

# Branch 2184 ... "Speaks"

Official Publication of Branch 2184, NALC, AFL-CIO

March/April 2014

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

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

**Calendar**

**Branch Meetings:**

May 7th, 2014  
June 4th, 2014  
(7:30 p.m. - Union Hall)

**Retirees Meetings:**

May 14th, 2013  
June 11th, 2013  
(12:30 p.m. - Union Hall)

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## President's Report

### A Postal Union Alliance

On March 14, National Association of Letter Carriers President Fred Rolando, American Postal Workers Union President Mark Dimondstein, National Postal Mail Handlers Union President John Hegarty, and National Rural Letter Carriers Association President Jeanette Dwyer announced the formation of an alliance to protect America's postal service. In President Rolando's April column in *The Postal Record* "Solidarity is the cure for what ails us", he stressed the importance of the four major Unions working together on "progressive postal reform" and to jointly oppose "outsourcing and privatization" of the USPS. On April 14, the four Presidents jointly signed a letter addressed to Congressmen Darryl Issa and Congressman Elijah Cummings explaining the Alliance's opposition to both the administration's proposal and H. R. 2748. The letter closed by urging the Congressmen to find a permanent fix to the pre-funding burden, a fair calculation of postal pension surpluses, suitable pricing reforms, and the freedom to offer new services. Hopefully the four-Union alliance will turn out to be the long needed catalyst in stopping the mismanagement and self-destruction of the USPS.

### CCA Conversions

Congratulations to our latest group of CCAs to make regular. Since our last branch newsletter the following CCAs have been converted they are as follows: William Brown, Patience Redding, Shamim Arif, David Smith, Suzanne Richter, Charles Woods, Latasha Shelton, Leslie Gooden, Subrina McCormick, Yvonne Jackson, Jatonia Heard from **Dearborn**; Pamela Sellers, **Dearborn Heights**; Joshua Zaas, **Flat Rock**; Micaela Williams, **Grosse Ile**; Sheldon Allison, Betty Tracey, Eric Jones, Pierre Williams, Lance Bishop, **Inkster**; Carl Brown, Nickolas Gilley, Chardell Hudson, **Lincoln Park**; Tonya Smith, **Monroe**; Amanda Fiolek, **Rockwood**; Paul Mitocariu, **Taylor**; Sherie Greene, Mihaela Chiorean,

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### Officers

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



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

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

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

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

### Stewards

Belleville.....	Lynn Taylor
.....	Gregory Bodziak (alt)
Dearborn (Main) .....	Darryl Clay
.....	Ted Nowc
Dearborn (Annex) .....	Melvin MacDonald
.....	Jacqueline Gregory
.....	Rose Miller (alt)
.....	Tom Klecha (alt)
Dearborn Heights .....	Richard Alaniz
.....	Jim Hales
.....	James Wolstencroft (alt)
.....	John Czuchrak (alt)
.....	Chris Tostige (alt)
Dundee.....	313-295-1640
Flat Rock .....	313-295-1640
Grosse Ile.....	Christopher Biegalski
.....	Kim Bumbul (alt)
Inkster .....	James Wolstencroft
.....	Phil Ashford (alt)
.....	Thad Dillard (alt)
Lincoln Park .....	Scott Watts
.....	Dave Reise (alt)
Monroe .....	Erik Venzke
.....	Chris Carmon (alt)
Northville.....	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 Gregory
.....	Wanda Clark
.....	Kim Clark (alt)
Canton.....	Dianne Campbell
.....	Samantha Hales
.....	Lois Fritz (alt)
Ypsilanti .....	Mike Tredway
.....	Paul Bordine
.....	Alan Grajczyk (alt)
.....	Malcolm Muscato (alt)
.....	Rick Rider (alt)

### Address Correction Requested

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

**Call 313-295-1640**

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**Presidents Report**

Craig Peters, Salvador Rivera, Marcia Johnson, Lashairee Davis, Kierra Henderson and Christopher Vincentini from **Westland/Canton**. This brings the total number of Branch 2184 CCAs converted to career status to 51.

Please remember as a newly converted career letter carrier, your appointment now entitles you to enroll in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Programs to select a health plan, and to also enroll in the employer-sponsored life insurance plan. You have only 60 days from the time of your career appointment to make your selections and to take advantage of these important benefits. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask your stewards, or call the Branch 2184 Union office. When making your selection of health care benefits remember that the NALC has their own Health Benefit Plan which is very cost competitive to the other major health care plans being offered. The NALC Health Benefit Plan, unlike the other plans, is a plan that is owned by your union and its members, and operated for the benefit of all NALC members and associates. If you would like to learn more about the NALC health plan, information is available upon request here at the office or visit the NALC website at NALC.org.

**MDA Bowlathon**

Well, the results are in and the "Battle of the Branches Part II" is now in the history books. On Sunday March 23, 2014, Branch 2184 participated in our national bowling event for MDA. This year's event was held at Cherry Hill Lanes as we battled it out against our cross town rivals Branch 1 to see who could raise the most in pledges. We had 30 members of our Branch taking to the lanes to defend our title as the total pledges were tallied. When the pins and dollars had settled we retained our title and the coveted President's Plaque Award! Team 2184 raised \$2,449.00! This year's dollar total nearly doubled the amount from last year as did the number of branch bowlers who participated.

Special thanks as always go out to those Branch officers and members who participated in this worthwhile event, as well as those who raised the dollars and pledges. This year we had bowlers from eight of the offices we represent - Dearborn Annex, Dearborn Heights, Grosse Ile, Inkster, Lincoln Park, Taylor, and Westland. The top office again this year for both dollars raised and bowler participation was once again the Lincoln Park office led by Dave, Scott, and Paula. The monies raised by the Branch for this one day event will help to send two kids to camp and assist two families with their clinic visits. They, after all, are the real winners of the Bowlathon!

-- *Mark Judd*  
*President*

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## **EVP's Report**

### **Spring Eternal**

Now that Old Man Winter is dead and gone we can look to the spring and summer seasons for a bit of a break in the weather. Of course, there is weather safety concerns about the warmer seasons that we should be aware of (see Joe's article). Please remember that Safety starts with you and how you respond to an unsafe situation. Just because it warms up doesn't mean it's safer. Keep vigilant in your safety and others around you.

As some of you may have experienced of late, violations of Article 8 (Hours of Work), or more commonly known as an overtime violation, have been occurring in our representative offices. Some offices are violating on a continuing bases while other offices have no violations. As Union Representatives we enforce *our* contract meaning union and management. Sometimes we prove violations and sometimes we fail to show violations. When we fail to show a violation more times than

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**EVP's Report**

not it is due to the carrier not notifying management of the need for O.T./Assistance. The carrier would be in an unauthorized OT status. Management will not discipline because they know what's next. They would actually have to make a decision. They would have to give you a PS Form 3996, you would have to fill it out and they would have to respond. That takes time just thinking about it, let alone doing the actual work of filling out the form. Unless this is done management will always say, "I didn't know". For those with children I'm sure you've heard that one before. So help us help you in fighting these violations for forced OT or missed opportunity.

When we are successful in proving our grievance there is considerable costs involved in proving such violations. The costs to process, investigate, meet and resolve with compensatory remedy, far outweigh the cost of actually complying with the contract. This is very confounding when arguing with management as to why. They come up with new arguments to try to prove that they can once again violate Article 8 and we go through the same motions again and again.

One myth that seems to be out there is that these compensatory remedies equate to free money for the ODL. This is the farthest thing from the truth. If the contract was actually followed by management then the ODL would have worked for that OT. Instead they have been harmed by being bypassed the opportunity of OT.

This brings me to what was recently argued by managements Step B representative in an impasse grievance (Article 8) in one of our offices when he contended that; "the union realizes the request is not appropriate. Otherwise, the only explanation for such an increase is extortion on the part of the union". The increase he was referring to was the remedy which was offered by the union, but declined by management, the offer was lower than

what was asked for at the Step B level. The remedies/offers for grievances can and do change during the grievance process, including arbitration all the time. In an effort to resolve grievances at lower levels such remedies/offers are made. This was an attempt by the union to do just that, keep the cost down. Instead you have management contending the union is attempting to extort money from the USPS. This is nothing new for this Step B representative to throw malicious rhetoric toward the union and its representatives. When he has no arguments or evidence to support his contentions he resorts to child like behavior and calls you names. There is no place in labor relations for this kind of behavior which doesn't resolve anything, but incites conflict. This is referred to as the DIP (Dispute Incitement Process) a far cry from the DRP (Dispute Resolution Process) we currently work under. I can respect an opinion based on fact, but employees like this one should find other work to better suit there attributes such as Pinocchio's School of Motivational Speaking (see Geico commercial).

-- *Jim Wolstencroft*  
*Executive Vice President*

## **VP Report**

### **Customer Connect**

Since the inception of the Customer Connect program in mid-2003, letter carriers have raised more than \$1.88 BILLION dollars and counting. It took more than 135,000 letter carriers from across the country and 518,000 plus leads to get to \$1.88 Billion dollars in new revenue. Just imagine if more letter carriers got involved in the Customer Connect program; our employer probably would be making record profits every year and we wouldn't even have to be concerned about the issue of "Pre-funding" our future retiree health benefits.

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## VP's Report

If you would like more information on how to participate in the Customer Connect program, please see your Customer Connect Coordinator or shop steward for details. You can also call the local union office (313-295-1640) for that information. If you are a Customer Connect Coordinator or Shop Steward and you are being denied the opportunity to participate in the quarterly district phone telecons, please call the Branch 2184 union office and leave me a message with your office and the name of the management representative that denied you. All Customer Connect Coordinators and/or NALC Shop Stewards should be participating on these telecons.

## COLCPE

Have you signed up yet for COLCPE? If not, what are you waiting for? COLCPE is the NALC's political action fund. This fund helps to elect letter carrier friends (United States Senators and Congressional Representatives) in Washington, DC. To sign up for COLCPE, you can call the Branch 2184 office at 313-295-1640. An officer is there Monday thru Friday, 9 am to 5 pm to assist you. I am available after the monthly branch union meeting to assist anyone wanting to sign up for COLCPE. Get involved today; the job that you save just may be your own.

## CCAs

Congratulations to the latest CCAs in Branch 2184 that were promoted to Full Time Regular as of 4/19/2014. Don't forget that all CCAs have sixty days from the date they become a career regular letter carrier, which is a "QLE" Qualifying Life Event", to sign up for Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHB) through our employer. Go to [liteblue.usps.gov](http://liteblue.usps.gov) for more details.

We are still collecting gently used uniforms

for our new CCA brothers and sisters at the branch. If you have uniforms that you are not wearing anymore and would like to donate to our uniform bank, please give them to your shop steward. You can also drop them off directly to the hall. Thanks so much to all who have participated thus far, and to those carriers that plan to participate.

## Off The Street By 1700

When your supervisor tells you that you have to be "off the street by 1700" (5 pm) and you know that there is no way that this will happen, you need to protect yourself by asking for a PS Form 3996 and indicate why you think your mail volume and/or other factors will put you past 1700. If your route has been set up for you and you have no idea of how much time this route is going to take you to deliver, ask a fellow carrier about the route and look at the route's base information. It should be posted by the route somewhere. Again, make sure you have a PS 3996 to fill out at the bottom where it says begin travel, end travel, begin delivery end delivery, etc...

Call from the field when you believe that you won't make the return time that your supervisor has given you. Make them manage. Never take it upon yourself to just keep delivering and not inform management if you are not going to make it by their DOIS projections. By informing them as required in the M-41 handbook, we are protecting ourselves. If you inform them and they still bring you in the office and still issue discipline, ask to see your steward immediately and file a grievance to challenge the discipline.

In unionism,

-- Walt McGregory

Vice President

### **Attend Your Branch Meetings**

**First Wednesday of the Month**

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

**6969 Monroe**

**Taylor MI. 48180**

## LETTER CARRIER THUNDERSTORM SAFETY

A previous article discussed winter weather hazards that affect letter carriers. We are equally at risk for illness and injury due to warm season hazards. This article will discuss letter carrier safety during thunderstorms. As with all aspects of safety, knowledge and planning is necessary to minimize the risks associated with all outdoor environmental hazards. The most effective way of accomplishing this is by knowing how to respond and to control a hazardous situation before it can control you. Advance knowledge and clear thinking are your greatest assets when hazardous conditions exist.

Thunderstorms can occur the year round in Michigan, but they primarily happen during the warm season. Much of Southern Michigan experiences an average of about 40 days per year with thunderstorms; this decreases to less than 20 days per year in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. In Michigan thunderstorms usually approach from a west or southwest direction. However, storms can come from any direction.

Warm air and moisture are the fuel that creates and powers thunderstorms. As air rises it cools and the moisture within the air condenses into visible liquid water droplets or ice crystals that we see as clouds. The condensation of water vapor into liquid cloud droplets releases heat and keeps the process going. In some instances the resulting cloud will tower several miles into the sky. This is the classic cumulonimbus or "thunderhead" cloud.

The rising air and transfer of heat that is the impetus for thunderstorms is a large-scale version of the same process that creates popcorn, known as convection. In fact, summertime thunderstorms are often referred to as "popcorn" thunderstorms because of how they are formed, and because of how the thunderstorm cloud seems to "pop" in the atmosphere.

Thunderstorms typically form as a single "cell" that consists of an updraft of rising air and a corresponding downdraft of sinking air. The thun-

derstorm downdraft is accompanied by rain and sometimes by strong winds and hail. Thunderstorms also can form in clusters or in lines that extend for hundreds of miles. There is one very dangerous type of thunderstorm that is known as a "supercell" thunderstorm. Supercell thunderstorms contain an area of rotation that is known as mesocyclone. Supercells always have a high risk of producing severe weather events, including tornadoes.

The strong updrafts in thunderstorms can result in the formation of very large hail, sometimes as large as golf balls or tennis balls. Hail of this size is not only very destructive, but it can cause serious injury to a letter carrier or anyone caught outdoors away from shelter. Very large hail is also a clue that a storm is severe and has the potential to produce a tornado. The National Weather Service defines a storm as severe if it produces winds of 58 mph or more, hail of ¾ inch in diameter or larger, or produces a tornado.

There are some helpful clues that letter carriers can use to determine if a sunny morning might be followed by afternoon or evening thunderstorms. A warm spring or summer morning where the ground is dry because no dew formed overnight is a sign of potential instability in the atmosphere, which can manifest itself in the form of thunderstorms later that day. Conversely, a sunny morning after a heavy dew formation overnight is usually indicative of a more stable atmosphere with less likelihood of rain later that day. When small, ragged white clouds that resemble shell bursts or castles appear in the sky during the morning or early afternoon hours, thunderstorms are likely later on that day. These clouds, a definite sign of instability in the atmosphere, are known as altocumulus castellanus, or "accas" in weather lingo.

The classic saying, "red sky in the morning;

sailors take warning" has some truth to it, and has been recognized since Biblical times (a version of this adage appears in two of the New Testament Gospels). A reddish atmosphere is usually caused by dry and dusty air aloft, whereas a yellowish atmosphere is usually associated with moister air. Since weather systems generally move from west to east at our latitude in the Northern Hemisphere, a red sky in the east at sunrise means that dry and stable weather may be moving away, often to be replaced by wet and unsettled conditions moving in from the west.



By definition, all thunderstorms have lightning; otherwise they can't be called thunderstorms, since thunder is a direct result of lightning. Letter carriers are frequently at risk for being directly or indirectly affected by lightning strikes. There are two types of lightning: Cloud to cloud lightning, which is often visually spectacular and can be a threat to aviation but is otherwise not harmful; and cloud to ground lightning, which is threat to any person, animal, or object on the surface of the earth. Lightning is actually a giant spark of electricity, but a potentially lethal spark. On average, lightning kills about 16 American workers (in all occupations) each year.

Cloud to ground lightning, the type that is dangerous for letter carriers, is caused by a buildup of opposing electrical charges on the ground and in the clouds. When the resistance of the air is overcome, a circuit is completed and lightning results. There is an old saying that if you hear the thunder the lightning missed you. That may be true, but that does not mean that the next one will miss you.

Letter carriers on park and loop walking routes or who are delivering to outdoor cluster boxes should be particularly mindful of lightning hazards. Electrically active storms can produce as many 100 or more lightning strikes per minute.

Before cloud to ground lightning occurs, an invisible channel of charged particles will flow upward from the earth and also downward from the thunderstorm cloud. When these channels meet, the charged particles move freely along the now completed circuit, creating the spark that we see as visible lightning. When you scuff your shoe on a carpeted surface and then touch a metal object, the spark that sometimes occurs is a miniature lightning bolt.

Lightning can and will occur in any part of a thunderstorm. Lightning can travel several miles from its point of origin and strike the earth even where the weather does not appear to be threatening and the sun is still shining. This is commonly known as a "bolt from the blue." Many golf courses and public swimming areas use a "30 minute rule" where activities are not allowed to resume until 30 minutes after the last lightning flash is seen or thunder is heard.

During recent years, several United States letter carriers have been killed or seriously injured by lightning while delivering mail. But there are ways of minimizing the risk. During intense lightning it is best to seek shelter in a building or in a vehicle. Lightning frequently jumps from one object to another, and lightning usually (but not always) seeks out the highest object in the immediate area. That is why it is always dangerous to seek shelter under a tree.

Metal objects as well as water are good conductors of electricity. The metal body of most vehicles will channel lightning into the ground without harming the occupants. Contrary to myth, it is not the rubber tires that provide protection in a vehicle. If you have a radio with an antenna in your postal vehicle and the windows are open, it is

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**Weather Safety**

best to lower the antenna and close the windows. It is sometimes possible to detect lightning up to 200 miles away, which will be heard as static on the A.M. radio band, especially if you are tuned to the low end of the band. This can be a useful clue for knowing if thunderstorms are developing or moving into your region. Lightning is usually not detectable on the F.M. band, except as a clicking sound if it is very close.

If you feel your skin tingle or your hair start to stand on end, lightning may be about to strike. Crouch down with only your toes in contact with the ground and make yourself as small a target as possible. Do not lie flat on the ground, because if lightning does strike your body will take the full electrical charge. A person that has been struck by lightning does not carry any residual electrical charge. Lightning deaths frequently occur because of cardiac arrest, and the prompt application of CPR by a properly trained person can often revive a lightning strike victim.

The next article in this series will deal with hot weather safety for letter carriers.

-- *Joe Golonka*  
*Branch 2184 Trustee*

## **Branch 2184 Web Site**

### **[www.nalc2184.org](http://www.nalc2184.org)**

Branch Calendar  
Carrier Pay Chart  
Online Forms 3971, 3996, 3189  
Retirement Publications

### **Steward Resources:**

Grievance Forms  
Grievance Guidelines  
2184 Memo of Understanding  
JCAM, MRS, M-39, M-41

**OUR ADVERTISERS ARE  
YOUR FRIENDS.**

**MENTION YOU SAW THEM  
IN OUR NEWSLETTER.**

*Remember Those Who Served!  
All Gave Some. Some Gave All!*



**Memorial Day May 26th**

## **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 **Scott Watts** (Lincoln Park), **Pete Borella** (Dearborn Annex Retired), **William Cooper** (Dearborn Annex Retired), **Dave Duchene** (Dearborn Annex Retired), **Stacey Szymanski** (Westland), **Dawn Zachos** (Westland), **Teresa Wisniewski** (Lincoln Park), **Jim Wolstencroft** (Dearborn Heights), **Charlene Boyd** (Westland), **Howard Osborne** (Dearborn Annex Retired), **Cheryle Barron** (Temperance Retired), and **Jerry Chwalek** (Westland Retired) for their donations.

Lets make our new members feel welcome.  
For more information call -- 313-295-1640



# Branch 2184 2014 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 2014.**

## 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.

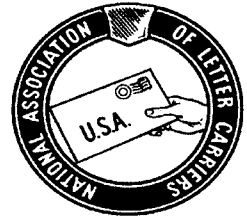
Member's Name:		Member's Phone Number:	
Member's Station:			
Applicant's Name and (Date of Birth):		Name of School:	
Address:		Address:	
Signature of Member:		Date:	
Signature of Applicant:		Date:	
Signature of Steward or Officer:		Date:	

**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, 2014**

# *K.I.M. Region 6 Report*



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*Kentucky - Indiana - Michigan*

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## **NATIONAL BUSINESS AGENT'S REPORT**

**F**or the last several months I had planned to send out a report to the membership about issues and events that affect letter carriers in Region 6. This article would be available for full distribution and sent to all branches within the region for reproduction in branch newsletters and NALC bulletin boards in post offices throughout the region.

Over these most recent months, every time I would sit to put pen to paper to begin this communication process, another group of fires would ignite in different areas of the region that required my immediate attention, and thus, a delay in the development of this article. So finally, early on a Sunday morning, I was able to get this first edition written and typed in what I intend to be a regular report for the members in KIM Region 6. I hope you find it educational and newsworthy.



**Patrick C. Carroll**  
National Business Agent

### **A Long Winter Season**

At the onset, every NALC member in KIM Region 6 should be extremely proud of the way you served your customers during this longest, coldest, snowiest and most brutal winter I can remember. The weather conditions were extreme and many times dangerous. Carriers sustained injuries falls and frostbite but thru it all NALC members did a remarkable job of providing mail delivery despite the horrendous conditions you faced daily. The cold, ice and snow were relentless and it seemed that it would never end as it took its toll on mind and body, but once again you showed the true spirit of why letter carriers and the Postal Service are so important to the American public. Every one of you should feel a great sense of accomplishment for the service you provided and I wanted to recognize everyone for your efforts over the last few months.

### **Some Good News**

For too many years the USPS has played a "phantom game" of withholding positions hoping for a 5 day delivery operation and instituting service cuts that would be the eventual demise of many letter carrier jobs. Reality has finally set in and I have recently been informed that the USPS will not be able to obtain the 2 day service standard for first class mail. That said, for now plants will not be closing and the withholding has been lifted. This action, coupled with memo M-01824, has paved the way for PTF's and CCA's to be converted to full time regular status and fill the residual vacancies that have been withheld for far too long. Equally important, as CCA's are converted to career status, more CCA's will be hired consistent with the hiring percentages in the Das Arbitration Award of 15% and 8% of the career workforce per district.

By the time we get CCA's hired and trained, we will likely be in prime time annual leave periods but it is my hope that with the addition of these new CCA's (and NALC members), we will be able to ease some of the burden of the continual mandating of overtime for our non-ODL members.

It has been a long miserable ride for our CCA's who were former TE's but it appears the end of that long ride will soon result in a career appointment. That is the intent of this writer and the NALC.

## 24 Hour Clock and Load Leveling

It is my hope that these two initiatives by the USPS will help in making the job of our members better by getting earlier starting times and balancing out the work load over the course of the work week. However the success of these two initiatives are based on whether the USPS can get mail processing plants to change some of their processes to get mail to us earlier and not make Monday such a heavy day as compared to other days of the week.

Management at both the Eastern and Great Lakes Area have informed me they intend to have this "24 Hour Clock" process move forward which will result in earlier starting times for carriers. In most cases this would equate to a 7:00-7:30 AM starting time for those offices that have been 8:00 AM or later. The NALC has pushed for earlier starting times for years and for a variety of reasons. I hope the USPS can get the plants to function so that this change can occur soon.

The second new process is called "Load Leveling" and has been tested and scheduled to begin April 10, 2014. This operation will once again be plant initiated and will provide for a more balanced and lighter workload on Mondays which have historically been a mess while balancing out the volume for the rest of the week.

Provided these two operational changes are successful, I would think that it will make for a better work day and work life for our members. Once again my only hope is that the USPS can make it happen as planned.

## The New MDD Scanner

The USPS recently announced a contract to purchase the next generation of handheld scanners called Mobile Delivery Device (MDD). These new scanners will eventually replace the Intelligent Mail Device (IMD), which weren't so intelligent, but more importantly will also replace the need for the clam shell cell phones that were paired with the IMD's to transmit scanned data.

There were several phases of testing of different devices in different parts of the country under a variety of conditions by letter carriers. Upon the conclusion of the testing, the Postal Service chose the device most liked by the carriers who conducted the testing. This is an encouraging sign. There will be three phases of

deployment. The first deployment of 75,000 scanners will begin this summer in mostly large metropolitan areas and in other areas involved in the same day and Sunday parcel delivery initiatives. Phase two of an additional 75,000 scanners is expected to be completed by the end of 2014 and the final phase to be concluded in 2015.

These new devices will have larger screens and a full keyboard of numbers and letters. The scanning capability is supposed to be greatly improved and should reduce the number of instances of manual input of article numbers because a bar code will not scan. These scanners are also touted to have more diverse scanning capability with software updates. Discussion on expanding and improving use continues with the national parties.

## Route Inspections

With many branches scheduled for route inspections in the next couple of months, our office will be available to provide route inspection training if requested. Please contact us in advance so we can schedule this training to coincide with your inspection schedules.

## Workplace Conflicts

As your NBA, I receive reports, talk to carriers and union officials alike and clearly recognize that we have post offices in which the environment is hostile, stressful and not conducive to a work place where you can come in to work without a daily fight. I continue to work to address those managers who promote conflict and our office has been successful in many places.

*But there are still too many places where the only way managers know how to manage is with ignorance, threats and intimidation.*

If your office experiences these situations, please contact our office so we can begin to address these problem areas. Correcting these work sites is often times a process that takes longer than I would like, but if we get frustrated, give up and quit the fight, Management wins. **I have no intention of quitting!!!**

**In Unionism,**

**Patrick C. Carroll,  
National Business Agent**

# COLCPE Contributors

## Belleville

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

## Dearborn Main

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

## Dearborn Annex

- ✓ Carl Anderson
- ✓ Timothy Bailey
- ✓ Michael Bergin
- ✓ Peter Borella (R)
- ✓ James Bryant
- ✓ Mark Cornett
- ✓ Sherry Garcia
- ✓ Joe Garcia
- ✓ Mark Judd
- ✓ Thomas Klecha
- ✓ Roderick Lelental
- ✓ Melvin MacDonald
- William Mather (R)
- ✓ Jackie McGregory
- ✓ Rosemary Miller
- ✓ Karen Regentik
- ✓ Darren Smith
- ✓ Jerry Taylor
- ✓ Cathy Tondreau (R)

- ✓ Steven White

## Dearborn Heights

- ✓ Rich Alaniz
- ✓ Jim Hales
- James Likeric (R)
- ✓ Ian Mair
- James Powell (R)
- ✓ Richard Ramsey
- ✓ Alan Swintek
- ✓ Christopher Tostige
- ✓ Denise Viola
- ✓ James Wolstencroft

## Dundee

- ✓ Chatrina Gensler
- ✓ Jerome Mannlein (R)

## Flat Rock

- ✓ Lillian Bogosian

## Grosse Isle

- ✓ Christopher Biegalski
- ✓ Kimberly Bumbul
- ✓ Thomas Harris
- ✓ Virginia McNew
- ✓ Mary Renaud
- ✓ Gloria Warthen

## Inkster

- Phil Ashford
- ✓ Thad Dillard
- ✓ Eric Gant
- ✓ Roy McMahan
- ✓ Calvin Simmons (R)

## Lincoln Park

- ✓ Thelma Balogh (R)
- ✓ Richard Dedeaux
- ✓ Laura Fitzgerald
- ✓ Paula Hall
- ✓ Ronald Hausch

- ✓ David Kemp

- ✓ Nicole Pace
- ✓ Karen Purvis
- David Reise
- ✓ Barbara Scaggs
- ✓ Scott Watts

## Monroe

- ✓ Chris Carmon
- ✓ Joanna MacKinnon
- ✓ Kenneth Masserant (R)
- ✓ Erik Venzke

## Northville

- Betty Karsten

## Plymouth

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

## Rockwood

## Taylor

- ✓ Patricia Davis (R)
- ✓ Roger Gilliam
- ✓ James Kelly (R)
- William Lowe (R)
- ✓ Frances McGuckin
- ✓ Walter Modelski (R)
- ✓ Bob Parisi
- ✓ Bob Sedore (R)
- ✓ Irene Sly (R)
- ✓ Michele Szafran
- Jeanie Youtsey

## Temperance

- ✓ Kari Guthrie

## Trenton

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

## Westland

- ✓ Arnita Adams
- ✓ Bertha Battista
- ✓ Lori Boljesic
- ✓ Veronica Chambers
- ✓ Michael Chevillot
- ✓ Wanda Clark
- ✓ Ted Gagnon
- ✓ Albert Gilliespie
- ✓ Jacinthia Hogans-Bunch
- ✓ Caprice Hughes
- Katrina Jones
- David Lehman (R)
- ✓ Walter McGregory
- ✓ Ladonna Miller
- ✓ Marie Shannon
- ✓ Edward Sikora
- ✓ Carol Thornton
- ✓ Raymond Tobin
- ✓ Tammy Viecelli
- ✓ Amy Williams
- ✓ Calvin Winbush

## Canton

- ✓ Dianne Campbell
- ✓ Lois Fritz
- ✓ Joe Golonka (R)

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- ✓ Samantha Hales
- ✓ Manuel Ballesteros
- ✓ Paul Bordine
- ✓ Timothy Bowsher (R)
- ✓ Alan Grajczyk
- ✓ Willise Jeffery
- ✓ Gene Meadows
- ✓ 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)



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### 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.

Karen Lee (Monroe) **\$3,199,992.00**

Michael Chevillot (Westland) \$250,000.00

Mark Winisky (Plymouth) \$25,600.00

Felicia Bryant (Westland) \$3,500.00

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 **1.85 billion** in new revenue.



# Brookfield® 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)

PROCLAMATION

*"The United States Postal Service shall be operated as a basic and fundamental service provided to the people by the Government of the United States, authorized by the Constitution, created by Act of Congress, and supported by the people. The Postal Service shall have as its basic function the obligation to provide postal services to bind the Nation together.... It shall provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons in all areas and shall render postal services to all communities."*

— POSTAL REORGANIZATION ACT, AS AMENDED

## A POSTAL UNION ALLIANCE

The U.S. Postal Service is under unprecedented attack. A congressionally-manufactured financial crisis drains the USPS of vital resources. Six-day delivery is under constant threat of elimination. The reduction of service standards and the elimination of half of the nation's mail processing centers has slowed service and wiped out tens of thousands of good jobs. Post offices in cities and small towns are being sold or closed or having their hours cut back. Corporate privatizers seek to gain control over larger segments of postal operations – and to get their hands on the Postal Service's \$65 billion of annual revenue. The Postmaster General's policies of subcontracting and degrading service are fueling the privatization drive.

The four postal unions stand together to end the attack. We stand for a *public* Postal Service, enhancement and expansion of service, and protection of good union jobs in our communities. We stand with the people of our country in defense of their right to a universal postal service operated in the public interest.

We commit to work together to:

- Maintain six-day and home delivery.
- Protect and restore service standards and mail processing facilities.
- Maintain full-time, full-service public post offices in every community.
- Oppose the subcontracting of work and privatization of services.
- Expand postal services to include basic banking, notary, check-cashing and other services.
- End the corporate welfare of excessive pre-sort discounts.
- Form a common front in the fight for genuine postal reform legislation.
- Organize joint actions and speak in a united voice.
- Unite with other labor unions in defense of the rights of postal workers and all workers.
- Encourage joint efforts of our union members at the local level.
- Support maximum cooperation in the next round of contract negotiations.
- Build an alliance with the American people in defense of the public postal service.

**WE STAND UNITED TO PROTECT AMERICA'S POSTAL SERVICE!**



Fredric Rolando  
President, National Association of Letter Carriers



Mark Dimondstein  
President, American Postal Workers Union



John Hegarty  
President, National Postal Mail Handlers Union



Jeanette Dwyer  
President, National Rural Letter Carriers Association



# Annual Branch Picnic Sunday June 22nd

On Sunday, June 22nd 2014, from Noon – 6 p.m. Branch 2184 will once again host a picnic for our members and their families.

There will be food, music and activities are planned for children of all ages, including a dunk tank, inflatables and pony rides. The picnic will be held on the grounds of the Branch 2184 Office at 6969 Monroe Street in Taylor (just north of Ecorse Road). This day of family fun is free to all members and their families.



Watch for further information as it becomes available, including information that will be posted on Union Bulletin Boards in each station.

**Circle Sunday, June 22nd on your calendars and make plans to attend!**



Taylor, MI 48180  
6969 Monroe

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

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