

Branch 2184 ... "Speaks"

Official Publication of Branch 2184, NALC, AFL-CIO

July/August 2007

Branch 2184
National Association
of Letter Carriers
AFL - CIO
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Office Hours:
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

Calendar
Branch Meetings:
Sept 5, 2007
October 3, 2007
7:30 p.m. - Union Hall

Retirees Meetings:
Sept 12, 2007
October 10, 2007
12:30 p.m. - Union Hall

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President's Report

Tentative National Agreement Reached Ballots in the Mail

On July 12, 2007 the NALC Executive Council unanimously approved the new tentative agreement. After months of intensive lobbying on Capitol Hill (your COLCPE dollars at work) and the threat of impending legislative action (which would have prevented the outsourcing of letter carrier work) the USPS returned to the bargaining table. According to the July 13 NALC Bulletin NALC President Bill Young and Postmaster General John Potter reached the tentative agreement after an extended period of negotiations in June and July. President Young said "This agreement represents collective bargaining at its best, it's a win win deal for the Postal Service and the nation's city letter carriers. It offers improved job security and fair wages for letter carriers and provides an intelligent and responsible way forward on the issues of flats automation and outsourcing." As we go to press, contract ratification ballots should have been mailed to all our members and must be received by the Ballot Committee by August 27.

Contract Highlights

Wage Increases -The tentative agreement calls for an 8.5 percent wage increase over the five-year contract period (2006-2011). City letter carriers would receive five general wage increases. The first increase would be paid retroactively to November 2006.

COLA -The contract calls for the continuation of twice yearly COLA adjustments. A one-time cash payment of \$686 will be paid upon ratification of the agreement.

Health Insurance -By the end of the contract, letter carriers will be responsible for 20% of the current cost of health benefits. This increase of 5% would reduce the cost to the USPS from the current 85% they currently pay to 80%. Under the agreement the USPS would retain its share of the health care costs (85%) in 2007 and 2008 but reduces the amount

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Trustee	Patricia Linna
Trustee	Gloria Warthen
Editor	Leonard Zawisa

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.....	Ed Williams
.....	Nikki Passage (alt)
Dearborn Annex	Melvin MacDonald
.....	Darrin Mifsud
.....	Roderick Lelethal (alt)
.....	Tom Klecha (alt)
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.....	Dianne Daley
.....	Kathy Hayes (alt)
Ypsilanti.....	Alan Grajczyk
.....	Rick Rider
.....	Jim Riddle (alt)
.....	Scott Hurd (alt)



Branch 2184 Speaks is published 6 to 10 times a year by Branch 2184, National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO.

The opinions expressed in this publication, July/August 2007, 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.



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*(Continued from page 1)**President's Report*

covered by the employer by 2% in 2009 and an additional 1% for each of the next three years.

Protections against Contracting Out -The proposed contract includes protections against the contracting out of city carrier work. The protection comes in the form of two new Memoranda of Understanding. One prohibits the outsourcing of any existing city delivery during the term of the contract while the other establishes a National Joint Committee on subcontracting.

Abolishment of Casuals -The contract will abolish the use of casuals in the city carrier craft and would replace them with TE's Transitional Employees. The current 3.5% limit currently applied to casuals will now be applied for the hiring of TE's.

Branch Picnic

On Sunday June 24, we held our annual family picnic for MDA. Once again this year the weather was perfect and over 300 members and their families enjoyed the hospitality of Branch 2184 and its members. This year while enjoying the fun and festivities we were also able to raise over \$1500 for MDA. Special thanks go out to our picnic coordinator Cindy Trzeciak, our head grounds keeper Leonard Zawisa, our chief ticket taker and bean counter Cathy Tondreau, our head grillmaster Jim "Wolstengriller" Wolstencroft and last but not least our top seller of raffle tickets once again this year Bob Kreager. I would also like to thank our many volunteers who also helped to make the picnic possible, Walt and Daria McGregory, Jim Powell, Casey Pennington, Ted Gagnon, Joe Golonka, Calvin Winbush, Sue Broge, Tim Bailey, Mel MacDonald, Ray Tobin, Scott Wandyg, Nancy Altman, John Dainus, Joe Pare, Darrin Mifsud, Andrea Smith, Sharon Baranowski, Helen Stacho, Mr. and Mrs. Bolash, Gloria Warthen, and James Colts. Please remember our corporate sponsors who are always there when we need them. Thanks again to our

special event sponsors, Congressman John Dingell, Ed Rice from Chase / Union Plus Mtg., John Doute from D&L Garden Center, John Stark from Sauk Trail Hills Development Corp., Sam Allie and Allie Brothers, John Jared and Brookfield Uniform, John Brancheau from Cuda Uniform and last but not least Mrs. Dinu from Brown's Bakery.

MDA Labor Day Canister Drive

Once again our Stewards will be passing around MDA canisters during the week leading into the Labor Day. Since its founding in 1950, the Muscular Dystrophy Association has become one of the nations largest and best-known voluntary health agencies. In 1953 the NALC was the first national sponsor for MDA. Please remember to keep the tradition alive and give generously when the canister reaches you.

-- *Mark Judd*
President

EVP Report

By the time you read this you will probably be working under the new National Agreement of 2006-2011. It is expected to be ratified on August 28, 2007.

In the new agreement were several National Pre-Arbitration and interpretive Step Resolutions. In particular is one which deals with D.O.I.S and the carriers reporting requirements? In short nothing really changed, but both parties agreed that DOIS is a management tool for estimating a carrier's daily workload. This is what your union leaders have been telling you for sometime now. This memo acknowledges in in writing that it is nothing more than a tool.

You as a carrier still have the responsibility to verbally inform management when you are of the

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opinion that you will be unable to case all mail distributed to the route, perform other required duties, and leave on schedule or when you will be unable to complete delivery of all mail. This is from the M-41 section 131.4. All that means is fill out your P.S. form 3996, and if curtailing mail your P.S. form 1571.

Don't be intimidated by what a management tool (supervisor) using another management tool (DOIS) says what your daily workload is.

In the Memo it states: DOIS projections are not the sole determinant of a carriers leaving or return time, or daily workload. As such, the projections can not be used as the sole basis for corrective action.

With that said it seems that the Postal Service has too many tools in the shed.

The reason that you even have a contract to look at and vote on is all the work done by you the members. If it wasn't for the pressure that the NALC members put on Congress in the contracting out

battle, the Postal Service would not have been forced back to the bargaining table, The Postal Service was fearful of Congressional action of banning the contracting out all together and didn't want to risk that so for those of you who did their part, Congratulations.

-- *Jim Wolstencroft*
EVP

The Union is YOU!

Often times you hear on the workroom floor, "The union is..." add your own words here. Over the years it has become apparent to me that often what we view as a national organization can be corrected by one thing. That thing is you!

I've worked for the post office for over a decade and one thing remains constant, we are only as good as our members. The other day I was engaged in a conversation about how the union wasn't able

(Continued on page 12)



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First Wednesday of the Month
Retiree Meeting
Second Wednesday of the Month

7:30 p.m. at the Branch Hall

Calendar of Events

HolidaySeptember 3rd
 Branch MeetingSeptember 5th at 7:30pm
 Steward Meeting September 11th at 7:30pm
 Steward Meeting September 17th at 7:30pm
 Executive Board Sept 24th at 7:30pm
 Branch Meeting October 3rd at 7:30pm
 Holiday October 8th
 Steward Meeting October 16th at 7:30pm
 Steward Meeting October 22nd at 7:30pm
 Executive Board October 29th at 7:30pm

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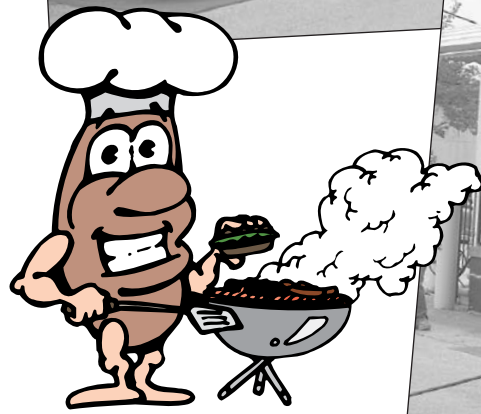
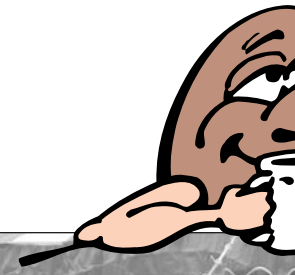
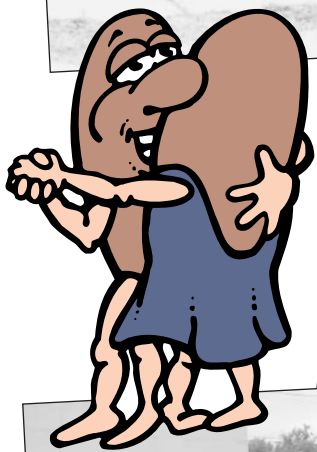
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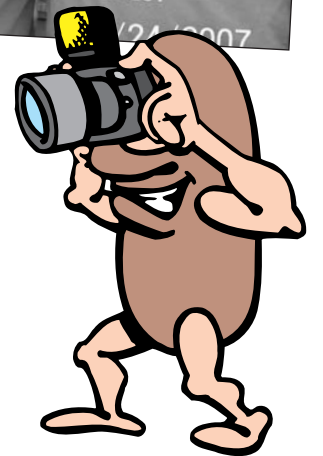
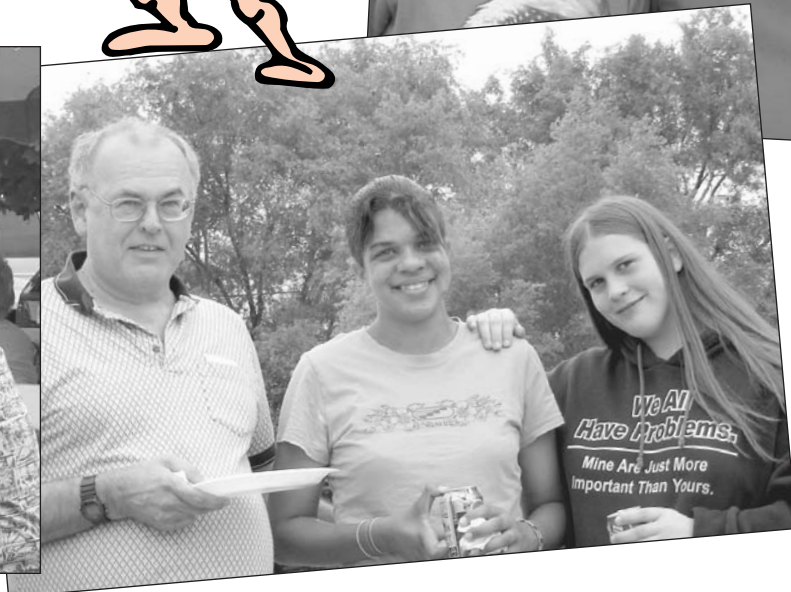
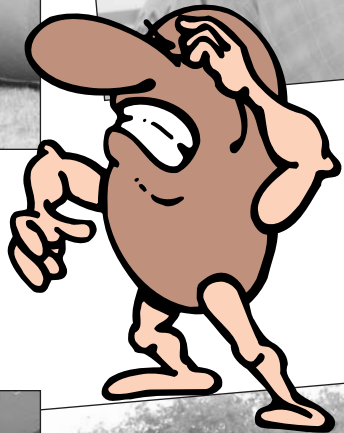


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Branch 2184 2007 Scholarship Application

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 and cannot be 24 years of age or older the year of application.
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 canceled. 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 college, trade school, community college 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-TIME IN THE FALL OF 2007**

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. Two (2) scholarships of \$500.00 each shall be allocated.
4. Two (2) 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 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
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2007 COLCPE Contributors

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James Wolstencroft

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Inkster

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Bryon Hendricks
Roy McMahan

Lincoln Park

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Monroe

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(Continued from page 4)

to protect someone from discipline. While this is sometimes true, discipline is issued, the steward is summoned, and unfortunately the discipline sticks. One can't help but think how powerless they are to stop someone from missing work, stealing, fighting or drinking on the job. I can't fathom how on earth this has become a sign of a union not working tirelessly to defend the rights of its dedicated members.

I can't help but realize that we as a nation have become increasingly one that denies personal responsibility. Time and time again you see on the news people blaming others for what is all too apparently their own fault. The examples go on indefinitely. The bartender who served them too many drinks, the family standing at a press conference blaming the school district for the clothing their child wore to school, the grieving parent blaming society for the crime their teen commits. So if your union, your job, is not working for you, get involved and help steer our course as an organization. Because the union is YOU!

I worked for a Master Chief in the Navy, he would repeat in his own salty, gravely voiced way, "If you don't like things the way they are, gain rank and change them." This was wise council. If you don't like the way things are run in the union then you

can continue to complain or you can get involved. You may be the person who has the idea, time, influence to help move the cause of the hard working men and women of the U.S.P.S. forward. You can not change me, I can not change you, and change comes from within. You have the power to change you only, that's why change comes from within. You can continue to stay on the outside, complain about how the union is this or the union is that, or you can get involved.

Change is inevitable. There is an old saying that if nothing changes, nothing changes. Well rest assured many, many things are changing right under the letter carriers feet. The next 8 to 10 months will be pivotal in determining our future as an organization. Pending legislation, rate increases and the implementation of the newly passed postal reform will challenge this organization. Automating flat sorting will increase the time carriers spend in the field and contracting out, if not stopped may well spell the eventual decline of letter carrier jobs. One way you can get involved is thru the contributions to COLCPE. If you feel that you could do a better job, if you feel you have a stake in the future of the U.S.P.S. and our union, get involved because change truly does come from within.

-- Ed Williams

Steward, Dearborn Main

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