



Branch 2184 ... "Speaks"

Official Publication of Branch 2184, NALC, AFL-CIO

November/December 2011

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

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

Calendar

Branch Meetings:

January 4th, 2012
February 1st, 2012
(7:30 p.m. - Union Hall)

Retirees Meetings:

January 11th, 2012
February 8th, 2012
(12:30 p.m. - Union Hall)

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Branch 2184 Official Election Results

PRESIDENT

Mark Judd - 337
Don Oziemski - 85
Ted Gagnon - 44

RECORDING SECRETARY

Casey Pennington - 243
Jackie Wiggins - 208

SARGEANT AT ARMS

Darryl Clay - 167
Jim Hales - 139
David D. Bartaway - 136

TRUSTEES (3)

Joe Golonka - 319
Gloria Warthen - 187
Patricia Linna - 182
Joan Hicks - 177
Mike Tredway - 148
Jim Crossey - 115
Bob Venning - 94

Respectfully Submitted,
David Reise, Election Committee Chairperson

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
.....	Ed Williams
Dearborn (Annex).....	Melvin MacDonald
.....	Jacqueline Wiggins
.....	Rose Miller (alt)
.....	Tom Klecha (alt)
.....	Roderick LeLental (alt)
Dearborn Heights.....	Jim Hales
.....	Denise Viola
.....	James Wolstencroft (alt)
.....	Richard Alaniz (alt)
.....	John Czuchrak (alt)
Dundee.....	Chatrina Gensler
Flat Rock	Amy Degrand
Grosse Ile.....	Tom Harris
.....	Virginia McNew (alt)
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)
.....	Heather Childers (alt)
Rockwood.....	Gloria Warthen
Taylor	Michele Szafran
.....	Fran Phillips
Temperance	313-295-1640
Trenton	Casey Pennington
.....	Colette Graves
.....	David Bartaway (alt)
Westland	Walter McGregory
.....	Joan Hicks
.....	Ted Gagnon
Canton.....	Dianne Campbell
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

President's Report

National Contract Talks

National President Fred Rolando announced on November 20, that the 2006-2011 National Agreement has been extended until Wednesday, December 7. As the deadline neared, we were informed by the National office that there had been a new deadline set for Friday, December 16th. "We have been working in good faith to hammer out a new contract and we hope that this extension will lead to an agreement that our members can enthusiastically ratify," Rolando said. Published reports indicated that the focus of discussions shifted as the deadline neared, toward ways of finding innovative ways to reduce the cost of employee health care while preserving the benefits we currently have.

Petition Drive Update

At this year's National Rap Session President Rolando laid out phase two in our effort to Save America's Postal System. The second part would be a national petition drive to collect signatures from across the country, letting Congress know that the American public supports and wants a first rate Postal Service which includes six day delivery. This second phase would continue to build on the momentum from our nationwide informational picket which was conducted in September. Each Branch was asked to collect signatures amounting to 10 times their Branch's size. For a Branch our size that would put the amount needed at 10,000. Currently our Branch total is 5400. The goal is to collect a million signatures by the end of the year. The national number collected so far is approximately 870,000 signatures. You still have time to collect signatures and turn them in. If you are in need of forms see your steward or call the Branch office and we will make sure you get one. Leading the Branch in signatures collected is the Lincoln Park office. Scott Watts and his crew have done a tremendous job turning in over 2000 signatures, and they are still collecting more. If you

would like to participate, or would like more information go to the Save Americas Postal Service website at saveamericaspostalservice.org.

Election Results

Congratulations to all our elected Branch officers and stewards. The Branch elections are now complete and our elected officers and stewards will be sworn in at our January membership meeting. A special thank you goes to our election committee - Dave Reise the committee chair, Len Zawisa, Jim Powell, Scott Watts, Michele Szafran, and our two alternate members Jim Wolstencroft and Andy Diccico. They put in many long hours ensuring that the Branch election went off smoothly and without a hitch. On a more personal note, I would also like to thank the membership for the vote of confidence they gave me by re-electing me for another term as President.

Happy Holidays!

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

-- *Mark Judd*
President

THANK YOU NOTE

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

-- *Gloria Warthen*
Branch 2184 Trustee



EVP's Report

Season Greetings

As all Letter Carriers have come to find out this year our jobs and the USPS are not what it used to be. I've been a USPS Letter Carrier for 26 years and have never seen the level of legislative activity that I have seen in this past year. As the fate of the USPS hangs in the halls of Congress and negotiations of a new contract are under way this has been one hell of a year. So as all the interested parties try to hammer out what the 21st century USPS will look like, we keep doing what we do best and that is deliver the mail. Day in and day out the mail still gets to where its going and you keep walking the route. As the legislative storm swirls around, you are the ones that continue to deliver the mail. You should take great pride in the job you do.

Then there is the activist, the union member that will go that extra mile to push a collective cause in support of all postal employees (members and non-members). This year we have done some remarkable things to get our message out as to what is wrong with the USPS and the plight we find ourselves in. From rallies, petition drives to T.V. commercials these activists have been on the front lines of the battle over the USPS. As much hard work that has been done we need to dig down a little deeper and find that extra energy that can lead us to success. That extra energy is in the members that are currently on the sidelines watching from afar. I know that is your right as a union member to participate or not to participate in union activities such as the one currently before us, (the survival of the USPS) and I respect the individual decision of that member. Then I hope you respect my decision, as an activist and union leader, in trying to persuade all the members on the sideline to join in the fight to save an institution that is over 200 years old. Do you want to be part of the dismantling of the USPS, by doing nothing, or be a part of saving the USPS, by doing something. Once again you have your

rights to participate or not, as long as you can live with your decision. Please don't be shy, intimidated or afraid of becoming active there is room for everyone and everyone is needed.

As we close out 2011, I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and safe and healthy New Year. In Solidarity

-- James Wolstencroft
Executive Vice President

THANK YOU!

Happy Holidays to all! I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your support in electing me as your new Recording Secretary for our branch. I look forward to this new adventure; I will work hard to serve our branch and its members well.

One of my official duties as Recording Secretary is to maintain the roster of the membership, showing current address and other pertinent information. If you believe your information needs to be updated please feel free to contact me at the hall. Examples of information which may need to be updated with the hall could include your mailing address, phone number or your beneficiaries on your Death and Retirement Card.

Cheers to you and the New Year ahead! Everyone stay safe and enjoy this lovely time of year with your loved ones. Hope to see you soon at our next Branch Membership Meeting.

Yours in Solidarity,
-- Casey Pennington

Attend Your Branch Meetings

**1st Wednesday of the Month
7:30 p.m. at the Branch Hall**

Retirees Meetings

**2nd Wednesday of the Month
12:30 p.m. at the Branch Hall**

THANK YOU!

I am grateful and humbled by the support of our Branch membership upon my election as a Trustee of Branch 2184. Your faith in my continued work on behalf of the Branch and the NALC is very much appreciated. A note of thanks also goes to the officers and stewards of Branch 2184 for their assistance and support while I have filled in as the temporary Recording Secretary of our Branch.

Congratulations to Casey Pennington on her election as Branch 2184's new Recording Secretary, and also to all who were elected as officers and stewards during the recent Branch election. The hard work and dedication of Mark Judd and many of his Branch officers and stewards has brought our Branch back to its accustomed position of leadership and prominence in the NALC.

Finally, the holiday season is appropriately a time to pause for reflection and appreciation, and to enjoy the special gifts of family and friends. This is especially true in this time of great challenge to our Union and to the economic and job security of

all letter carriers and letter carrier retirees in America. The new year of 2012 will bring even greater challenges and perhaps the final showdown, the battle to preserve our very existence. However, despite so many difficulties, both present and future, there is still cause for optimism. Our struggles are many, but our strengths are even greater.

-- *Joe Golonka*

Recording Secretary

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.



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Contact Your Brookfield Representative!

Robert Kreager

Branch 2184 Retired

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313-386-0527 (voice) 313-386-3270 (fax)

COLCPE Contributors

Belleville

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

Dearborn Main

- George Bolash (R)
- ✓ Darryl Clay
- ✓ Daniel Smith (R)
- ✓ Ed Waldon
- ✓ Ed Williams
- ✓ Leonard Zawisa (R)
- ✓ Margaret Zywicki (R)

Dearborn Annex

- Richard Adams (R)
- Nancy Altman
- ✓ Timothy Bailey
- ✓ Michael Bergin
- Hubert Brown
- ✓ Mark Cornett
- Joe Garcia
- ✓ Mark Judd
- ✓ Roderick Lelental
- ✓ Melvin MacDonald
- ✓ Carol Macieczni
- William Mather (R)
- ✓ Rosemary Miller
- ✓ Karen Regentik
- Brian Rodden (R)
- ✓ Cathy Tondreau (R)
- ✓ Jackie Wiggins

Dearborn Heights

- ✓ Roger Corpolongo
- ✓ Jim Hales
- ✓ Ian Mair

James Powell (R)

- ✓ Alan Swinteck
- ✓ Christopher Tostige
- ✓ Denise Viola
- ✓ James Wolstencroft

Dundee

- ✓ Chatrina Gensler
- Jerome Mannlein (R)

Flat Rock

- ✓ Amy Degrand

Grosse Isle

- ✓ Christopher Biegalski
- ✓ Kimberly Bumbul
- ✓ Thomas Harris
- ✓ Virginia McNew
- ✓ John Nellis
- ✓ Mary Renaud

Inkster

- ✓ Bryon Hendricks
- ✓ Roy McMahan
- ✓ Calvin Simmons (R)

Lincoln Park

- ✓ Thelma Balogh (R)
- Laura Fitzgerald
- Leah Gray
- ✓ Paula Hall
- Dawn Hickman
- Lawrence Jesue
- ✓ James Martyna
- Karen Purvis
- David Reise
- ✓ Bela Rito (R)
- Gayle Rohde
- ✓ Barbara Scaggs

Larry Skillman (R)

- ✓ 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
- ✓ Mary Farrari (R)
- ✓ Tiffani Howell (R)
- ✓ Patricia Linna
- ✓ Gary Macioce
- ✓ Dan Marek
- ✓ Kristie Nelson
- ✓ Ricky Rosales

Rockwood

- ✓ Gloria Warthen

Taylor

- John Bostek (R)
- ✓ Roger Gilliam
- ✓ James Kelly (R)
- William Lowe (R)
- ✓ 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
- ✓ David Bartaway
- ✓ Gwen Heffinger
- ✓ Dennis Lucas
- ✓ Casey Pennington
- ✓ Gary Ritchie

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 McGregor
- John Meleski (R)
- ✓ Ladonna Miller
- ✓ Kurtis Ranney (R)
- ✓ Sharonlynn Roulo
- ✓ Marie Shannon
- ✓ Edward Sikora
- ✓ Christen Tharp
- ✓ Raymond Tobin

COLCPE Contributors

- ✓ Tammy Viecegli
- ✓ Amy Williams
- ✓ Calvin Winbush

Canton

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

Ypsilanti

- ✓ Kimberly Blake
- ✓ Timothy Bowsher (R)
- ✓ Carl Brown

- ✓ David Dagostino
- ✓ Betty Daraban
- ✓ Brian Frost
- ✓ Alan Grajczyk
- ✓ Kimika Griffin
- ✓ Willise Jeffery
- ✓ Mike Karjala (R)
- ✓ Gene Meadows
- Malcolm Moscato
- ✓ Brian Mueller
- Patricia Neeley
- Mike Radecki
- ✓ Richard Rider
- ✓ 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)

Start your COLCPE automatic contribution NOW!



GIMME
5
for COLCPE

Make Way for Our Future

I would like to start by thanking everyone in Lincoln Park for the extra effort of calling Senator Levin and for bringing in over 200 petitions for the 'Save Saturday Campaign'. It was nice to see so many of my Lincoln Park carriers turning in more than one page of signatures. Extra special thanks to: Paula, Judy, Tracey, Dennis, Juan, Karen, Gail, Cecilia, Tim, Dawn, Nicole, Debbie, Leah, Wally, Shawn, Barb, Brandon (my son) and others that I may have overlooked. "A great job to all of you!"

Letter carriers need to know that this is just the start. As the campaign continues into 2012 you can expect to be asked for your help making calls, passing out petitions, getting involved in the upcoming elections and joining COLCPE. The 2012 elections could be the most important ever in the history of the USPS. A special thank you goes to the letter carriers who stepped up and gave to COLCPE this year. It is also very important that everyone get out and get involved in 'Customer Connect' to make up for some of the business that the USPS has lost.



So let's get out there and get involved! We need to inform others of the facts and not the lies that Republicans have been spreading about the United States Postal Service. Less than a year from now will be our 'D Day' - Election Day and our opportunity to get rid of those who are trying to destroy our jobs and our way of life. Lastly, I would like to close with words of MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR to everyone in our Branch.

-- Scott Watts
Lincoln Park Steward

Scholarship Winners

Greetings,

My name is Dalanda Adams and I am a sophomore at Livingstone College studying Math and Music Education. Being selected as a recipient of this scholarship is truly an honor, and I would like to thank all the members of Branch 2184. College tuition is costly and attending a private institution is more of a financial strain. This scholarship will serve as a massive benefit as I continue to matriculate through Livingstone College. Again I say thank you to each and every one of the members and look forward to continuing this relationship.

Educationally Submitted,

Dalanda R. Adams

(Dalanda is the daughter of Orlando Adams from the Dearborn Heights office.)

Dear NALC Branch 2184,

I would sincerely like to thank you for awarding me the Branch scholarship. I am very grateful for your generosity in funding this opportunity for students like me.

I am currently a junior at The University of Toledo and plan to graduate with my bachelor's degree in Public Health-in the spring of 2013. Currently, I am in my second year as a Resident Adviser and belong to many organizations such as Leadership UT, Eta Sigma Gamma- Health Education Honorary, and S.W.A.T (Student Wellness Awareness Team).

I want to thank you again for supporting college students and want you to know I really appreciate this scholarship.

Sincerely,

Karen Grajczyk

(Karen is the daughter of Alan Grajczak from the Ypsilanti office.)

Dear members of Branch 2184,

I am so excited to have been chosen as a winner of your collage scholarship. I cannot thank all of you enough, because this is such an incredible blessing to me. I assure you that the money will be put to good use as I further my studies at Michigan Technical University.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

This is such a wonderful benefit you offer to the children of your members. I am so very grateful to Branch 2184's members. May god bless you!

Sincerely yours,

Kristyna J. MacKinnon

(Kristyna is the daughter of Joanna MacKinnon from the Monroe office.)

Dear President Judd,

I would like to thank the National Association of Letter Carriers, Branch 2184, for honoring me with the 2011 Education Scholarship.

Currently I am a senior at Central Michigan University working toward a major in Communication with a minor in Recreation. This scholarship award will be very helpful in providing financial assistance toward my tuition expenses. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

P.S. I would like to send a special thanks to my stepfather Melvin MacDonald for making this possible

Sincerely,

Jamie Marie Loftus

(Melvin MacDonald is from the Dearborn Annex office.)

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Customer Connect

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

Naimah Lewis (Plymouth) - \$48,000.00

Paula Hall (Lincoln Park) - \$5,000.00

Karen Lee (Monroe) - \$54,000.00

Michael Chevillot (Westland) \$10,000.00

Michael Chevillot (Westland) \$50,000.00

Veronica Chambers (Westland) \$2,000.00

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

Steward Resources:

Grievance Forms

Grievance Guidelines

National Agreement

Defenses to Discipline

JCAM, MRS, M-39, M-41

2184 Memo of Understanding

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

One of the questions that I have been asked multiple times while working at the Branch office over the last month is, "do I have to follow my supervisor's instruction when they instruct me to do this or that?" The simple answer is this, as long as an instruction given by management does not threaten your health and safety or would cause you to violate the law, you have to follow that instruction and then file a grievance later. For example, I was asked by an OTDL carrier in one of our offices; if the carrier had to follow the instruction of management to go work in another office after the end of the carrier's tour in the carrier's home office. The answer was yes. I informed this carrier that this instruction, although likely a contract violation, did not impede the carrier's health and safety when it was given and thus it should be followed and then grieved later.

With a flurry of last minute signups, Branch 2184 is set to finish the year with a record high number of COLCPE contributors. A special thanks goes out to Mike Tredway out of the Ypsilanti office as he went above and beyond the call of duty signing up ten people in just the last month and a half for COLCPE. Way to go, Mike! Scott Watts from our Lincoln Park office should also be recognized for his efforts in getting his members involved in contributing to COLCPE. Most of all, we should all realize that contributing to COLCPE is just one more way of helping letter carriers maintain our job security. COLCPE (Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education) contribution will

Merry.
Christmas



be critically important to the NALC's legislative efforts in 2012.

During the past year the NALC National office has conducted a COLCPE contest. Here is how the 2011 COLCPE contest works:

The branch with the highest percentage of "Gimme 5" contributors in their assigned grouping at the end of November will be declared the winner. Each winning branch will win four \$100 gift cards. Stay tuned to see how Branch 2184 did. The final results will be published in the February 2012 issue of *The Postal Record*.

Finally, I would like to thank the membership for all of your support over the years. We just finished our elections for your stewards and officers for the next three years. It was so good to see so many members step up and run for steward and officer positions. There is so much talent in Branch 2184 and ultimately that means the membership wins. I encourage all that ran to stay active in your union in some capacity. There is room for everyone in our Branch. We are a team! United we stand, divided we fall. Happy Holidays to all and your families!

In Unionism,
-- Walt McGregory

HAPPY NEW YEAR

A NOTE OF THANKS

I would like to thank my union brothers and sisters of Branch 2184 for their support in reelecting me as a Branch 2184 Trustee. I look forward to working closely with Branch President Mark Judd along with our officers, stewards and members during the next three years as we deal with the difficult times ahead.

-- Patricia Linna
Branch 2184 Trustee

Make the Call!

The holiday season is upon us and depression can come unexpectedly. Depression may be described as feeling sad, blue, unhappy miserable, or down in the dumps. Most of us feel this way at one time or another for short periods. Depression is different from normal sadness in that it engulfs your day to day life, interfering with your ability, to work, eat, sleep, and have fun. The feelings of helplessness, hopelessness, and worthlessness are intense and unrelenting, with little, if any, relief.

Some advice that can help prevent holiday stress and depression: Express your feelings and reach out: Be realistic and stick to a budget: Don't let the holiday become a burden and take a breather; and if nothing seems to work seek professional help and Make The Call 1-800-EAP-4-YOU.

-- Jackie Wiggins

*Joint Committee Employee Assistance Program
Team Member*

Steward Election Results

Northville Steward (1)

Mark Cooper - 13

Bridgette Sams - 5

Plymouth Steward (2)

Don Oziemski - 28

Heather Childers - 18

Kristie Nelson - 13

Ricky Rosales - 11

Ypsilanti Steward (2)

Rick rider - 24

Mike Tredway - 17

Alan Grajczak - 14

Respectfully Submitted,

David Reise, Election Committee Chairperson

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The Branch 2184 Officers and Stewards would like to extend to you and your families best wishes for a happy and joyous holiday season and a healthy, happy and prosperous new year.

May you enjoy all the blessings of peace and liberty, and the benefits of the special strength that flows from solidarity.



Mark Judd, President

James Wolstencroft, Executive VP

Carol Clark, Vice President

Joe Golonka, Recording Secretary

Cathy Tondreau, Financial Secretary Treasurer

Walter McGregory, Sergeant at Arms

Jim Powell, Health Benefits Representative

Leonard Zawisa, Retirees Officer

Casey Pennington, Trustee

Gloria Warthen, Trustee

Patricia Linna, Trustee



Taylor, MI 48180
6969 Monroe

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