



Branch 2184 ... "Speaks"

Official Publication of Branch 2184, NALC, AFL-CIO

May/June 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:

August
September 3rd, 2014
(7:30 p.m. - Union Hall)

Retirees Meetings:

August
September 10th, 2014
(12:30 p.m. - Union Hall)

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President's Report

CCA Conversions Continue

Since our first Branch 2184 City Carrier Assistant (CCA) conversions took place back in November 2013, a regular part of my President's Report has been devoted to reporting our latest CCAs who have become career/regular. With that in mind here is our next group of CCAs to make it to the contractual promised land. Our congratulations go out to the following "newly minted" career city letter carriers who have made regular: Anna Stanick, Belleville; Jacqueline Roberts, Dearborn; Tom Harvey, Inkster; Patricia Belleville, Monroe; Janay Brown, Northville; Walter Jones, Westland; Theresa McLean, Brian Frost and last but not least Jeric Thomas, all from Ypsilanti. This now brings the total number of Branch 2184 CCAs converted to career letter carrier status to 60.

Just a reminder, as new career city letter carriers your appointment entitles you to enroll in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Programs to select a health plan, and also the opportunity to enroll in the employer-sponsored life insurance plan. Remember that you have only 60 days from the time of your career appointment to make your selection 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 it comes to selecting a health care option keep in mind the NALC has their very own Health Benefit Plan, which is very cost competitive with the other major/name brand plans being offered. Unlike the other plans, the NALC Health Benefit Plan is owned by your Union and its members, and is 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 Branch 2184 office, or visit the NALC website at NALC.org.

(Continued on page 3)

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
.....	Katrina Jones
.....	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

(Continued from page 1)

President's Report**Picnic 2014**

What a way to start the first full day of summer! With the weather near perfect, and the big top tent in place just in case, another Branch 2184 family MDA picnic is in the record books. Approximately 450 branch members and their families participated in this year's event. Once again the picnic volunteers worked hard to make sure the event went flawlessly. The grill masters went through 400 hot dogs and 400 hamburgers, the concession food court area set a record for cotton candy and sno-cones served, and the "midway of fun" was hopping as usual, starting with the ever popular dunk tank. From there it was a quick trip over to the big top for some DJ music, then over to treasure island before hitting the moon walk, which was just a splash away from the slip and slide, and finally ending up with a ride on the ponies at the end of the field.

Special thanks as usual go out to our "Event Sponsors," Allie Brothers Uniform for sponsoring the Dunk Tank, and Bob "Cotton Candy" Kreager and Brookfield Uniforms for sponsoring the cotton candy machine. Thanks again to the many picnic volunteers who made it all possible, with special thanks to our head groundskeeper and Branch Activity co-coordinator Jim Powell for all his help in making sure the event was such a success.

Branch Scholarships

This year the Branch will be awarding four \$500 scholarships to dependent children of Branch 2184 members in good standing. Applicants must be high school or GED graduates who are currently enrolled or planning on attending college or technical school in the fall of 2014. Eligibility for the scholarships includes accredited and licensed colleges, trade schools, and schools of higher

education. For further information about this important member benefit see the application in this month's "SPEAKS" or go to our Branch web site www.nalc2184.org.

-- *Mark Judd*
President

EVP's Report**What the Hell is going on!**

There are congressmen out there that will do anything to privatize the Postal Service and do away with your jobs as federal employees. They talk of eliminating a day of delivery yet will open up the mailbox to any delivery company who wants to deliver mail when the Postal Service doesn't. They don't talk about maintaining the 6 day language in the yearly appropriations bill that has been there since 1983. They talk of eliminating a day of delivery to save money to pay for a Highway Transportation Fund, yet how does a financially strapped agency (USPS) who receives no tax dollars bail out a government fund (Highway Transportation) that is funded by tax dollars?

Don't be fooled by any of this BS, because that is exactly what it is. The problem here is that people (citizens) believe what they are told and can't read between the lines. This includes our own Postmaster General; he is 100% behind these insane ideas. So in effect you have a boss (Postmaster General) who could care less if there is a USPS and a Congress that sees us as a burden and drive us deeper into financial trouble.

What happens to BS when exposed, it goes away. That is exactly what happened to these ideas mentioned above. This does not mean that the next brilliant idea that comes our way will make any more sense than the ones before it. This is when we get ready for the next blow and believe me, its

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EVP's Report

coming. The attacks are far from over. I can't stress enough that these Congressmen want you out of a job, and could care less about your future. This would include the one out of four carriers that are veterans.

The good news is that there are still Congressmen that do actually make sense and are on our side. This is why we have been successful to this point. All we have to do is what we have been doing and answer the propaganda that says the USPS can't be fixed without cut, cut, and cut to survive, with fact. This American Institution, which happens to be your livelihood, is worth fighting for and I hope you agree by staying committed in saving it.

When are the powers to be going to get a clue that grievance payouts are hurting everyone that is associated with the Postal Service?

Now don't get me wrong here, when a violation occurs that calls for a compensatory remedy then it should be exactly that. What I'm referring to is the senseless and ruthless way that management violates the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). I am totally convinced that they (management) truly don't care and will continue to violate the CBA any way that they can. Now remember that the CBA is both our agreement (management and union), yet they (management) could care less about it. So you ask why they don't care. It actually pays for them to violate the contract because for every 5 carriers who are wrongfully forced into an overtime status only one or two may actually grieve the violation. This means that three or four carriers will waive their contractual rights and may have saved the Postal Service additional grievance payout. If management thinks it's too costly in paying out large amounts of money in grievance payments then why do they continue to

violate our (management/union) contract?

Offices may see different levels of violations or you just may be one of the lucky offices that don't have any violations. The largest violators in our branch seem to be Dearborn Annex, Monroe, Plymouth, Taylor. In these offices there has been thousands and thousands of dollars spent in grievance payout. Hopefully the violations in these offices will stop, but that's up to management to uphold their end of our Collective Bargaining Agreement.

The point I'm trying to make is don't let them off the hook if you feel that you have been wronged in pay and/or hours. See your steward to find out if a violation exists.

In Solidarity;

-- Jim Wolstencroft
Executive Vice President

BRANCH AUDIT REPORT

On Wednesday, July 9, 2014, Branch 2184's Trustees conducted an audit of the Branch finances and property. In accordance with our Branch Bylaws and applicable Federal Law, such audits are conducted twice yearly.

A thorough inspection of all Branch inventory in our building and storage unit found that everything was properly accounted for and documented. A thorough review of all Branch financial records, wage and expense vouchers, disbursements, and authorized expenditures found that each item had been properly documented and that all payments were made strictly in accordance with required procedures.

The next Branch audit is scheduled for January, 2015.

-- Joe Golonka
-- Patty Linna
--Gloria Warthen.

Branch 2184 Trustees

VP Report

Customer Connect

The Customer Connect Program has reached 1.9 BILLION dollars in new revenue for our employer since the inception of the program back in mid-2003. While every dollar counts for the Customer Connect program, here are a couple of leads that were submitted since October 2012 through April 2014 that turned into MILLION dollar sales or more, along with the carrier's name, the city where they work, and the name of the company and the revenue that was generated for our employer: Karen Lee from Monroe, MI Company (Pinch Me), sale amount, \$3,199,992; and Michael Chevillot, from Westland, MI Company (Heartland America), sale amount, \$1,000,000.

It is so easy to participate in the Customer Connect program. Just this past week, I saw UPS pull up next door and deliver to my neighbor's house while I was outside watering the grass. After UPS left, I asked my neighbor about the cost of the package as it related to delivery. He told me, and I then briefly explained to him that the Postal Service could have possibly saved him money with the delivery of his item. I got the information from my neighbor about the package, took it into work the next day, put it on a lead card and submitted it as a lead. It was that easy.

Even if this lead doesn't turn into a sale for our employer, the fact that I participated in the program by submitting a lead drives our office participation percentage up. This in turns gives my office a chance to win a breakfast on the Detroit District for carrier participation in the program. Carrier participation is key. All level Post Offices of 18-20 compete against other Post Offices of that size. Level 21's against 21s. Level 22 offices against 22s, and level 24s against 24s. Good Luck!

COLCPE

We are still accepting COLCPE donations over the summer at the union office. If you are an

annual COLCPE donator, mail your COLCPE check or money order to our office at 6969 Monroe, Taylor, MI 48180. If you need assistance in signing up for COLCPE, don't hesitate to call the office and a branch officer will be happy to assist you. You can also see your shop steward for assistance with signing up for COLCPE. Your COLCPE dollars are hard at work in this election season helping to elect candidates that support the Postal Service. If you haven't signed up for the "GIMME 5" program, what are you waiting for? The job you save just might be your own.

BRANCH PICNIC

Branch 2184's annual picnic was a success. Between 400 and 500 Branch 2184 members and their families came out to the branch grounds Sunday June 22nd, 2014 and enjoyed good food, music, Bounce Houses, ponies and so much more. Thanks to all the volunteers for helping set up and clean up afterwards. Can't wait till the next picnic in June 2015.

CCA UNIFORM BANK

Thanks to all the Branch 2184 letter carriers that have made the CCA uniform bank a success thus far. CCA's are able to come over to the branch during normal business hours and choose entire uniforms including rain and snow gear. If you would like to contribute to the uniform bank, just bring in to your office gently used uniforms and give them to your shop steward. You can also drop off the uniforms directly at the branch office.

Kids are out of school, remember to drive with caution while delivering on your routes.

Thanks for all that you do, and see you September 3rd, 2014 at the next branch membership meeting.

In Unionism,
-- *Walt McGregory*
Vice President

LETTER CARRIER HOT WEATHER SAFETY

Heat-related illness is a very real hazard for all letter carriers, and many carriers are affected by the symptoms of heat illness each year. The physical exertion required with the delivery of mail, which typically coincides with the hottest part of the day, can lead to debilitating symptoms such as dehydration or even more serious problems for those who do not properly prepare and compensate for the heat. A lack of good ventilation and air circulation in most postal vehicles also contributes to heat-related problems for letter carriers. Because of their design, postal vehicles act as hot boxes that collect and intensify heat from the sun, in a small-scale example of the "greenhouse effect."

One of the properties of warm air is that it can hold considerably more moisture than cold air, hence the expression "it's not the heat, it's the humidity." Humid air will significantly increase the discomfort and potential risk of heat illness because it decreases the ability of the skin to cool the body through the evaporation of perspiration. The chill that we sometimes feel when stepping out of a pool is caused by the evaporation of water on our skin. Water evaporates more rapidly into dry air, hence cooling is more pronounced. As moisture in the air increases, evaporation is inhibited.

Letter carriers should not be fooled by relative humidity values that are typically in the 30 to 50 percent range on summer afternoons. That may seem low, but "relative" humidity is merely a value for the amount of moisture air *at that temperature* can hold. What humidity is "relative" to is the air temperature. The lower the relative humidity, the more the air can be cooled before reaching its saturation point, also known as the dewpoint. Air with a temperature of 85 degrees Fahrenheit and 50% relative humidity actually contains more than twice the moisture in the form of water vapor as air with

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Branch 2184

2014 Food Drive Results

Office	2013	2014
Belleville	14,107	11,183
Dearborn Main	9,548	11,500
Dearborn Annex	13,200	29,668
Dearborn Heights	10,200	5,200
Dundee	2,680	2,144
Flat Rock	4,650	5,680
Grosse Ile	2,451	2,439
Inkster	5,500	29,197
Lincoln Park	19,700	21,342
Monroe	17,222	12,028
Northville	11,000	17,000
Plymouth	15,850	18,200
Rockwood	6,720	5,500
Taylor	34,304	32,000
Temperance	5,649	10,458
Trenton	28,500	20,000
Canton	19,227	27,000
Westland	22,325	22,578
Ypsilanti	32,659	32,401
Grand Total	275,492	348,163

Increase of **71,671** Pounds from last year

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**





KIM REGION 6 REPORT

Kentucky - Indiana - Michigan National Business Agent's Report

June 2014

Leadership Academy Applications

The NALC Leadership Academy has been very successful over the years in training future leaders for this Union. It is three weeks of intensive training with a fourth week experiencing what goes on in the National Business Agents office. Applications for selection in Class 19 and 20 which will occur in 2015 are now on the NALC website and available upon request thru my office. Applications must be received at NALC headquarters no later than August 31, 2014. Also please send a copy of your application to me as I keep a file of all applicants. If you have any questions about this program contact me at the office.

Assaults on Carriers

Over the last several months there has been an increase of assaults on letter carriers from the criminal element in our communities. This is UNACCEPTABLE. In times past the letter carrier was "respected and protected" in even the most dangerous of delivery areas. That is not the case today. Carriers have been physically attacked and robbed at gun point with one resulting in the death of a young CCA. In our region alone, we have had several carriers assaulted and robbed who still remain off work.

The NALC and the USPS have initiated a Safety and Service initiative that is currently in the Detroit District. Every aspect of carriers work is being evaluated from staffing to route structure to starting times and beyond. Although it is not an "immediate or instant fix", it is the beginning of addressing a problem that has reached an unacceptable level and can no longer be a "condition of the job".

The work letter carriers do is often times dangerous enough with weather, dogs and the general wear and tear it takes on people. There is no reason or excuse that we should have to be targets of the criminal element. Please be aware of your surroundings and if you feel you are ever in a situation in which you are in danger, leave the area and contact your supervisor or the police immediately.

The 24 Hour Clock

In my last report I relayed information about the USPS proposal to reverse their 24 hour clock so that letter carriers would ultimately have an earlier starting time so that we could finish delivery in normal traditional delivery hours. That has occurred with the exception of some locations in Kentucky where the starting times have actually been moved to later.

I also reported in my prior article that the reversal of the 24 hour operational clock was based on the plants being able to get their acts together and get mail to delivery units. It appears that in Kentucky the USPS has not been able to accomplish this task.

I have had discussions with the District Manager and am working to move those times in the right direction so carriers can finish earlier but once again, if the USPS can't get their plants to do the job, letter carriers and our customers are the ones who suffer.

Parcel Growth and Route Adjustments

You have seen the huge explosion in parcel growth over the last year or so and that continues to escalate. The Internet, what initially reduced our letter size volume, has given us a huge growth in the parcel business and is changing the way we need to look at route structure.

I look down the road and I am trying to convince the USPS at the Area level that they need to look now at how we are going to adjust routes for the new work load associated with package increases. The creation of parcel post routes like we had 40 years ago is a viable option. The adjustment of current routes to facilitate the handling of parcels is another solution.

But whatever method (or maybe both methods) are utilized, the Postal Service needs to plan now before we get into too many situations where routes are overburdened and service cannot be maintained.

CCA and PTF Conversions

As of this writing, we have had 5,000 PTF's converted to full time regular with about 2,500 PTF's still remaining nationwide. In addition, we have converted 7,700 CCA's to full time regular career status with about 6,800 of that number former TE's. It is projected that by August we will be near the 10,000 mark of CCA's converted to full time regular career status.

Certainly this is great for the CCA/TE employee as they now have the full protection of the contract and the NALC. These folks are the future of the Postal Service and the future of the NALC and I would hope that we all do what we can to make them part of our Union family. On the other hand, these new career employees need to take an active role as we all did when we were early in our careers. I encourage all newly converted carriers to get involved in your union.

New Scanners

The first deployment of 75,000 new MDD scanners is scheduled for July barring any delays from the USPS. At this time I have no official word on what districts are first to receive the scanners but when I have this information I will get it to the Branch Presidents immediately. In talking with NALC headquarters, it is anticipated that carriers will get about 1 hour training on the use of this new and hopefully improved scanning device. When you get this new scanner, the clam phone will be a thing of the past and the features of the new scanner are far superior to the old technology. Please let our office know if problems arise with these scanners so I can forward those concerns to NALC Headquarters.

In Unionism,
Patrick C. Carroll
National Business Agent
43456 Mound Road, Suite 501
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
Office: 586-997-9917
Fax: 586-997-9916

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)
- Anthony Santy
- ✓ 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
- John Meleski
- ✓ Ladonna Miller
- ✓ Marie Shannon
- ✓ Edward Sikora
- ✓ Carol Thornton
- ✓ Raymond Tobin
- ✓ Tammy Viecelli
- ✓ Amy Williams
- ✓ Calvin Winbush

Canton

- ✓ Dianne Campbell

COLCPE Contributors

- ✓ Lois Fritz
- ✓ Gene Meadows
- ✓ Joe Golonka (R)
- ✓ Richard Rider
- ✓ Samantha Hales
- ✓ Larry Rowland
- ✓ Randall Sano
- ✓ Michael Tredway

Ypsilanti

- ✓ Manuel Ballesteros
- ✓ Paul Bordine
- ✓ Timothy Bowsher (R)
- ✓ Alan Grajczyk
- ✓ Willise Jeffery



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)

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 **Michele Manley** (Westland), **Gordon Sudz** (Grosse Ile), **Phil Wertanen** (Taylor retired), **Ray Kornak** (Dearborn Main retired), **Bob Kraus** (Dearborn Main retired), **Marie Shannon** (Westland) for their donations.

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

September 1st 2014
Labor Day Holiday

Allie Brothers Uniform Store

"Family Owned and Operated"

- ◆ Complete inventory of postal uniforms and shoes
- ◆ Friendly, expert service
- ◆ Tailor on premises
- ◆ Open Thursday until 8:00 p.m.

HOURS	
M, T, W, F	9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Thursday	9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

- ◆ **WE GUARANTEE YOUR SATISFACTION**

1-248-477-4434

1-800-35-ALLIE

20295 MIDDLEBELT ROAD

LIVONIA, MI 48152

(3 blocks south of 8 mile)

www.alliebrothers.com

Branch 2184 Web Site

www.nalc2184.org

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

Customer Connect

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

Ali Sobh (Plymouth) \$18,408.00

Michael Chevillot (Westland) \$340,000.00

Paula Hall (Lincoln Park) \$52,800.00

Lon Smith (Ypsilanti) \$1,300.00

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.

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.

Attend Your Branch Meetings
Next meeting is **September 3rd**



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)

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Hot Weather Safety

a temperature of 32 degrees and 100% relative humidity.

Increasing the moisture content of air also makes it lighter because water vapor is among the lightest of all the gaseous components that make up earth's atmosphere. Increasing the water vapor content of air makes it less dense, and this buoyancy allows the air to rise more easily. This is an important factor in the formation of warm season rain showers and thunderstorms. This is also the reason why aircraft require more runway and greater groundspeed to take off on warm and humid days than on chilly and dry days, and is why an object such as a baseball or a golf ball travels farther on a warm day when it is thrown or hit with the same force as on a cool day.

The most common heat-related illnesses that affect letter carriers are heat cramps and heat exhaustion. Heat cramps are muscle cramps that usually occur in the legs. They can usually be relieved by resting and by putting firm pressure on the cramping muscles or by massaging them.

A more serious heat-related problem is heat exhaustion. This is a feeling of weakness that is accompanied by heavy sweating, nausea, and a weak pulse. The skin often feels cold and clammy. Another important indication of heat exhaustion is a feeling of disorientation. This is a sure sign that heat is adversely affecting your body, and you should immediately stop whatever you are doing outdoors and get inside in a cool place. You should only drink sips of water and not gulp down large quantities. If you feel severely nauseated or start to vomit, immediate medical care should be obtained.

The most serious heat-related illness is heat stroke. This is characterized by a very high body temperature, a pounding pulse rate, and usually not any sweating. Heat stroke is a life threatening medical emergency that requires immediate emer-

gency treatment.

To help prevent dehydration and heat-related illness, a slow and consistent intake of water or other cool non-alcoholic beverages is important. Plain water is always best for hydrating the body. As a guide, a letter carrier or anyone working outside in hot weather should drink several ounces of water every 15 to 30 minutes. Again, this is preferable to gulping down large quantities of water at longer intervals. *Salt tablets should only be taken at the direction of a physician.*

Dressing sensibly is for the most part obvious. Wear light and comfortable clothing that still complies with uniform regulations. Be sure to protect your skin, especially your face, from too much exposure to the sun. A good sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15 is quite helpful for this purpose (an even higher SPF is better still). Many letter carriers have developed skin cancer that is possibly related to long-term exposure to the sun while performing their delivery duties. Be aware that a cloudy summer day does not prevent the risk of sunburn, as ultraviolet radiation from the sun still reaches the earth.

Letter carriers in Northern Michigan are just as much at risk from heat-related illness as their brothers and sisters in the Southern Lower Peninsula. In fact, the warmest air temperature ever officially recorded in Michigan was 112 degrees, near Mio in the Northern Lower Peninsula in July 1936.

As with all aspects of letter carrier safety, planning and awareness are critical for the prevention of heat-related illness. Summer in Michigan is a splendid season for outdoor activities. Don't let the power of the summer sun threaten your health and well-being while on the job or off the job.

-- Joe Golonka

Branch 2184 Trustee

Retirees Report

There are four categories of benefits in the Federal Employees Retirement System basic benefit plan: immediate, early, deferred and disability.

Eligibility under **FERS** is determined by your age and number of years of creditable service. In some cases, employee must have reached the **Minimum Retirement Age** to receive retirement benefits.

Immediate Retirement - immediate retirement benefit is one that starts within 30 days from the date you stop working. If you meet one of the following sets of age and service requirements, you are entitled to an immediate retirement benefit:

1. Age 62 with 5 years of service
2. Age 60 with 20 years of service
3. MRA with 30 years of service
4. MRA* with 10 years of service

#1 is with unreduced benefits and actual Social Security. #2 and #3 are with unreduced benefits and the Social Security supplement. While the supplemental income approximates Social Security benefits, the Social Security Administration has no dealings in their determination or fund-

ing. They are computed and paid from OPM from the FERS account.

* If you retire at the MRA with at least 10 (#4.) but fewer than 30 years of service, your benefit will be reduced by 5 percent a year for each year you are under 62, unless you have 20 years of service and your benefit starts when you reach age 60 or later. Retirements based on MRA plus 10 years of service, those based on a deferred annuity or disability retirements, are **not eligible** for the Social Security supplement.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the past Social Security mailed a 4 page statement which showed a person's possible future benefits and the amount of earnings that had been credited to them during their work history. However, due to costs, that mailing has been discontinued. Now, the only way to quickly access this information is to log onto Social Security's website at www.ssa.gov and sign up for a "My Social Security" account. While it takes a few moments, this is an important effort to get this valuable information.

-- Leonard Zawisa
Retirees Officer



BRANCH 2184 • WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY, MI
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS • AFL-CIO
6969 Monroe
Taylor, MI 48180

