



Since July 25, 1890

June 2020

Queen City Letter Carriers - NALC Branch 43 News & Views

NALC Branch 43 Proudly Serving

Amelia - Batavia - Bethel - Blanchester - **Cincinnati** - Cleves - Georgetown
Greenfield - Harrison - Hillsboro - Lebanon - Loveland - Mason
Middletown - Milford - Monroe - Morrow - New Richmond - Oxford
Ripley - South Lebanon - Springboro - Wilmington



Ted Thompson
President

From the President's Desk

Nationally, as the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases nears two million with over one hundred thousand deaths, thousands of Postal employees have been quarantined through health care providers and sadly, sixty employees have passed away from the virus. As such, much focus remains on the coronavirus pandemic within the Postal Service. The Postal Service and the NALC continue to engage in Memorandum of Understandings (MOU), Stand Up Talks (SUT) should still be happening daily, and the Postal Service has put out policy changes and are currently testing other safety measures.

Five MOUs were just extended until July 15, 2020. These MOUs include temporary expanded sick leave for dependent care, temporary additional paid leave for CCAs, temporary use of the 7:01 rule, temporary workplace changes to promote social distancing and temporary Carrier Assistants. M-01915, which addressed social distancing and required local parties to implement policies, and M-01916, which allowed the Postal Service to hire temporary CCAs in areas hit hard with employees in quarantine, while continuing, the Postal Service reached another agreement on these at the headquarters level. There are three parts to this understanding which all members need to be made aware of when loaning an employee to another office cannot be avoided.

First, the supervisor and the steward in the losing office will jointly determine which carrier will be loaned to the gaining office. Second, if either the loaned carrier or any carrier in the gaining office is not comfortable with

the loaned carrier entering the gaining office, the mail will be staged outside the office for the loaned carrier to retrieve and load their vehicle. Mail is usually staged at the loading dock. Third, if the loaned carrier does not bring a vehicle to use from the losing office, the gaining office will provide the appropriate cleaning supplies for the carrier to sanitize the vehicle they will be using. The branch office has been dealing with issues of loaned carriers more in our associate offices than in the city, but this is a frequent issue brought to our attention that I want all members to be aware of.

As for SUTs you should be provided these on a daily basis. This is part of the Cincinnati MOU I signed with acting Postmaster Lisa Rogers and national continues putting out talks frequently. These talks should cover USPS policies for employee safety that include wearing masks and how to request reasonable accommodation or be excused from such policy, policies for on-site suppliers, USPS testing notifications, Ohio Health Director Stay Safe Order and COVID-19 test kits in the mail. By now all should be aware of the USPS policy requiring employees to wear facial coverings in the workplace. There are exemptions to this requirement for medical issues. If you believe you have a hazard wearing a mask, ask to speak to your steward to see if you may possibly be exempt. This requirement also applies to anyone entering a postal facility. If you do have a medical issue that prevents you from wearing facial coverings, you should have been provided an SUT on how to request reasonable accommodation. One such accommodation may be a plastic face shield. One test the USPS is conducting is on various types of materials and styles of facial coverings to be used in the hotter months that are quickly approaching. Of five types tested in Florida, South Carolina, and Texas, three have received positive feedback from carriers; two were neck

Continued on following page



NEWS & VIEWS

Volume 131, Number 6
Published Monthly by:
Queen City Letter Carriers
NALC Branch 43
4100 Colerain Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45223-2684

www.branch43.org
Phone: 513-542-6400
Fax: 513-542-0043

Board of Officers

President / Editor: Ted Thompson
Vice President: Patrick Dougherty
Financial Secretary: Burt Hughes
Recording Sec: Sue Egbers
Treasurer: Connie Griffith
H.B.R. / M.B.A.: Jim Metz
Sgt.-At-Arms: Mike Mize
Comp. Officer: Tom Roos
Dir. of Retirees: Gerald Giesting
Dir. of Legislative & Political Affairs:
Matthew Bauer
President Emeritus: Gary Gabbard
President Emeritus: Gerald Giesting
President Emeritus: David Kennedy

Trustees:

Denny Doud, Dave Durbin, Diana
Enwright, Skip Grant, Randy Utz
A.F.L.- C.I.O. Delegates:
Exec. Council— Ted Thompson
Brian Bailey, Kevin Hensley,
Chris Rhea, Lamont Seaborough
& David Utz

EDITOR'S NOTES

Branch 43 members are encouraged to send articles to the *News & Views*. Items of interest about your station, current events, etc. are welcome. The following guidelines apply:

- (1) We may edit your article for grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc.
- (2) If it should prove necessary to edit an article for space or coherence, every effort will be made to preserve the substance and intent of the article.
- (3) Unsigned articles will not be printed. Letters, criticism and suggestions for improving the *News & Views* are also welcome. If your letter is not intended for publication, please state so. Letters held to 150 words are less likely to be edited.
- (4) Articles must arrive at the Branch office by the 15th in order to make the next month's issue. Digital format is preferred. Send items to: thompson@branch43.org

Printed in House

President cont.

gaiter style and the other a bandana style. The Postal Service will be ordering these styles and distributing them to employees. Another test the Postal Service is conducting is on voluntary temperature checking of employees when reporting to work. Currently these tests are being conducted in Virginia and Oklahoma. These are called proof of concept tests, which means they need to validate technology capability and verify a process works. In these test sites employees' temperatures are taken with a camera or a scanner from a distance and anyone registering a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher are informed in private and sent home and paid either Emergency Sick Leave or administrative leave. Lastly, you should be provided an SUT on COVID-19 test kits in the mail. The USPS has partnered with numerous manufacturers, vendors, and laboratories to ship virus and vaccine test kits to a variety of healthcare providers and citizens around the country. Spectrum Solutions is one company that has been authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to distribute COVID-19 test kits nationally. These test kits will start shipping shortly. Any such test kit must be in compliance and handled in accordance with USPS Publication 52, Hazardous, Restricted and Perishable Mail, section 346.326. While writing on COVID-19 updates I also want to address non-COVID-19 updates within the Postal Service.

Postmaster General (PMG) Megan Brennen announced her intent to resign in October of last year but remained active during a search for a new PMG. On May 6, that search ended when the USPS Board of Governors announced the selection of Louis DeJoy to serve as our next PMG. Effective June 15th, Mr. DeJoy will begin serving this new role. Prior to becoming our 75th Postmaster General, Mr. DeJoy has spent over 30 years as a CEO in the logistics field and current-

ly serves as the lead fundraiser for the Republican National Conventions. As earlier reported by our national president Fred Rolando, he congratulated Mr. DeJoy to his new appointment and committed the NALC to working in good faith with him to build a relationship based on mutual trust and a shared vision for the future of the Postal Service. Fred stated, "This shared vision should embrace a strategy to grow as a public institution that values its employees and that works with its unions to promote high-quality service, safety, efficiency and a workplace culture of mutual respect." During a recent teleconference I attended with Fred he is absolutely committed to working with Mr. DeJoy but warned the dynamic of the USPS may change. Whether on the arbitration front, USPS finances, marketing, legal, or legislation wise – the NALC is expecting dynamic changes with the new PMG. All this will be coming after the current wave of leadership changes happening with the resignations of Deputy Postmaster General Ron Stroman and Vice Chair of the USPS Board of Governors David Williams.

The USPS is rolling out 17,300 new Mercedes-Benz Metris' throughout the country. In the Eastern Area, there will be three cycles of these new vehicles distributed with 397 in each cycle. Currently, there are some downtown at Dalton. These vehicles will soon be issued out. They will be issued, initially at least, to park and loop or dismount routes. The USPS on May 15th notified the NALC of an update to Delivery Operation Information System (DOIS). This update reduces the amount of parcel time carriers are credited for each parcel recorded from 90 seconds to 60 seconds. I have not seen this documented yet, but I must remind everyone that there are numerous MOUs and awards out there clarifying DOIS is not the sole determinant of a carriers leave or return time. As the abnormal conditions become normal, I expect the Postal Service to continue or ramp up the old management style of

Continued on following page

President cont.

telling you how long your route should take you and use DOIS or PET tools to make that determinant. If management attempts such tactic or forces such numbers on you, simply request a PS Form 3996 and state the reasons you believe you cannot accomplish such times. I would further request to see your steward, as you may have a legitimate grievance to file depending on the conversation had with your supervisor. Many of you know about our national level grievance on the USPS consolidated casing initiative. During my conference call with Fred he informed that we should have a decision from Arbitrator Das within a week, however, he was still in talks with the USPS on settlement and sent a draft settlement that he was waiting to hear a reply to. If the USPS fails to respond or accept settlement, then we should have a settlement soon.

The branch office has received many inquiries on to where we stand with our contract, negotiation, and arbitration. To update all, our interest arbitration dates we had scheduled for May, June, and July have been cancelled. Arbitrator Nolan provided the NALC and USPS with 20 arbitration dates in September, October, and November. The NALC is still maintaining talks with the USPS but there continues to be major issues of disagreement regarding economic, operational and workplace issues. With a new PMG and a devastating economic loss to the Postal Service – I anticipate we will take our issues forward to arbitration, perhaps have an agreement by the end of the year or beginning of next.

The NALC National Convention scheduled to take place August 17-21st in Honolulu, Hawaii has been cancelled. The NALC Executive Council is continuing to monitor the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and is looking at all options for scheduling a convention in the future. Without the assurance's visitors would not be required to quarantine and a gathering of the size required would be safe and permitted, unfortunately this had to be cancelled. The branch has received our check for registration from the NALC's official housing provider (Experient Inc) and the matter of how to refund and pay the delegates will be addressed though the branch officers shortly. On May 29th Ohio's Health Director in the Stay Safe order continued prohibition of gatherings of 10 or more, so our June membership meeting will be cancelled. However, the June officer meeting will be held on the same date and time as scheduled.

As letter carriers, you are aware and have been dealing with and attending to issues involving USPS finances for many years. Many of the issues that have been pushed to deal with Postal finances

like the prefunding mandate are being put on hold for now because, unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has crippled the economy resulting in massive amounts of mail volume revenues lost to the Postal Service. The Postal Service reports it will exhaust its cash on hand in the coming months if the White House and Congress fail to take action. The NALC recently issued a statement on the USPS second quarter financial report. The NALC statement addresses while in early February revenue was up five percent, in the second half of March with the U.S. economy shut down – mail volume plummeted. So much so that the USPS estimates the shutdown will cost the USPS about \$22 billion over the next 18 months – and without federal aid, could run out of money in the fall. The NALC is pushing, once the economy reopens, which it is beginning to do, that the USPS will be fundamental to help facilitate a resurgence to the economic downturn. However, to do so, the USPS needs funding now to address the current revenues lost and this can only be accomplished through legislation. Understanding how critical direct appropriations are for the USPS and membership, the NALC conducted two different research polls. One poll was conducted with a Republican leaning firm and one poll was conducted with a Democratic leaning firm (North Star Opinion Research and Hart Research Associates). The NALC statement addresses the results from these polls. Overwhelmingly, these public opinion polls support the Postal Service. These polls show that 92 percent of registered voters across party lines and regions - including 90 percent of Republicans, 96 percent of Democrats, and 90 percent of rural voters want Congress to appropriate funds in the next round of financial relief legislation to allow the Postal Service to maintain operations through the COVID-19 crisis.

Unfortunately, the Senate and the White House are failing to take action to provide the USPS will appropriate funding. Recently, the House of Representatives passed a major response package to the pandemic that finally included the USPS. This House package included direct funding of \$25 billion allocated to the Postal Service. This bill would also repeal restrictions on the recent \$10 billion line of credit that was authorized in the previous stimulus package. This bill went even further for USPS employees by recognizing the sacrifices and services you provide by including provisions for hazard pay. In order to get this funding for the USPS and pay for you, the Senate and White House need to take action. While talks are continuing, much behind closed doors, the NALC, I, need your help to get this message to them. I am asking, begging you to take a

Continued on following page

President cont.

couple minutes of your day to notify your congressional representatives to take action and pass the word on to family and friends how they can help. If you want to write letters like me that is perfectly fine and appreciated, but if you want a simple and easy way to reach your representatives letting them know that your job, your salary, your benefits and your retirement is important to you – use the NALC app, go to our national website or go to our branch website and follow the take action link. This will send an electronic letter to your congressional representative and both state Senators. This action takes only a couple of minutes. If you have questions, issues, or problems on how to do this or what it is, please contact your steward or give the branch office a call. Unfortunately, we have had only about 8 percent of our members do this – we need a lot more to take action. The NALC has gone a step further and established our own website to allow friends, family and the general public reach Congress (www.heroesdelivering.com). Friends, family and the public can go to this website where they can send electronic messages to their congressional representatives to urge support for the USPS. There is also a link to this on our website and the Cincinnati AFL-CIO has distributed it to other local labor unions and posted it on their website and social media resources. Please, get this word out to friends, family and the public – we need your support and we need their support. Clearly, we have the public support through the polls, we just need to guide them on how to take action and help. Please – take action yourself and spread the word.

I must end, unfortunately, by addressing yet another senseless killing of an African American. The video of the tragic killing of George Floyd was difficult to watch. I urge all carriers to address and call out anytime you see and witness examples of institutional or systematic racism. While you need to address these issues when you see them, you also need to be cautious and aware of some recent protests. There have been Post Offices that have been vandalized or ransacked and letter carriers have been robbed while on the route. I ask you all to stand with our members of color and support them in demanding liberty and justice for all. I also ask that you please be vigilant while delivering. Going from a pandemic to a national crisis, once again, carriers are on the forefront delivering for the nation. It's an honor to represent you.

Fraternally,
Ted Thompson



Pat Dougherty
Vice President

From the Vice President Article 27 Employee Claims

A letter carrier whose personal property is lost or damaged at work may file a claim for reimbursement with the Postal Service. Article 27 sets forth the rules for an employee to file a claim. **1) Personal Property.**

The property must be personal property. This includes cash, jewelry, clothing and carrier uniforms as well as other items that are worn or otherwise brought to work. Personal property does not include automobiles. **2) Automobile Exclusion.** Privately owned motor vehicles and their contents are excluded from Article 27 claims. However, if a letter carrier's automobile is damaged by the negligent or wrongful act of the Postal Service, the carrier may seek recovery under the Federal Tort Claims Act. To initiate a tort claim a carrier should complete and submit a Form 95. Note that the standard for establishing liability under the Tort Claims Act is different than the standard for reimbursement under Article 27, because they treat fault differently. The Postal Service must pay a claim under Article 27 unless it was caused in whole or in part by the negligent or wrongful act of the employee, whether or not there was also negligence on the part of the Postal Service. Non-motorized vehicles are not considered privately owned vehicles within the meaning of Article 27. A claim for the loss or damage to non-motorized bicycles can be made and decided in accordance with the provisions of Article 27. **3) Reasonable Possession at Work and Loss Connected with Employment.** Under Article 27, possession of the personal property at work must have been reasonable or proper under the circumstances, and the loss or damage must have been suffered in connection with or incident to the employee's employment while on duty or while on Postal Service premises. These two requirements are often interrelated. In determining whether these requirements were met, arbitrators generally evaluate: (1) whether it was necessary for the employee to have the lost or damaged item in his or her possession at work, and (2) whether the item's value was so great that the employee should not have risked losing or damaging it at work. **4) Not caused by Employee Negligence.** The Postal Service need not pay a claim when a loss was caused in whole or part by the negligent act of the employee. "Negligent" means failure to act with reasonable prudence or care. **5) Not Normal Wear and**

Continued on following page

Vice President cont.

Tear. The loss or damage will not be compensated when it resulted from normal wear and tear associated with day-to-day living and working conditions. **6) Depreciated Value.** The amount of the loss claimed must reflect the depreciated value of the property. **7) Fourteen Days to File a Claim.** Article 27 requires an employee to file a timely claim within fourteen (14) days after loss or damage occurred. Generally, the employee is expected to know the proper procedures to file, including the time limits. **8) Written Claim.** PS Form 2146, Employee's Claim for Personal Property, is filed to document a claim. However, any written document may be treated as a proper claim if it provides substantiating information. Claims should be supported with evidence such as a sales receipt, a statement from the seller showing the price and date of purchase, or a statement from the seller concerning replacement value. **9) Appeal Procedures.** The employer must submit the claim form, which must include the supervisor's and steward's recommendation, together with all documentation submitted in connection with the claim to the Step B Team within fifteen days for determination. The Step B Team will review the claim and issue a decision within fourteen days of the receipt of the claim at Step B. The Step B Team may 1) resolve the claim, 2) declare an impasse, or 3) remand the case for specific information needed for a decision at Step B.

If the Step B Team impasses the claim in whole or in part, the team must provide the National Business Agent a copy of the impasse, the claim form, and all documentation submitted with the claim. The Step B Team must also provide a copy of the impasse decision to the steward and supervisor whose recommendations are part of the claim form. The National Business Agent may appeal an impasse to expedited arbitration within fourteen days after receipt of the Step B impasse. This procedure is the exclusive procedure for resolving employee claims. If you ever have questions or concerns pertaining to Article 27 Employee Claims talk to your union steward or call the union hall.

Cincinnati Dog Interference & Dog Bite Policy

With the warm weather back now is a good time to review the Cincinnati dog interference/dog bite policy. First, we will address the dog interference portion, 1) Problem Report- Upon notification of a dog problem from an employee, the supervisor will acknowledge the receipt of the information and call local police (or SPCA). 2) Contact with customer

- The supervisor will attempt to contact the customer by telephone before the end of the business day.

A. Successful Contact the supervisor will:

- 1) Explain the animal interference problem and the alternatives available to the customer.
- 2) Obtain assurance from the customer that the problem has been corrected.
- 3) Relay to the carrier what action was taken.
- 4) Complete an Animal Interference Letter in duplicate and send one copy to the customer and retain one copy for the Dog Bite File.

B. Contact Failed the supervisor will:

- 1) Complete an Animal Interference Letter in Duplicate.
- 2) Attempt mail delivery the following day with the carrier (if possible).
- 3) Personally visit (if not considered hazardous) with the customer and explain the interference problem and the alternatives available.
- 4) Obtain assurance from the customer that the problem is corrected.

C. Visit Failed the supervisor will:

- 1) Determine if the property is safe to enter; deliver the mail along with the Animal Interference Letter.
- 2) Place a temporary hold order on the mail until the customer has contacted the post office and the dog problem resolved.
- 3) Notify the carrier of the Resume Delivery Notice or new location of the mailbox.

The steps to take for a Dog Bite.

Supervisor- Upon notification that the carrier has been bitten, the supervisor will:

Ensure that the carrier receives proper medical attention.

Report the occurrence immediately to the local police.

Notify the local SPCA.

Contact the owner of the dog (if Known).

Temporarily suspend mail delivery until a resolution to the problem is agreed upon.

It is perfectly acceptable to curtail mail delivery if you feel it is unsafe to deliver because of a dog. If you have an accountable letter, flat, or parcel for that delivery that you do not feel safe due to dog make sure you scan that accountable item with the scanner option "Animal Interference". When you get back to the office fill out a PS Form 1571 for the undelivered mail and have the closing supervisor sign it.

In Solidarity,
Patrick Dougherty

Postal Unions: The Postal Service and the Covid-19 Crisis

Excerpts from a letter drafted by four postal unions and sent to members of Congress to show the historical importance and necessity of USPS, especially during the COVID-19 health crisis.

At the height of the 2008-2009 recession, more than 800,000 Americans per month lost their jobs. In recent weeks, millions of workers per week are filing for unemployment insurance. The Covid-19 crisis is both a public health crisis and an economic crisis. The U.S. Postal Service is a vitally important tool for battling these twin calamities. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Postal Service's financial situation will pose grave danger to its ability to provide crucial service to our country if decisive action isn't taken by Congress and the Administration.

Value of the Postal Service in Normal Times

In ordinary times, the Postal Service, which has fully funded itself through the sale of postage since the early 1980s, plays a vitally important role in our economy, our society and our health care system. It is the nation's only truly universal delivery and communications network, connecting 160 million homes and businesses in every corner of the country. It's the hub of a huge mailing industry – comprised of the paper, printing, marketing, publishing and e-commerce and shipping sectors of the economy – that together generate \$1.6 trillion in sales and employ nearly 7.0 million private sector workers. The USPS, with 640,000 employees, is among the largest employers in all 50 states – and the single largest civilian employer of veterans.

The Postal Service provides American citizens, residents and businesses with the industrial world's most affordable and efficient delivery services. Postal services and post offices are particularly critical to rural areas, small towns, the elderly, military veterans, and most American companies, which are typically small or medium-sized enterprises and include millions of home-based businesses. Households and business depend on the reliable receipt of checks and payments to keep functioning – indeed, hundreds of billions of payments still go through the mails each year.

The Postal Service is also essential to the political and cultural life of America, delivering hundreds of millions of magazines and weekly newspapers each year, not to mention billions of birthday cards, wedding invitations and other personal communications. It routinely handles tens of millions of ballots delivered to voters who request absentee ballots or who live in states that conduct elections by mail – for elections at every level, from school boards to city councils and state legislature to federal elections. The USPS is also a trusted presence in neighborhoods across the country, especially for the elderly and the disabled who value a daily visit and assistance when needed. Nearly everywhere local post offices serve as community hubs and letter carriers perform acts of everyday heroism when house fires, car accidents or crimes befall ordinary citizens.

The USPS also plays an important role in the U.S. health care system by handling 1.2 billion prescription drug shipments a year – that's nearly 4 million every day, six days a week. It also delivers hundreds of millions of lab tests and medical supply shipments – from blood testing strips and insulin needles to contact lenses. The Postal Service is and has been a partner with law enforcement and government agencies that deal with natural disasters and other emergencies.

Importance of the Postal Service During this Crisis

In a major public health crisis like the one we face today; the Postal Service is more important than ever. In late March, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention sent a mailing to every American household to give our citizens the information they need to protect themselves and their loved ones from the Covid-19 virus. The FDA is currently working on a self-testing nasal swab that must, once available, be efficiently delivered to 135 million households across America. As a matter of public health, there is no substitute for the Postal Service's universal delivery network, especially now with medical needs rising exponentially. A collapse of the Postal Service at this crucial moment or a severe disruption in service would undermine our fight to defeat the Covid-19 virus.

The Postal Service is also crucial for fighting the pandemic-induced recession. With foot traffic plummeting, small businesses increasingly depend on package deliveries to continue generating revenue and employing workers. Without postal deliveries of orders and checks, many will collapse. Similarly, the USPS is stepping up for large enterprises facing disrupted supply chains, empty stores due to quarantines and self-isolating consumers. It offers reliable end-to-end services to these firms while also providing "last-mile" delivery for tens of millions of packages for FedEx, UPS and Amazon. The universal reach of the postal network is invaluable to all Americans, but especially to those in rural, inner city and exurban areas that would not be served if not for the Postal Service.

And the Postal Service is vital to the functioning of the national government during this crisis, offering an affordable universal means to distribute paperwork for vitally needed Small Business Administration loans, household stimulus checks, tax returns and decennial Census mailings – all of which must go forward despite the crisis. There is simply no substitute for the U.S. Postal Service as we battle

both the pandemic and the deep recession it has caused.

What We Need Now

The Postal Service has experienced financial problems for several years now, for reasons unrelated to the coronavirus, and lawmakers have been considering postal reform measures for more than a decade. But the pandemic has created a separate and immediate threat to America's postal network. Now is not the time to debate longer-term reforms; now is the time for urgent and bold action to save the agency from the potentially devastating impact the Covid-19 impact will likely have on its ability to operate and serve the American people.

Indeed, in recent weeks, mail volume has plunged by the largest percentage since the Great Recession of 2008-2010 and is likely to drop by more than it did during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Postal management believes that volume and revenue may drop by 50% or more over the next year. The pandemic-induced loss of revenue facing the Postal Service is no less dramatic than that facing the airline and hotel industries. The Postal Service, and the segment of the private economy it supports, needs the same level of assistance provided those industries.

Unfortunately, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act, P.L. 116-137) signed into law on March 27, 2020 did not offer the same kind of support for the Postal Service that it did for airlines (\$61 billion), private cargo shippers (\$17 billion) and other corporations (\$425 billion). It provided \$10 billion in new debt authority, subject to control by the Treasury Department's Federal Finance Bank (FFB). That is woefully inadequate for two reasons:

First, it fell far short of the stimulus legislation introduced in the House of Representatives on March 23, 2020. That bill would have provided the Postal Service substantial relief, including an emergency appropriation of \$25 billion. Second, by making the coronavirus credit line subject to the control of the Treasury Department, there is no guarantee that the Postal Service will receive access to this credit. In any case, adding to the Postal Service's existing debt is not a real solution.

Indeed, the Federal Finance Bank has restricted access to the Postal Service's remaining \$4 billion in borrowing authority since September 2018, demanding ideological and operational changes supported by special interest groups before extending further loans to the Postal Service. Media reports imply that the Treasury is using the credit line as leverage to force massive price increases on competitive products (which will be especially damaging to small businesses and Americans in rural areas) and to interfere with postal collective bargaining matters. To its credit, the USPS Board of Governors has rejected these unacceptable pressure tactics.

Given this record, the CARES Act offers virtually no relief to the Postal Service – more debt with unacceptable strings attached. Congress can and must do better in the next round of legislation to strengthen and preserve the Postal Service.

Therefore, to both protect public health and to stabilize our economy, we call on Congress to enact provisions in the next stimulus bill that would:

- 1) Make a direct "public service" appropriation of at least \$25 billion to the Postal Service to help it weather the pandemic and the deep recession it is causing. Although the Postal Service has not received taxpayer appropriations (other than for military/overseas voting and free mail for the blind) since the early 1980s, the present crisis warrants such appropriations now.
- 2) Authorize an emergency "public service" appropriation for the duration of the crisis, distributed quarterly, starting in Fiscal Year 2021 (which begins in just six months) to cover the difference between postage revenues and total USPS expenses. This would signal to the American people and the business community that the Postal Service will be there to: battle the pandemic (with the delivery of tests and public health information, etc.); deliver online purchases and prescription drugs; support the economic recovery; and facilitate absentee voting as well as other vital civic functions.
- 3) Provide a mechanism to reimburse the Postal Service for the cost of the Covid-19-related leave (both sick leave and family medical leave) provided by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).
- 4) Ensure equal treatment for postal employees in any legislation that authorizes, and funds hazard pay for other front-line workers exposed to health risks related to the Covid-19 virus. Such legislation should cover postal workers, who face heightened exposure risks to the virus on a daily basis.
- 5) Remove the Federal Finance Bank's discretion to impose operational changes and policy conditions on any of the Postal Service's existing borrowing authorities – changes and policies that should properly be set by the Postal Service Board of Governors and the Congress, not the Treasury Department – and eliminate any annual limit on these authorities. (These authorities are provided by Section 2005 of Title 39 and Section 6001 of the CARES Act of 2020.)

Conclusion

The postal unions will work with the Congress, stakeholders in the mailing industry and the general public to advance a significant relief package and other measures to preserve the Postal Service, a vital part of our national economic infrastructure.

The USPS is a source of comfort and a welcome sign of normalcy to the American people. That has been true during recoveries from hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and other disasters in the past, and it should be now as we grapple with the current national crisis.

All American leaders, Democrats and Republicans alike, should work together to ensure that this pandemic does not destroy the U.S. Postal Service, a true national treasure and a vital part of America's response and eventual recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.



Matt Bauer
Leg. & Pol.

How many times have you heard, “the USPS is losing too much money and will be broke by....?” We have all heard this repeatedly over the years, so why is this statement different than any other time?

Within the next couple of months, USPS will release their quarter 3 financial results. Last quarter, the USPS reported a net loss of 4.5 billion dollars (more than double the year before.) Remember, this was with an increase of first-class mail due to the 2020 census mailings. When the 3rd quarter results are released, it will include an entire 3 months of major first-class mail decline, a large increase in spending for personal protective equipment masks, sanitizer, cleaning products, etc. A decrease in 3rd class mail no advertising when businesses are shut down. There will be a likely increase in parcel volume; however, parcels are only about 25% of the revenue. The increase in parcel volume revenue does not make up for the major decrease in mail volume revenue.

While the NALC (National Association of Letter Carriers) has attempted to work with Congress on many issues in the past; all those issues to include the major topic of the pre-fund mandate passed by Congress in 2006 have now been placed on hold. The issue at hand is the major decrease in mail volume revenue due to the Covid-19 global pandemic. The estimated cost of the Covid-19 pandemic on USPS revenue is between 25-30 billion dollars. The NALC needs all USPS employees and family members to reach out to their representatives to help in this fight to save the USPS and our jobs. We are only seeking the relief in this next stimulus bill for revenue that the Covid-19 pandemic caused the USPS to lose approximately 25-30 billion dollars. If nothing is done, USPS is expected to run out of funds by the end of this year. USPS can not survive on the lower mail volume revenue and we do not know when and if the mail volume will return.

It is expected now that USPS will need some type of stimulus package like what the airlines received. Originally, in the first stimulus package USPS was expected to receive 25 billion dollars to help with the new losses that this pandemic has caused. It was stated by President Trump that he would veto any package that included funds for USPS. The bill was revised and instead USPS received a new authorized loan of 10 billion dollars; however, this loan is strictly controlled by the U.S.

Department of the Treasury.

What can be done? Congress is the deciding factor on the future of the USPS. The only way that Congress will help the USPS is if **every carrier and family member acts now!** There are 2 steps that we ask every member of Branch 43 to do now! First and foremost, visit www.nalc.org and click on **Take Action**. Do this daily. It takes less than 5 minutes. Secondly, ask all friends and family to visit www.heroesdelivering.com to contact Congress to save the USPS.

Matt Bauer
Dir. of Legislative & Political Affairs

Last Punch Bunch



Mike Siemer



Scott Charcolla



Dave Grimm



Danny Thomas



Sammarco Law Firm LLC

**SAMMARCO
LAW**

Workers Compensation,
Wrongful Termination
& Personal Injury

Protecting Your Rights



15 East 8th Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

(513) 763-7700

Fax (513) 763-7704

On Your Side!

www.SammarcoLegal.com

AJS@SammarcoLegal.com



Roy Tailors Uniform Co.

1905 Dalton Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45214

(513) 621-4787

Serving **YOU** Since 1958

Union Made with Pride

"Service is the Key to Our Success"

Hamilton County Representative

Retired Member of Branch 43

Pat Mulvaney (513) 284-1504

Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

Human Resources Share Service Center

1-877-477-3273 Option 5, then Select 6

TTY: 1-866-833-8777

MAILING ADDRESS:

HRSSC FMLA EASTERN

PO Box 970905

Greensboro NC 27497-0905

FAX: 651-456-6041

June Membership Meeting is cancelled

Scholarship drawings and raffles will continue at earliest opportunity possible

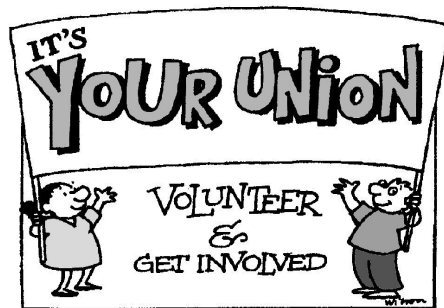
Raymond	Adkins
William	Ascue
John	Back Sr.
Jan	Bash
Brian	Bradford
Ed	Brooks
Marvin	Chaney
Thomas	Dougherty
John	Doyle Jr.
David	Duncan Jr.
Brenda	Gamble
Bruce	Hartman
Bert	Hensley
Art	Holt
Scott	Houp
Thomas	Luken
Carolyn	Marks
Charles	Morris
Danny	Reynolds
Edward	Richardson
Robert	Shepherd
John	Zwick

June Retiree Birthdays

**May YOPC
Attendees**

Deborah Bryant
JR Ford
Jerry Giesting
Art Holt
Burt Hughes
Dick Keller
Gerry Mees
Robert Wilkinson

Join fellow retirees next month
for sharing old times, playing
cards and lunch



**Tony Matthews
Donald Mueller**

June Gold Carders

Harold	Burns
Kenneth	Cook
Robert	Creutzinger
Andrew	Filusch
Thomas	Horn
Michael	Moran
Richard	Newman
William	Price
William	Rohe
Milton	Smith
Ronald	Stieby
Lester	Weber
John	Wuellner

**NALC Health Benefit Plan
Customer Service**

For eligibility, claim and benefit
information

**1-888-636-NALC
(6252)**

For additional information visit
our website at:

www.nalc.org/depart/hbp

**Join fellow retirees
for lunch**

**1:00 pm - 1st Monday
of each month**

July 6th

Barleycorn's
1073 Industrial Rd.
Cold Spring, KY
41076

Call Gerry Mees
(859) 491-2008
Or Greg Stulz
(859) 380-9512

“Bring your loan HOME”



- ✓ **Receive a \$100 Gas Card! ***
- ✓ **Defer your payments for 90 days!**
- ✓ **We will match or beat your rate! ***

Transfer an existing loan or credit card balance from another institution and bring your loan home!

How can you say no?

Stop in or call 513.381.8600 Ext. #3



1243 West 8th Street • Cincinnati, OH 45203-1004 • 513-381-8600
1111 East Fifth Street • Dayton, OH 45402-2299 • 937-228-7691
Mail: P.O. Box 14403 • Cincinnati, OH 45250-0403
Toll Free 1-800-265-4527 • www.URmyCU.org

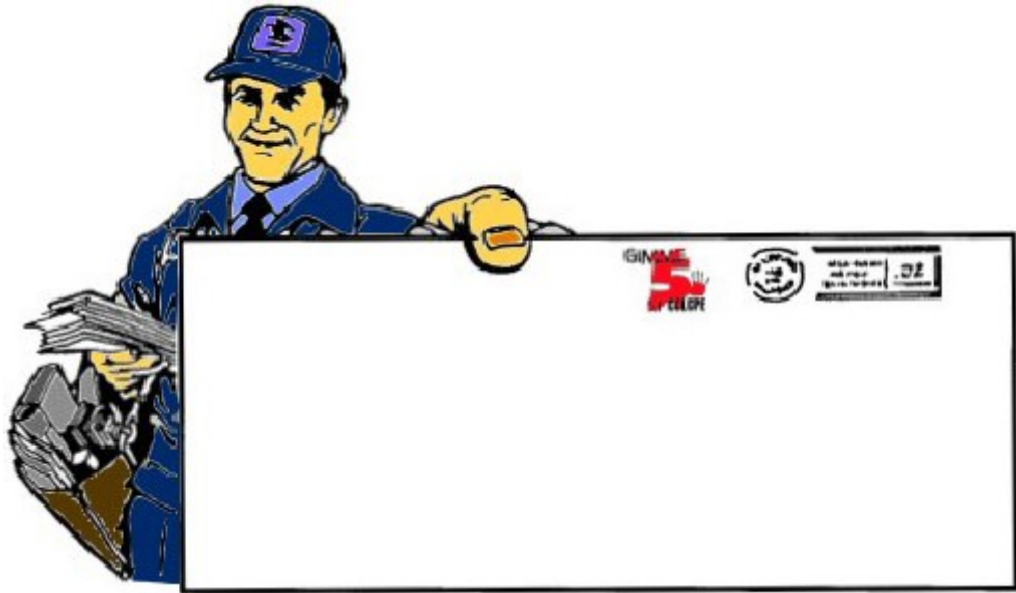
*Balance must be at least \$10,000 or greater to qualify. For loan balances below \$10,000 only the 90 day deferment will be offered. Member must qualify for the loan under normal underwriting guidelines. Minimum rate floor of this offer is 2.99% APR. Interest will accrue over the 90 day deferment period regardless of balance. Member must be able to provide verification of existing rate. Existing PFCU loans are excluded. This institution is not federally insured. **MEMBERS' ACCOUNTS ARE NOT INSURED OR GUARANTEED BY ANY GOVERNMENT OR GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED AGENCY**

Queen City Letter Carriers

NALC Branch 43
4100 Colerain Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45223

"ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED"

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Cincinnati, Ohio
PERMIT No. 6919



Upcoming Events

Officers Meeting - June 11th, 6:00 PM

Branch Meeting - Cancelled

July YOPC - Wednesday, July 1st

4th of July Holiday - Saturday, July 4th

