of the NALC

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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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--- ELECTION NOTICE ---

BRANCH 2184 WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY, MI

This is official notice to all members of Branch 2184 that nominations for Branch President, Executive Vice-President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary-Treasurer, Health Benefits Representative, Sergeant-at-Arms, Retirees' Officer who shall be a retired member, three (3) Trustees, and all station Stewards; as well as State and National convention delegates for the 2012-2014 term will be taken during the **October 5, 2011**, regular Branch membership meeting at our Branch 2184 office building at 6969 Monroe, Taylor. All Branch officers by virtue of their positions are automatic delegates to the State and National conventions.

Elections will be conducted by mail and the results will be announced at the December 7, 2011 Branch meeting.

-- Joe Golonka
Recording Secretary

To Branch 2184's Membership

At the request of Branch 2184 President Mark Judd, I have agreed to temporarily fill the vacancy in the Branch 2184 Recording Secretary position. My temporary appointment to this position was effective on August 16, 2011 and will end of January 4, 2012 when the newly elected Recording Secretary will be installed along with the other Branch 2184 officers and stewards for a new three-year term of office. *I will not be a candidate for this position during the forthcoming round of nominations and subsequent elections for Branch 2184 officers and stewards.*

Please note that I am not "replacing" Cindy but rather will do the best that I can to perform the duties of this position for a five-month period. During this interim period I will also continue to assist our members with injury compensation-related matters as well as perform other duties assigned by Mark.

-- Joe Golonka
Recording Secretary

October 10th 2011
Columbus Day



Taylor, MI 48180
6969 Monroe

BRANCH 2184 • WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY, MI
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS • AFL-CIO

