



# Branch 2184 ... "Speaks"

Official Publication of Branch 2184, NALC, AFL-CIO

May/June 2013

**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:**

Sept 4th, 2013  
October 2nd, 2013  
(7:30 p.m. - Union Hall)

**Retirees Meetings:**

Sept 11th, 2013  
October 9th, 2013  
(12:30 p.m. - Union Hall)

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## President's Report

### Convention Highlights

The Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers 92nd State Convention was held May 20-21 at Mission Point Resort on Mackinac Island. Branch 2184 sent 17 delegates who were all present and accounted for. The delegates attended all required floor sessions and training that was offered by the State Association. This year the training included Route Adjustments, Legislation, Safety and Health, Article 8 and Retirement.

Our guest speaker this year was our national Director of City Delivery Lew Drass. Brother Drass gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled "The Future is Now." The presentation covered such topics as our battle to save Saturday Delivery, the USPS financial status / business report, a legislative update, the new contract, and City Carrier Assistants. When the presentation was finished Brother Drass took questions from the assembled delegates. National Business Agent Pat Carroll reported on the K.I.M. region and the issues we are facing both locally and nationally. They included the many problems our CCA's are having with our employer as well as the ever increasing backlog of pending arbitration cases. Both Lew and Pat stressed the need to reach out to our newest members and to make them feel welcome. They went on to explain the important role CCA's will play in the future of the NALC and USPS.

### State Elections

Congratulations to our newly re-elected state officers. They are President Dan Florkowski, Vice President Carl Blassingame, Secretary Pam Kraft, Treasurer Cathy Tondreau, Director of Education Joe Golonka, Director of Retirees Steve Burt, Chairman of the Executive Board Brad McKenna, as well as Executive Board members, Jim Wolstencroft, Noel LaBrecque, Gary Smith, and Cornell Fears. We wish them all the best in their new term as state officers.

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### Officers

President .....	Mark Judd
Executive Vice President .....	Jim Wolstencroft
Vice President .....	Walt McGregor
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 Nowe
Dearborn (Annex) .....	Melvin MacDonald
.....	Jacqueline Wiggins
.....	Rose Miller (alt)
.....	Tom Klecha (alt)
.....	Roderick Lelental (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 .....	Bryon Hendricks
Lincoln Park.....	Scott Watts
.....	Dave Reise (alt)
Monroe.....	Erik Venzke
.....	Chris Carmon (alt)
Northville.....	Mark Cooper
.....	Beth Maleszewski (alt)
.....	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
.....	Gwen Heffinger (alt)
Westland .....	Walter McGregor
.....	Wanda Clark
.....	Kim Clark (alt)
Canton.....	Dianne Campbell
.....	Lois Fritz (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)

**Presidents Report****Fred Herman Award 2013**

I am proud to report that one of our own Branch 2184 stewards received one of the runner up awards at the State Convention for steward of the year. This year's runner up Fred Herman award winner is none other than Lincoln Park steward Scott Watts. While Scott could not make the trip to the State Convention, State President Dan Florkowski did the next best thing by attending our June Branch meeting and making the presentation himself. Scott has done an excellent job as a steward and mentor in Lincoln Park.

Since Scott has become a steward he has energized the membership in his office. Lincoln Park is now near the top in all categories when it comes to Branch activities and participation. Along with his steward duties, Scott has been very active in the area of legislation. During the recent petition drive to save 6-day delivery, Scott and his Lincoln Park crew submitted more signed petitions than any other office in our Branch. In the last national election he was appointed and released by NALC National President Rolando to serve on the Labor 2012 campaign, and he currently serves as a Congressional District Liaison in Michigan's 12<sup>th</sup> District. We here at the Branch are very proud of the job Scott has done, and we appreciate all his extra efforts on behalf of the Branch and the members he represents. Congratulations and keep up the great work!

**Picnic 2013**

Another perfect day for a Branch MDA picnic event! With an overflow crowd enjoying the summer Sunday, the grounds here at the Branch office were transformed into a "midway of fun." Slip and slides, pony rides, moon walk, cotton candy, dunk tank, Sno Cones, popcorn, treasure island, hot dogs, hamburgers, cold refreshments, and snacks. Add it all up and it comes out to a whole lot of fun for between 400-500 branch mem-

bers and their families. Once again our picnic volunteers worked hard to make sure the big day under the big top came off without a hitch. Special thanks go out to our "Event Sponsors," Allie Brothers Uniform for sponsoring the picnic favorite Dunk Tank; Brookfield Uniforms and Bob Kreager for sponsoring the always cool Sno Cone machine; and Congressman John Dingell for sponsoring the Cotton Candy machine. And last but not least special thanks go out to our head groundskeeper and Branch Activity co-coordinator Jim Powell for all his help in making sure the picnic was a success.

**COLCPE Raffle Contest**

Branch 2184 has landed in the winner's circle in two different National COLCPE contests. For placing 1st and 2nd in two different categories our Branch has received nine \$100 American Express gift cards to raffle off to any COLCPE contributor in the Branch who is currently giving at the "Gimme 5" rate.

If you would like a chance to win one of these gift cards all you have to do is sign up for COLCPE at the appropriate rate. Members who are already COLCPE contributors and who are donating at the required level are already eligible. Those who have not signed up for COLCPE or who are not donating at the "Gimme 5" rate have until August 31, 2013 to sign up or change their current contribution. The winners will once again be drawn on Labor Day, September 2, 2013 by our State President Dan Florkowski. Sign up now and help us protect your job and your future. For further information on this contest and how to enroll in COLCPE look in this month's newsletter or on line at our web site [www.nalc2184.org](http://www.nalc2184.org).

**Branch Scholarships**

Once again this year the Branch will be awarding four \$500 scholarships to dependent children of Branch 2184 members in good standing. Applicants must be high school or GED graduates

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**Presidents Report**

who are currently enrolled or planning on enrolling or attending college or technical school in the fall of 2013. Eligibility for the scholarship includes accredited and licensed colleges, trade schools, and schools of higher education. For further information about this important member benefit see the application in this month's "SPEAKS" or go to our Branch web site [www.nalc2184.org](http://www.nalc2184.org).

-- Mark Judd  
President

**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 Sue Moore, Mike Tredway and Heather Childers for their donations. Lets make our new members feel welcome. For more information call -- 313-295-1640

**EVP's Report**

**Walk right in, Walk right out**

Just think what would happen if you went to work one day, but didn't go home.

What would happen to your family, friends and neighbors if you were to pass away while at work?

Letter carriers go to work every day do their job and go home. Get up the next morning and do it again and again and again. To most it becomes very routine. You go through the motions. Some go through a whole career without an accident, what I hope for all. This is not always the case. Sometimes tragedy strikes fast and hard and carriers die.

On June 17, 2013 Letter Carrier Alan Noble of Long Island, NY died in the line of duty when he was rear ended and then hit a tree, propelling him out the front window of his LLV.

On June 18, 2013 in Brooklyn Center Minnesota Letter Carrier Leo Brandt was killed when a truck back up at the dock and struck him.

On June 29, 2013 in Monkton Maryland Letter Carrier Bruce Deutser collided with another vehicle and was ejected from his truck and died at the scene.

Even in our Branch, we had tragedy strike on March 8, 2011 when Nancy Schafer of Dundee, Michigan died from falling through a porch while carrying her route.

These letter carriers walked into work, but did not go home. This leaves a void in the lives that these individuals had touched. Lives are changed forever more.

I hope that I have your attention. Please, I beg of you, treat safety as if your life depends on it. Give every day that you go into work, the awareness that you had on your first day of work. Accidents can happen at any time, train yourself to work in a safe manner and be aware of your surrounding area in which you work. Safety begins with you so take this responsibility seriously and it could save your life one day.

Letter Carriers' occupational safety and health is protected by Article 14 of the National Agreement and by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA).

A good starting point is the HBK EL-814 Postal Employees Guide to Safety which states in part:

**SECTION IX  
Mail Delivery**

**A. Fingering Mail**

Never finger mail while driving, walking up and down steps or curbs, crossing streets, or at any other time the practice could create a safety hazard to you or the public.

## B. Hazardous Conditions

Pay close attention when you are walking in order to avoid lawn depressions, stones, bits of wood, children's toys, and other tripping hazards.

You are not required to risk personal injury from icy steps, broken or rotten steps or porches, protruding nails or sharp edges on mailboxes, or similar hazardous conditions. Use Form 1767, Report of Hazard, Unsafe Condition, or Practice, to report any of these problems to your supervisor.

Alert replacement carriers to any hazardous conditions by completing Form 1766, Hazard Warning Card.

So have a safe and enjoyable summer!

*In solidarity,*

-- James Wolstencroft

*Executive Vice President*

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# VP's Report

## National 2013 "Gimme 5" COLCPE Contest

The 2012 COLCPE competition again encouraged letter carriers to boost their branch's number of COLCPE "Gimme 5" contributors.

Branches with 25 or more members were divided by branch size into eight categories. The branches in these eight different categories with either the highest total percentage of automatic COLCPE "Gimme 5" contributors or the largest percentage increase in "Gimme 5" participation were to receive a number of \$100 American Express gift cards to use as raffle prizes. To qualify for a prize in either category, each winning branch was required to increase its total number of "Gimme 5" contributors by at least 1 percent of the total branch membership.

As a further incentive to become a contributor to the NALC's political action fund, all donors at the COLCPE "Gimme 5" level were entered into a general raffle for ten \$100 gift cards, in addition

to those awarded to the winning NALC branches.. At the branch level, Branch 2184 falls into the Category 2 bracket with 1,000-1,999 members. 1<sup>st</sup> place in our category gets five gift cards, 2<sup>nd</sup> place gets four gift cards, 3<sup>rd</sup> place gets three gift cards, 4<sup>th</sup> place gets two gift cards, 5<sup>th</sup> place gets one gift card and 6<sup>th</sup> place gets one gift card.

The results of the 2012 COLCPE contest are in. Branch 2184 won 1<sup>st</sup> place for the largest increase in "Gimme 5" COLCPE contributors, for which our branch will receive five \$100 gift cards. Branch 2184 *also* took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in in the percentage of members signed up at the "Gimme 5" level, which earned us four additional \$100 gift cards. That gives our branch a total of *nine* \$100 gift cards to be raffled off.

President Mark Judd wrote about the COLCPE Raffle Contest in his article. A drawing will take place at the Labor Day Parade on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013. State President Dan Florkowski will pull the nine different winners of the gift cards. You got to be in it to win it! Sign up for COLCPE now at the "Gimme 5" level to have your name entered into the raffle.

## City Carrier Assistants

I have received multiple calls at the union office from fellow brother and sister City Carrier Assistants (CCAs) within our branch, inquiring about a grievance being filed for them to be converted to full time regular. The NALC has filed a grievance at the National level about this issue. Additionally, CCA conversion grievances have also been filed by your Branch 2184 stewards in offices with residual vacancies that have no PTFs, unassigned regulars, or full time flexibles, and there are no carriers waiting to transfer into that office through e-reassign.

All grievances filed for CCA conversions will be held in abeyance at the Formal A or Step B level of the Dispute Resolution (grievance) procedure, pending the outcome of the National level grievance.

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VP Report

Please be aware that your union officers and stewards at every level of the NALC are working very hard to get our CCA brothers and sisters promoted into the residual vacant positions, per the Das Contract Arbitration Award.

You might ask, "What can I do in the meantime?" Well, a very useful thing would be to contact your local Congressional representative to encourage them to support postal legislation that maintains six days of universal service delivery. The fight to fend off five-day delivery is far from over. We need every city letter carrier to do his and her part in helping to save our Postal Service. Sign up for COLCPE! Again, contact your Congressional representative and encourage them to vote for six-day delivery legislation for the Postal Service. Also, be sure to turn in leads for Customer Connect to create new revenue for our employer. Stay actively involved with your local union.

Enjoy the rest of your summer,  
In unionism,

-- *Walt McGregory*  
*Vice President*

**September 2nd 2013**  
**Labor Day Holiday**



## COLCPE Contest

**\$100 WIN 1-of-9 \$100**

**American Express Gift**

**\$100 Certificates \$100**

\*\*\*\*\*

It's easy as **1-2-3**

1. Join up for COLCPE
2. Donate at the "Gimme 5" rate to be eligible.
3. Sign up by August 31st.

Drawing to be held Labor Day

\*\*\*\*\*

**Active Members** can contribute directly from their paychecks via PostalEASE online at [lite-blue.usps.gov](http://lite-blue.usps.gov).

**Active Members** also can sign up using PostalEASE by phone at 1-877-377-3273

Other methods to sign up for both active and retired members include monthly contributions from your bank account via Electronic Fund Transfer.

**Retired Members** can contribute from their OPM annuity.

For more information or assistance to sign up using any of the above methods, stop by or call the branch office (313-295-1640) or visit the Branch 2184 web site at [www.nalc2184.org](http://www.nalc2184.org) and click on the "Gimme 5" icon.

## Food Drive Thanks

On behalf of The Salvation Army, I am sending our sincerest "thank you" to all who supported the most recent National Association of Letter Carriers food drive on May 11.

There are so many to thank and space doesn't allow us to mention all of you individually, but to our mail carriers and post office personnel at the Plymouth/Canton/Belleville post offices, thank you for allowing us to be the recipients of the food.

To Greg Stachura, we send our sincerest thanks for the donation of trucks and manpower.

To the many folks who donated baked goods, pizzas, chicken, hot dogs, sandwiches, pop, water, ice, paper products and monetary gifts again this year, thanks for feeding the volunteers and mail carriers. For all those that shared the information via fliers, posted it on their marquees, in their newspapers, newsletters and mailers, and Facebook pages, you get our thanks as well.



To our many, many volunteers who came in and sorted all the food in less than two days - you are awesome. And to you who donated all the food, thanks for your continued support of both the Mail Carriers and The Salvation Army.

Finally, a word of thanks to Barb Mitchell and Tammy Bosman at the Plymouth Post Office and Gloria Gorny and Lois Spritz at the Canton post office for your tireless work in pulling all this together on behalf of your neighbors. This annual event has become a great tradition in our community and we look forward to another great year in 2014.

-- Laurie Aren, director

*Family and Community Ministries*

## Branch 2184 2013 Food Drive Results

Office	2012	2013
Belleville	11,500	14,107
Dearborn Main	10,319	9,548
Dearborn Annex	19,000	13,200
Dearborn Heights Teleford	26,000	10,200
Dundee	1,751	2,680
Flat Rock	3,850	4,650
Grosse Ile	2,865	2,451
Inkster	6,300	5,500
Lincoln Park	22,460	19,700
Monroe	16,964	17,222
Northville	11,500	11,000
Plymouth	13,632	15,850
Rockwood	10,560	6,720
Taylor	25,000	34,304
Temperance	4,917	5,649
Trenton	10,014	28,500
Canton	17,962	19,227
Westland Wayne	30,048	22,325
Ypsilanti	34,300	32,659
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>278,942</b>	<b>275,492</b>









## COLCPE Contributors

### Belleville

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

### Dearborn Main

- George Bolash (R)
  - ✓ Darryl Clay
  - ✓ Wanda Ellison
  - ✓ Lisa Franklin
- ✓ Patricia MacDonald
- ✓ Robert Panchenko
- ✓ Patience Redding
  - ✓ David Smith
  - ✓ Luvette Tellis
  - ✓ Ed Waldon
- ✓ Tammy Wheeler
- ✓ Leonard Zawisa (R)
- ✓ Margaret Zywicki (R)

### Dearborn Annex

- Nancy Altman
- ✓ Carl Anderson
- ✓ Timothy Bailey
- ✓ Michael Bergin
  - ✓ Peter Borella
  - Hubert Brown
  - ✓ James Bryant
  - ✓ Mark Cornett
  - ✓ Sherry Garcia
  - ✓ Joe Garcia
- ✓ Franklin Gomez
- ✓ David Duchene
  - ✓ Joel Johnson
  - ✓ Mark Judd
- ✓ Thomas Klecha
- ✓ Roderick Lelental
  - James Likeric

- ✓ Melvin MacDonald
  - ✓ Carol Macieczni
  - William Mather (R)
  - ✓ Rosemary Miller
  - ✓ Karen Regentik
  - Brian Rodden (R)
    - ✓ Darren Smith
    - ✓ Jerry Taylor
- ✓ Cathy Tondreau (R)
  - ✓ Jackie Wiggins

### Dearborn Heights

- ✓ Rich Alaniz
- ✓ Roger Corpolongo
  - ✓ Jim Hales
  - ✓ 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

### Inkster

- ✓ Eric Gant
- ✓ Bryon Hendricks
- ✓ Roy McMahan

- ✓ Calvin Simmons (R)

### Lincoln Park

- ✓ Thelma Balogh (R)
  - Cecelia Burja
    - ✓ Robert Davis
  - ✓ Patricia Davis (R)
  - ✓ Laura Fitzgerald
    - Leah Gray
    - Jennifer Green
      - ✓ Paula Hall
  - Ronald Hausch
  - Dawn Hickman
  - Lawrence Jesue
    - Judith Kahl
    - David Kemp
  - Nicholas Longo
  - William Mason (R)
    - ✓ James Martyna
      - ✓ Nicole Pace
  - Randall Parsley (R)
    - ✓ Karen Purvis
      - David Reise
    - ✓ Bela Rito (R)
  - Gayle Rohde
  - Wallace Sharkey
    - Ruston Shawn
      - ✓ Barbara Scaggs
  - Larry Skillman (R)
    - ✓ Scott Watts
  - Teresa Wisniewski

### Monroe

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

### Northville

- Elizabeth Karsten

- ✓ Bridgette Sams

### Plymouth

- ✓ Heather Childers
  - ✓ James Crossey
- ✓ Tiffani Howell (R)
- ✓ Patricia Linna (R)
  - ✓ Gary Macioce
  - ✓ Kristie Nelson
  - ✓ Ricky Rosales
  - ✓ Robert Venning

### Rockwood

- ✓ Gloria Warthen

### Taylor

- John Bostek (R)
  - ✓ Roger Gilliam
  - ✓ James Kelly (R)
- William Lowe (R)
  - ✓ Frances McGuckin
- ✓ Walter Modelski (R)
  - ✓ Bob Parisi
  - ✓ Fran Phillips
  - ✓ Bob Sedore (R)
  - ✓ Irene Sly (R)
- ✓ Michele Szafran
  - Terry Theeck
  - Jeanie Youtsey

### Temperance

- ✓ Kari Guthrie

### Trenton

- ✓ Anthony Conley
- ✓ Dwayne Conley
  - ✓ Colette Graves
- ✓ Gwen Heffinger
  - ✓ Dennis Lucas
- ✓ Casey Pennington
  - ✓ Gary Ritchie

## COLCPE Contributors

### Westland

- ✓ Arnita Adams
- ✓ Bertha Battista
- ✓ Lori Boljesic
- ✓ Veronica Chambers
- ✓ Michael Chevillot
- ✓ Wanda Clark
- ✓ Ted Gagnon
- ✓ Albert Gilliespie
- ✓ Jacinthia Hogans-Bunch
- ✓ Joan Hicks (R)

- ✓ Caprice Hughes
- David Lehman
- David Marshall
- ✓ Walter McGregory
- John Meleski (R)
- ✓ Ladonna Miller
- ✓ Marie Shannon
- ✓ Edward Sikora
- ✓ Carol Thornton
- ✓ Raymond Tobin
- ✓ Tammy Viecegli
- ✓ Amy Williams
- ✓ Calvin Winbush

### Canton

- ✓ Dianne Campbell
- ✓ Lois Fritz
- ✓ Joe Golonka (R)
- Douglas Koluch (R)
- Gilbert Pruiett
- ✓ Christina Scott

### Ypsilanti

- ✓ Manuel Ballesteros
- ✓ Timothy Bowsler (R)
- ✓ Betty Daraban

- ✓ Alan Grajczyk
- ✓ Kimika Griffin
- ✓ Willise Jeffery
- ✓ Mike Karjala (R)
- ✓ Gene Meadows
- ✓ Malcolm Muscato
- Patricia Neeley
- ✓ Richard Rider
- ✓ Larry Rowland
- ✓ Randall Sano
- ✓ Michael Tredway



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)

## Allie Brothers Uniform Store

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## The Right To Be Wrong

My parents, now both deceased, were part of what is often referred to as America's greatest generation, and I certainly have no quibble with that title as an appropriate summary of their amazing lives. My dad, who lied about his age in order to join the United States Navy in 1940, remained as an active or reserve member of the Navy for 42 years, serving with honor and distinction in the Second World War as well as in the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. He died in 2005 and is interred at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

Dad's background is relevant because of some political debates and disagreements he and I had during the latter years of his life. Previously a lifelong Democrat, he became politically more conservative as he aged, quite the opposite of his oldest son, he who has steadily become more liberal with age, life experience, and education. Sometimes during our discussions of political issues, I would tell him "Dad, this is a great country – you have the right to be wrong!" In response, he would simply smile and say, "And so do you!" As with most political discussion, neither was going to change the other's mind.

Behind the seeming glibness of my words there was and still is an enormous level of respect, even awe, because it was my Dad and his generation whose courage and selfless actions have ensured that in our America, we still DO have the right to be wrong. However, our "right" to be wrong still carries with it the obligation to accept the consequences of erroneous belief as well as to acknowledge empirical and validated evidence which challenges such belief. When failing to do so we substitute whimsical and magical thinking for clearly existing and repeatedly demonstrated reality. A delusional mindset such as this can and often does have serious consequences.

As a pertinent example, we need look no further than the tepid, even callous response of

many active letter carriers to the direct and imminent threats now existing regarding their future employment in the USPS. A direct consequence of these very real threats is no less than the loss of future economic security for themselves and their families. With this very clear and ongoing reality now established, one would think that all United States letter carriers as well as other USPS employees would be fully engaged in every possible action in response to these threats. However, this obviously has not been the case thus far.

One need look no further than the pathetic lack of response to Congressman Peter DeFazio's "We the People" petition to the Obama administration regarding the critical importance of maintaining six-day delivery of mail in America. The required signature threshold of the petition was less than half of the number of active letter carriers in America. Yet, a mere fraction of those most immediately affected by the planned dismantling of the USPS actually took the few minutes needed to sign it. The failure of Congressman DeFazio's petition to generate the minimum number of signatures needed for submission to the White House is an eye-opening and very troubling indication of continued apathy within our ranks, or even worse, an indication of delusional and self-destructive thinking on the part of many.

Perhaps those failing to respond to this and other forms of pushback against the twin threats of a dreadfully short-sighted USPS hierarchy and the single-minded obsession of our conservative political enemies with destroying the Postal Service *still think* that "this can't happen." Perhaps some others in an amazingly myopic and selfish manner *still think* that the potential prospect of having weekends off is more important. However, just wait until those desired weekends off soon become every day off, while living without a good paying USPS job or at best working part-time for a low wage, no

benefit company. I would suggest that those who relish a five-day delivery schedule should also start practicing their best "Welcome to Walmart!" greeting.

Of course, those with such misguided viewpoints certainly still do have the "right" to be wrong in our 21<sup>st</sup> Century America. However, their erroneous thinking also comes at a price – a very high price. There was a time when all that we had to concern ourselves with was an infestation of inept and abusive management throughout the Postal Service. Unfortunately, inept and abusive management types still do infest the USPS – and the world's best and most efficient delivery service employees still do magnificent work in spite of them. But none of that will matter anymore when there is no longer any United States Postal Service to mismanage. Your right to be wrong will still exist, but that won't pay your bills.

No one is crying "wolf" anymore because the wolf is already at the door, and the wolf fully intends to put you out of a job. So then, with this reality firmly established, what are you going to do about it?

-- Joe Golonka  
Trustee

### **Attend Your Branch Meetings**

**First Wednesday of the Month**

**7:30 pm @ the Union Hall**

**No Meetings in July and August**

### **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.

## **Customer Connect**

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

Paula Hall (Lincoln Park) \$63,000.00

Michael Chevillot (Westland) \$60,000.00

Michael Chevillot (Westland) \$86,000.00

David Reise (Lincoln Park) \$57,000.00

Janice Mitchum (Northville) \$28,000.00

Janice Mitchum (Northville) \$10,000.00

Johal Harkamul (Plymouth) \$960.00

Carol Thornton (Westland) \$20,000.00

Orlando Adams (Dearborn Heights) \$7,000.00

Jim Holland (Northville) \$2,500.00

Paula Hall (Lincoln Park) \$224,000.00

Michael Chevillot (Westland) \$204,00.00

Karen Lee (Monroe) \$36,000.00

Robert Davis (Lincoln Park) \$20,000.00

Russell Miller (Westland) \$240,000.00

Michael Chevillot (Westland) \$90,000.00

Michael Chevillot (Westland) \$55,175.00

Michael Chevillot (Westland) \$31,200.00

Felicia Bryant (Westland) \$30,000.00

Denise Viola (Dearborn Heights) \$15,000.00

Michael Chevillot (Westland) \$36,000.00

Christina Scott (Canton) \$5,000.00

Stephen Miracle (Plymouth) \$84,000.00

Chartrina Gensler (Dundee) \$15,000.00

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 **1.75 billion** in new revenue.



Michigan State Association President Dan Florkowski (Left) presented Scott Watts with the Fred Herman steward of the year runner up award at the June Branch meeting.

**OUR ADVERTISERS ARE  
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IN OUR NEWSLETTER.**

## **Branch 2184 Web Site** **[www.nalc2184.org](http://www.nalc2184.org)**

More Picnic Pictures  
Retirement Publications  
Retirement Videos  
Scholarship Application  
OWCP Information  
Branch Calendar  
"FMLA" forms  
Carrier Pay Chart  
Online Forms 3971, 3996, 3189

### **Steward Resources:**

Grievance Forms  
Grievance Guidelines  
National Agreement  
Defenses to Discipline  
JCAM, MRS, M-39, M-41  
2184 Memo of Understanding



# **Brookfield<sup>®</sup> Uniforms**

Serving the Postal Industry for Over 40 Years

## **Support the Company that Supports Letter Carriers**

- 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) 313-386-3270 (fax)



# Branch 2184 2013 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 2013.**

## 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:	
<b>Applicant's Name and (Date of Birth):</b>	<b>Name of School:</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>Address:</b>
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 30, 2013**

# 2013 Branch Picnic



BRANCH 2184 • WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY, MI  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS • AFL-CIO  
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Taylor, MI 48180

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