

# Branch 2184 ... "Speaks"

Official Publication of Branch 2184, NALC, AFL-CIO

March/April 2011

**Branch 2184**  
**Western Wayne County, MI**  
**National Association**  
**of Letter Carriers**  
**AFL - CIO**  
6969 Monroe  
Taylor, MI 48180-1815  
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NALC2184@sbcglobal.net  
Web Site [www.nalc2184.org](http://www.nalc2184.org)

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

**Calendar**  
**Branch Meetings:**  
May 4th, 2011  
June 1st, 2011  
(7:30 p.m. - Union Hall)

**Retirees Meetings:**  
May 11th, 2011  
June 8th, 2011  
(12:30 p.m. - Union Hall)

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## President's Report

### Tragedy in Dundee

The day started like any other. On the way out to her route she reminded her fellow postal employees to "have a good day." One carrier said she made sure to do that daily before she left for her assignment. The snow had melted and you could actually see the ground; it was a reprieve from the winter that seemed would never end. According to her fellow workers, she always preached to them about working and being safe. By all accounts working safely was important to her and this year's weather with all the snow and ice had made the job of working safely even more difficult than usual.

But this day was different. The weather took a break, you could actually get your footing without worrying about slipping or taking a fall.

*"And think of her as living  
in the hearts of those she touched...  
For nothing loved is ever lost-  
and she was loved so much."*

E. Brenneman

One of her friends relayed to me about how she had spoken with her earlier in the day and how excited she was that she was going to finish on time! No one could have known that the cement porch was structurally unsound. By looking at it you could not tell that the four-inch cement cap had integrity problems and that the steel beams supporting it were rusting and corroding away. There were only three steps up to the porch itself, and no one could have known that at one time there was a cellar beneath the porch.

As she effected delivery and turned to leave, the porch gave way. Nancy fell nearly ten feet, and was crushed when a section of the porch slab fell on her chest. We received the call here at the Branch office late in the afternoon of March 8 that one of our carriers had been killed in the

(Continued on page 3)

### Officers

President .....	Mark Judd
Executive Vice President .....	Jim Wolstencroft
Vice President .....	Carol Clark
Recording Secretary .....	Cindy Trzeciak
Financial Secretary Treas .....	Cathy Tondreau
Sergeant at Arms .....	Walt Gregory
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)
Dearborn (Main).....	Darryl Clay
.....	Jacqueline Wiggins
.....	Ed Williams (alt)
Dearborn (Annex).....	Melvin MacDonald
.....	Roderick LeLental
.....	Tom Klecha (alt)
Dearborn Heights.....	Jim Hales
.....	Chris Tostige
.....	James Wolstencroft (alt)
.....	Denise Viola (alt)
Dundee.....	Deborah Standifer
Flat Rock .....	Gloria Warthen
Grosse Ile.....	Tom Harris
Inkster .....	Bryon Hendricks
Lincoln Park .....	Dave Reise
.....	Scott Watts
Monroe .....	Erik Venzke
.....	Chris Carmon (alt)
Northville.....	Bridgette Sams
.....	Beth Maleszewski (alt)
.....	Jim Holland (alt)
Plymouth.....	Don Oziemski
.....	Dan Marek
.....	Bob Venning (alt)
.....	Patricia Linna (alt)
.....	Heather Childers (alt)
Rockwood.....	Gloria Warthen
Taylor .....	Michele Szafran
.....	Fran Phillips
Temperance .....	313-295-1640
Trenton .....	Casey Pennington
Westland.....	Walter Gregory
.....	Joan Hicks
.....	Ted Gagnon
Canton.....	Dianne Campbell
.....	Lois Fritz
.....	Kathy Hayes (alt)
Ypsilanti .....	Rick Rider
.....	Mike Tredway
.....	Alan Grajczyk (alt)
.....	Malcolm Muscato (alt)

### Address Correction Requested

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

**Call 313-295-1640**

(Continued from page 1)

**President's Report**

line of duty. Nancy Schafer was a letter carrier in Dundee for nearly 18 years, and was active in her community and church. Nancy was a person who touched everyone she met. Our deepest sympathy and condolences go out to Nancy's family and it is with great sadness that we report of her passing. Rest in peace, dear sister. You will not be forgotten.

**MISALC Wants You!**

The Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers President Dan Florkowski has sent the Branch a letter inviting any letter carrier that was part of the 1970 strike to join us for lunch at this year's State Convention. The convention will be held at the Somerset Inn in Troy on May 20. The State Association wishes to honor those members who stood tall during the 1970 strike on what would be the 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary. We need to know how many will be attending so that we can make the appropriate travel arrangements. Tentatively the plan would be to have a shuttle bus or van leave from the Branch Hall and take the participants to the luncheon and back. If you would be interested or know of someone who might be, please call the Hall and let us know. The deadline for notifying the state association is fast approaching (May 13). Please give us a call if you are interested.

**Scholarship Changes**

Recently the Executive Board made some recommendations to update and change our Branch Scholarships. At the March Branch meeting the membership approved the proposed changes. Some of the new changes include changing the number of \$500 scholarships from two to four, and allowing for both full and part time students to apply. Also the age requirements have been changed. Please make sure to read this year's scholarship rules to see if your family might be able to qualify for this Union benefit.

**MDA Fundraiser**

Branch 2184 is sponsoring a subscription fundraiser in conjunction with BP Sales and the Detroit Media partnership the publisher of the *Free Press* and *Detroit News*. If you sign up for a trial three-month subscription for \$20 your subscription price will be donated to MDA in our Branch's name. You also will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$500 gift certificate of your choice. A simple and painless way for you to donate to MDA. And your subscription price is also tax deductible. The drawing for the gift certificate will be held on Labor Day!

**Personal Note**

As many of you know my sister Andrea has been suffering from cancer for the past year and half. Andrea served as a Steward in Taylor and was always very active in the Branch affairs. On March 25, she passed away at home with her family by her side. Your care and concern helped lift her spirits and kept her going even during the darkest of times. My family and I will never be able to thank you enough for your kindness, support and prayers.

-- *Mark Judd*  
*President*

**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**

# EVP's Report

## Never Enough

Do you ever get told by your supervisor that you're not doing enough?

Do you ever get questioned by your supervisor why it takes you so long to complete your assignment?

Do you ever get threatened with discipline when you tell your supervisor you can't complete your assignment within 8 hours?

Most letter carriers have experienced this on a daily basis. Some will experience it every now and then. Then there are the rare few that get told what a great job they do. No matter what degree you try to satisfy management and obtain their goals it's **Never Enough**. So when you get up to go to work every morning you should realize right away that no matter what you do, it's **Never Enough**.

Don't take these assaults on your alleged lack of productivity personally. After all it is their job to get the most out of you. You can do nothing more and should do nothing less, only your best. So in these times of changes and the never ending efforts to get you to do more, just do your best and be proud of that work you do. Everything else will work itself out. Don't stress yourself out because the boss thinks you're worthless, because after all it's **Never Enough**. As a matter of fact why don't we take the I've **Had Enough** approach. If I'm doing my job to the best of my ability and within the contract, I don't give a damn what the supervisor thinks of my work. Remember that if you're not working as the handbooks and manuals say then management must be corrective, not punitive to correct the deficiency. So let the managers get all stressed out when they can't reach their unattainable goals. After all it is **Never Enough**.

April 5<sup>th</sup> 2011 the republican led House Oversight and Government Reform Committee had a hearing "Are Postal Workforce Costs Sustainable?" The committee held this hearing to question

the Postmaster General, The Board of Governors and the President of the APWU on why the Postal Service had reached a tentative agreement. Even though the agreement has not been ratified the committee wanted to express their disapproval with the agreement and ask the USPS why it could not do better (extract more from the APWU).

One member of the Board of Governors, James Miller said that they did not want to go to arbitration because the current laws are biased against management and in favor of the labor. He also said, "The history of arbitration in our case is one where labor wins and management loses". First of all, nothing is farther from the truth. This is what kind of opposition we are facing when it comes to collective bargaining. This is an attempt by Mr. Miller to tell Congress that it must change the laws in how the USPS negotiates with its unions and take away the so-called bias against management. Second since when does Congress want to get into negotiations with the Postal Unions. The answer is that they don't, they would just as well not negotiate at all and do away with collective bargaining. So in a day when unions and their collective bargaining rights are under an all out attack, you have a tentative agreement between the employer (USPS) and employees (APWU) and it's **Not Enough**.

This should serve as a wake-up call to all members of this great union to reach out and get involved in any way they can. The positive image that comes from what letter carriers do towards MDA, the worlds largest Food Drive (May 14 2011) and other community activities is priceless and is greatly appreciated. There is one area that, as a branch, we fall short in. This is COLCPE (Committee on Letter Carriers Political Education). The Branch is currently at about 7%. What this means is that only 7 out 100 letter carriers in Branch 2184 give to COLCPE. The reason why I give to COLCPE is that I'm doing my best to get elected officials (Congress) in office that have letter carrier and USPS interest in mind. Please keep in mind that we did not do so well in the November

2010 elections and are fighting for our collective lives in bargaining for wages and working conditions. The time is now to start planning for November 2012. So please give some serious consideration to donating to COLCPE and together we can oust the representatives who are obviously against us. All you need to do is call the Branch Office with your Employee ID number and Postal Lite-Blue PIN number and we can get you set up. If you prefer, with the same information go to [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org) and click on to give me 5 COLCPE. Until there is 100% participation in the Branch it's **Never Enough.** Oh no, what have I become.

-- Jim Wolstencroft  
Executive Vice President

### "DON'T WHINE - ORGANIZE."

Well here we go again with more anti-worker sentiment's. By using divide and conquer tactics they are turning workers against each other. With all the negative things that are happening the positive is still being revealed. You can notice this as people stand together. When all of us stand together and speak up

there is nothing that we can not do. By the next election we will have learned the true colors of the other side and where they stand. All of us need to go out and vote for labor friendly candidates, so that we can protect our pay and benefits and maintain our way of life. Everything is on the table and it's up to us to move with courage. Don't let all the negative news of the decline in mail volume or the CORE and FSS talks bring us down. We need to work smart and safely, and not let management change your perspective.

Little things we can do add up, for example paying our bills by using stamps and not online. We can make a choice to mail all our packages using USPS, not FEDEX or UPS. It is self-defeating to not use the company you work for.

So get out and support our food drive, it means a great deal now. And, give to COLCPE because the job you save might be your own.

Thanks to everyone in Lincoln Park that submitted leads, and especially for Customer Connect coordinator Paula Hall. Lincoln Park was #1 in the Branch for 2010. "Great Job"

-- Scott Watts  
Lincoln Park Steward



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- Brookfield provides assistance for Conventions, Seminars, and Charity fund raising events!

### Contact Your Brookfield Representative!

**Robert Kreager**

Branch 2184 Retired

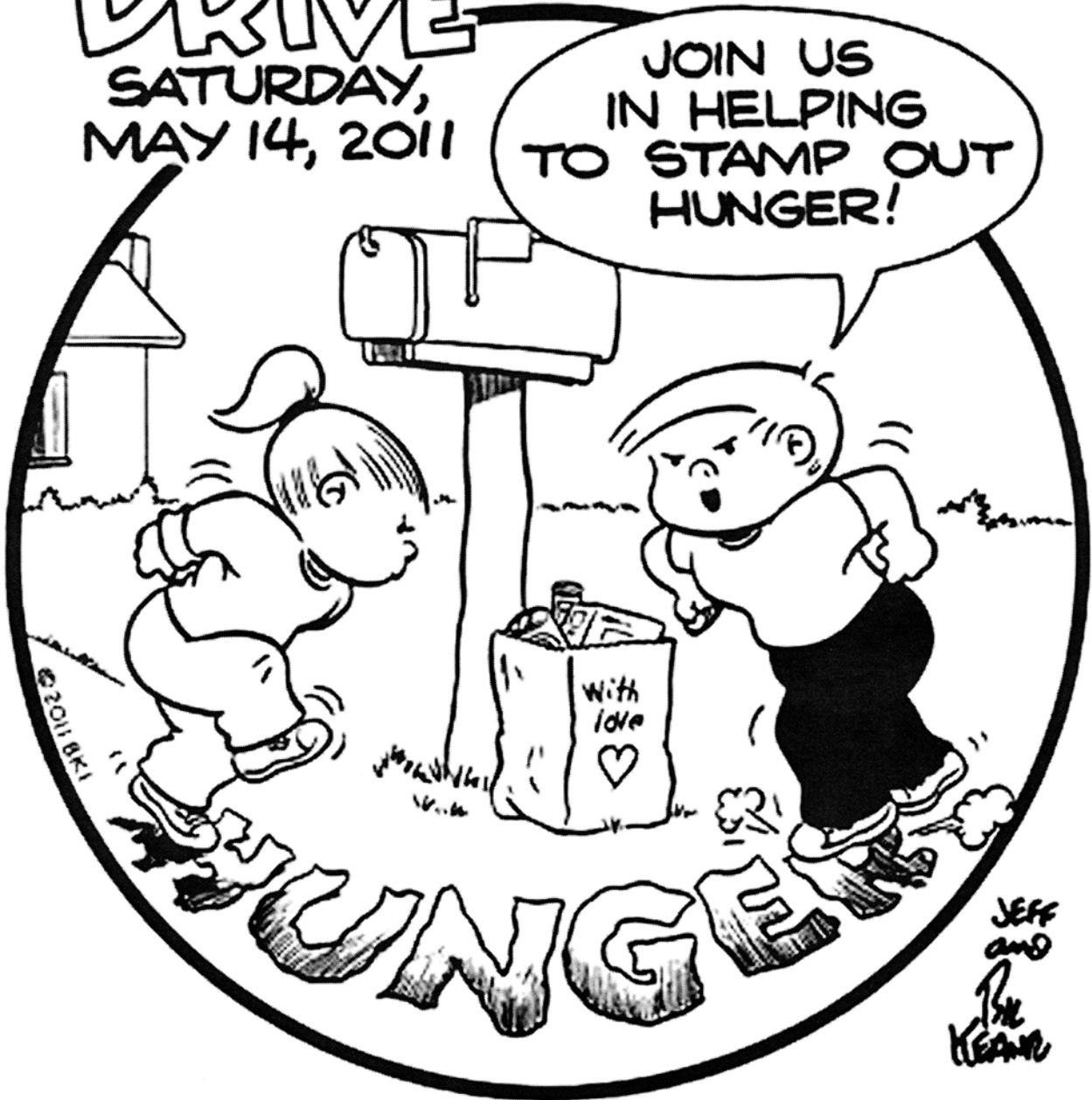
1802 Ford Blvd. Lincoln Park, MI 48146-3956  
313-386-0527 (voice) 313-386-3270 (fax)

# LETTER CARRIERS'

# FOOD DRIVE

SATURDAY,  
MAY 14, 2011

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NATIONAL PARTNERS



# Branch 2184 2011 Scholarship Application

## Qualifications:

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

**\*\* TO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP YOU MUST BE ENROLLED IN OR ENTERING AN ELIGIBLE SCHOOL FULL OR PART-TIME IN THE FALL OF 2011.**

## Awards:

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

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

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

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

**Applications  
Must be Received by  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2011**

# "Special Delivery" for MDA

Branch 2184 and BP Sales, in conjunction with Detroit Media Partnership is sponsoring the "Special Delivery" MDA Fundraiser.

For a \$20.00 entry fee you will receive the following:

\***Home delivery** of the Free Press or Detroit News for 3 months  
(That's 50% off the regular price)

\***Automatic entry** in a drawing to win a **\$500.00** gift certificate of your choice

\*The Muscular Dystrophy Association receives a \$20.00 donation to help **Deliver the Cure**

To begin your "Special Delivery" mail the completed form and \$20 check (made payable to DETROIT MEDIA PARTNERSHIP) to the 2184 Branch Union hall.

Forms are also available at the hall if you prefer to enroll in person or with a credit card.

Newspaper offer applies for new starts only  
Available in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw and Livingston Counties  
Drawing for the \$500 gift certificate will be held on Labor Day

**Detroit Free Press**

**The Detroit News**

Home delivery of the Thursday, Friday, and Sunday newspaper and 7-day access to the digital edition. **3 months- \$20** (50% off regular price for the first three months)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Sold: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Tel: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check  Cash

Amount Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Sold by 2184



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*WE WANT TO MAKE YOU  
HAPPY!*

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9 a.m. - Noon, Saturday

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# Customer Connect

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

- Julia Diehl (Westland) - \$10,000.00
- Christen Tharp (Westland) - \$5,000.00
- Michelle Rodriguez (Belleville) - \$12,000.00
- Paula Hall (Lincoln Park) - \$42,000.00
- Paula Hall (Lincoln Park) - \$105,248.00
- Karen Lee (Monroe) - \$50,000.00
- Christen Tharp (Westland) - \$560.00
- Dawn Hickman (Lincoln Park) - \$80,000.00
- Cheryl Randles (Westland) - \$60,000.00
- Deb Bentley (Belleville) - \$10,000.00

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

- Retirement Information
- OWCP Information
- “OWCP” Forms
- Branch Calendar
- “FMLA” forms
- Online “SPEAKS” Newsletter

### **Steward Resources:**

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

# 2011 COLCPE Contributors

## Belleville

- ✓ Gregory Bodziak
- ✓ Bruce Prevost

## Dearborn Main

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

## Dearborn Annex

- Nancy Altman
- ✓ Timothy Bailey
- ✓ Michael Bergin
- Joe Garcia
- ✓ Mark Judd
- ✓ Roderick Lelental
- ✓ Melvin MacDonald
- ✓ Carol Macieczni
- ✓ Karen Regentik

## Dearborn Heights

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

## Flat Rock

- ✓ Amy Degrand

## Grosse Isle

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

## Inkster

- ✓ Bryon Hendricks
- ✓ Roy McMahan

## Lincoln Park

- ✓ Paula Hall
- ✓ Scott Watts

## Monroe

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

## Northville

- Elizabeth Karsten
- ✓ Beth Maliszewski
- ✓ Bridgette Sams

## Plymouth

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

## Rockwood

- ✓ Gloria Warthen

## Taylor

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

## Temperance

- ✓ Kari Guthrie

## Trenton

- ✓ Anthony Conley
- ✓ Gwen Heffinger
- ✓ Dennis Lucas
- ✓ Casey Pennington

## Westland

- ✓ Arnita Adams
- ✓ Michele Barnes
- ✓ Lori Boljesic
- ✓ Felicia Bryant
- ✓ Kenyatte Byron
- ✓ Veronica Chambers

- ✓ Wenoia Clark

- ✓ Ted Gagnon

- ✓ Albert Gilliespie

- ✓ Joan Hicks

- ✓ Caprice Hughes

- ✓ Katrina Jones

- ✓ Walter McGregory

- ✓ Ladonna Miller

- ✓ Sharonlynn Roulo

- ✓ Edward Sikora

- ✓ Christen Tharp

- ✓ Raymond Tobin

- ✓ Tammy Viecegli

- ✓ Amy Williams

- ✓ Calvin Winbush

## Canton

- ✓ Dianne Campbell

- ✓ Lois Fritz

- Douglas Koluch

## Ypsilanti

- ✓ Alan Grajczyk

- ✓ Kimika Griffin

- Malcolm Moscato

- Mike Radecki

- ✓ Richard Rider

- ✓ Michael Tredway

## Retired

- ✓ Mary Abbott

- ✓ Thelma Balogh

- George Bolash

- ✓ Timothy Bowsher

- ✓ Joe Golonka

- ✓ Mike Karjala,

- ✓ James Kelly

- William Lowe

- Jerome, Mannlein

- William Mather

- ✓ Walter Modelski

- James Powell

- ✓ Irene Sly

- ✓ Cathy Tondreau

- ✓ Cindy Trzeciak

- ✓ Margaret Zywicki

- ✓ Leonard Zawisa

Protect your job "Join COLCPE today!"  
Call 313-295-1640

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

Committee On Letter Carriers Political Education  
(COLCPE)

**Start your COLCPE automatic contribution NOW!**



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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.

*(Clip and keep with you while working)*

**"The Time Is Now"**

-- *Walt McGregory*

*Branch 2184 COLCPE Coordinator*

You don't have to look far to see what is going on across America. It is here, right smack in our faces. From retiree pension's being taxed, to teachers receiving layoff notices, to firefighters and police being laid off and the list goes on and on. It's an all out attack on working families.

Just last week, the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress decided to politicize postal bargaining by having a hearing to inquire about the tentative contract between the Postal Service and the APWU. Postmaster General and the APWU President both testified at this hearing on why they negotiated such a contract and how this contract was in the best interest of all parties involved.

Now more than ever, our jobs are on the political front page. We need every Letter Carrier

*(Continued on page 12)*

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(Continued from page 11)

"The Time Is Now"

in our branch doing his/her part to help protect all of our jobs as letter carriers. The way to do that is COLCPE. "COLCPE" is the NALC's political action committee that makes political contributions



and other political spending to advance the interest of letter carriers and protect and improve their wages and benefits. All contributions from members to COLCPE are voluntary. With legislation pending in Congress that will affect us as letter carriers, it is imperative that we all get involved. Contributions are not tax-deductible.

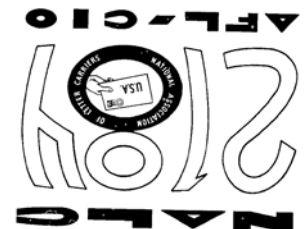
As of 4/12/2011, Branch 2184 had a total of 76 members contributing \$5 or more to COLCPE by automatic payroll deductions. That is a total of 6.36% of our members. That percentage is higher when the occasional contributors are calculated in. It is actually closer to 7% of total members contributing. All of your branch officers are leading by example and are signed up for COLCPE. Look for your name in the next Branch 2184 "Speaks".

There is a new 2011 COLCPE "GIMME 5" Branch Competition that was announced at a meeting of the State legislative Chairs, and it will be in the May Issue of the Postal Record. The competition will end in November 2011. Results will be published in the February 2012 Issue of the Postal Record along with an individual raffle.

Branches with 451 members or more at the start of the competition were divided up into competitive groups of 3, 4 or 5. There will be 33 total groups based on their membership size and current "Gimme 5" automatic contributing percentage. Branches will have just less than 5 months to sign up as many automatic "Gimme 5" contributors as possible. The branch with the highest percentage of "Gimme 5" Contributors in the assigned group at the end on November 2011 will be declared the winner. In our Branch Category, the prizes are as follows: 33 groups of four branches - Each winning branch will win four \$100 gift cards.

I would like to thank all of the brothers and sisters of our branch who have done their part thus far in protecting our jobs and futures. I invite the rest of our brothers and sisters to sign up for "Gimme 5" COLCPE.

**The Time Is Now!**



Taylor, MI 48180  
6969 Monroe

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

