

NALC BRANCH 758

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2020

Branch Vice President Report

By: Keith Zelasko

At the time I am writing this, the NFL is through the Wild Card round of the playoffs. The journey through the playoffs ends with the last game, the final game, the Super Bowl.

Now you might be wondering how this applies to you or to the Post Office. The answer is simple; the #1 day of the year for sick calls into work across America is the day after the Super Bowl. Now I'm not saying you can't enjoy yourself on Super Bowl Sunday just do so responsibly. Management will try, even if it's not contractually sound, to put every carrier on deems desirable for that Monday. Your Union steward would eventually win the grievance when you're disciplined for calling in sick but why go through that whole process when it is not necessary.

Be a professional, party responsibly and come into work. It is really that simple.

Lifetime Union Members

We honored the lifetime union members last month at the December Union / Christmas party. Congratulations to Edward Kostecki, Edward Potoczek, Walter Pryztula, and Harry LaFleur to receiving member pins ranging from 50 to 65 years from the union president Phil Bzura.

Your history has made me who I am today. Although people grow and move on, you never forget where you come from. It is those life experiences good or bad that help you build your foundation. It is your choice to make it positive or negative. My advice is to choose wisely. You only have one life. Make the best of it. Thank you for setting the foundation for the future.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** Vice President Report
- 1** Union Report
- 2** Branch President Report
- 3** Health Benefits Report
- 4-6** NBA Report
- 7-8** Labor Management Q&A
- 9** Branch Officers, Calendar of Events
- 10** Address Label

Branch President Report

Other than bad management, the focus at the post office is always about time. Time is the only entity which cannot be exchanged or have more created. All things have their season, and in their times all things pass. There's a time to be born and a time to die, a time to weep and a time to laugh, and a time to keep, and a time to cast away. Ironically, the more time spent here is less time we have to spend here. This makes sense based on an evaluation of events according to a particular way of looking at them. In the first three years of working here, we earn 104 hours of annual leave for a total of 312 hours. The next twelve years of working here, we earn 160 hours of annual leave for a total of 1920 hours. The next fifteen years working here, we earn 208 hours of annual leave for a total of 3120 hours. In a 30 year career we will have earned 5352 hours of annual leave!

In those 30 years, we also receive eleven days off for holidays per year, which equates to 2640 hours of holiday pay. The equation of Sunday non scheduled days varies based on conversion time, and would be individually calculated. This also relates to sick leave earned which reaches thousands of hours, but is used based on individual needs. Time flies and at 30 years, counting your earned sick leave, over 11,000 hours of leave would be in play. Seems to me, this would be time well spent. In my opinion this is worth staying here for. Sure, the weather sucks some days, the follies suck every day, but this is a pretty good deal.

So, based on the earnings of 5352 hours of annual leave, and 2640 hours of holiday pay, we come up with 7992 hours of paid leave. If those 7992 hours are divided by eight hours, it equates to 999 days Paid time off! Throw in those sick hours and 10,000 Sundays, and I've really only worked about 24 years.

This is another reason this union MUST do everything to make each and every letter carrier a career employee! This should be the number one priority of this union, and if this does not occur, than the next contract will be a dismal failure! I would hope this would be the main focus my union has at arbitration. Only time will tell.

When does Hunter Biden go to prison?

Phil Bzura
Branch President

Health Benefits

By: Harry Lafleur

Cholesterol: Fact / Myth

Much has been said about cholesterol. Good Cholesterol HDL, bad cholesterol LDL. By now, everybody should know that the body needs cholesterol. If the body does not have enough, your liver manufactures it. The trick is to maintain ratio between good (HDL) and bad (LDL).

There is a old saying that "You are what you eat". Today we have a fast food business about every third block whose products contribute to high cholesterol. You can control your HDL/LDL level by chaining you diet.

But big Pharma has a supposedly a better idea. Big Pharma has spent hundreds of millions of dollars in testing and time trials to come up with a group of drugs to fight high cholesterol. These drugs are called "statin drugs" and are designed to lower your LDL. So you won't have a stroke, heart attack and die.

When a pharmaceutical company; after years of testing and time trials; receives the OK to sell their product from the Food and Drug Administration, the FDA awards that company a seventeen year patent. This patent is granted so that the inventing pharmaceutical company can recoup its research and development cost.

While these drugs are supposed to help you in your fight to control your LDL, it has been documented that these can kill you. Prescription drugs are made up of many chemical compounds which feature side effects. Some are tolerated, some are not. Perhaps you should see Mark Meyerson a Certified Registered Nutritionist at "Nutrition Unlimited" at 14185 Eureka Road in Southgate as an alternative to prescription drugs.

Cost nothing to ask and may help your life style. Not if, but when you see Mark or other sales people, tell them "Harry Sent Me ". My reward is that you may have a better life. Business card's for "Nutrition Unlimited are in the swing room.

- 30 -

National Association of Letter Carriers – Region 6
National Business Agent
November 2019 Report



Brothers and Sisters,

We've survived another "peak season" despite the roadblocks and utter mismanagement by the Postal Service. I asked the Postal Service, "why so short-staffed?" You were already over your caps! Don't worry about the caps; it's too late! We needed the help to serve our customers during peak season. The Postal Service should give every carrier who carried during peak, a huge holiday bonus to show their appreciation for your dedication regardless of their poor judgement. Thank God the Postal Service has dedicated craft employees! Though I haven't seen any confirmed numbers regarding parcel volumes yet, reports from the branches indicate parcel volume was high again this year. Again, you probably will not hear this from Postal management, but, on behalf of the NALC, I want to thank you all for your professional dedication to serve our customers.

Let's try to think positive. After all, we are starting a new year, and a new decade you know... Will this be the year (decade) that the Postal Service realizes this union is an ally, not a foe? Will this be the year we work together to serve both our customers and the needs of our employees?

Let's try to remain optimistic. After all, we are on the verge of a new contract, a new Postmaster General, a new Postal Board of Governors, and a presidential election year. Rest assured, the NALC will be working every angle possible to secure friendly personnel into every position that will have influence over the Postal Service and our members. The key here is this – YOU are the NALC. Yes, we have elected officers, and we have hired expert lobbyists and staff, but a union is as strong as its members. Out of over 300,000 members, we have hundreds that have advanced our messages. We call these members union activists. Is this the year (decade) you will join those ranks?

The first step in getting involved is going to your branch meetings. Branch leadership is always looking for help with the multiple tasks that are needed. I'm sure there are a few you can assist with!

Don't have time to help? That's okay, there are still other ways to help make the NALC strong and be considered a union activist. Support your shop stewards and branch officers on the workroom floor. Ask to see a shop steward whenever you believe our contract has been violated and make that written statement when asked to support our position of a violation. When we stick together in the policing of our contract, it will be recognized by management that they will no longer have an unfettered ability to do as they please.

You cannot be afraid to stand up for our rights! If you use the excuse not to support your branch officers in fear of retaliation by management, I'd say you are trying to take the easy way out. That doesn't work. If you are not aware of the labor law which protects you, it is part of our jobs as union activists to educate you. Not only would management be in an alleged violation of our contract, but they **would** be breaking the law if they tried to retaliate against an employee for being an active participant with their union. The National Labor Relations Act Sections 7 and 8 is the law that protects our rights (Go to <https://www.nlr.gov> to learn more). It states, in part, that an employer may not:

Discharge, constructively discharge, suspend, layoff, fail to recall from layoff, demote, discipline, or take any other adverse action against employees because of their protected, concerted activities.

Be strong and stand up to management when they violate our contract.

Another way to be a union activist is to financially support your political action committee (PAC) fund – The Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF), this is the easiest way to be active with the union. Ask your branch officers how to do this or simply give our office a call at (586) 997-9917. Keep in mind these monies are ONLY used for the advancement of our Postal agendas and the protection of union rights. No other political platforms are supported with these funds.

So, is this the year (decade) that you become involved? Make no mistake – we need you!

Happy New Year!

In Solidarity,

Troy Clark

National Business Agent – Region 6

Kentucky – Indiana – Michigan (KIM)

By making a contribution to the Letter Carrier Political Fund, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your contribution is not a condition of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers or of employment by the Postal Service, nor is it part of union dues. You have a right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal. The Letter Carrier Political Fund will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office and undertake other political spending as permitted by law. Your selection shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled. Contributions to the Letter Carrier Political Fund are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the Letter Carrier Political Fund from soliciting contributions from individuals who are not NALC members, executive and administrative staff or their families. Any contribution received from such an individual will be refunded to that contributor. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.

Labor Management Questions 1st Quarter 2020

In attendance for union: J. Eplin, J. Zelasko, D. Watson and K. Zelasko (all on the clock)

1. What is management's favorite holiday? **Not sure, Why?**
2. Why are supervisors not coming around in the morning giving carrier's instructions anymore? Was this only a 2019 policy? **They should be, Example? NO**
3. When will there be a clerk in the cage to clear our accountables in the P.M.? **There should be nightly.**
4. Why are carriers getting safety talks at their cases dated Oct. 2019 in Jan. 2020? **Not sure, Example?**
5. Has anyone at the plant been disciplined/fired for the continual late arriving DPS/Priority parcels? If not, why not? **I don't work at the Plant. Don't know**
6. Why is the annual leave board taking so long to complete? **Good Question. 48 Hours**
7. Why did no one in management handle the annual leave board when Kirsten was on annual leave? **???**
8. Why is the DPS in such horrible condition i.e. trayed poorly, numerous misthrows, missents and Dearborn mail again and when will this be corrected? **Not aware of this.**
9. Is coming back for parcels, creating fake overtime and making carriers look foolish redelivering to the same house again postal proud or delivering the brand? **No response, we deliver as we receive mail.**
10. Why does management fail and/or refuse to comply with Article 41 and give a prompt response to PS Form 3996? **We do.**
11. Has any progress been made in regards to shelving in the LLV's? If not, why not? **Not aware of this.**
12. How much does it cost (taxes, utilities, etc.) to maintain the Riverview facility on a monthly basis? Are there any plans to sell this junkyard? **Don't know. Not aware of any plans.**
13. The trees and brush are tearing down the fences at the Riverview junkyard and looks embarrassing. When will this be taken care of? **We will look into it.**
14. What is your plan for having red plum and other occupants in route order when route changes are implemented? **They will update approximately 6 weeks once the MRA goes into place.**
15. Are we getting new scanners anytime soon? **Not aware of new scanners.**

16. Are all carriers going to be trained on the Promasters? If not, why not?
They will be trained as needed.
17. Is the agency going to supply fire extinguishers for your dangerous LLVs for the next LLV fire? **Seriously?**
18. What is the policy on finding competitors items in USPS mail boxes? When will the workers be told?
I am waiting on an answer. As soon as possible.
19. A supervisor was seen driving the wrong way in the parking lot. Is there an arrow training they can attend? **Who? No arrow training that I'm aware of.**
20. William Hall will not be writing your ass another check. When will he be corrected in the system? **I hope he doesn't do anything with my... What are you talking about?**
21. Is the parking lot going to be renumbered after the route adjustments are implemented? If not, why not? **We will look into it.**
22. Will you be allowing J.Eplin to utilize the dungeon to scan union documents off the clock? **Already has been.**
23. On multiple occasions in the month of December we received 2 sets of DPS. What was the cause of this Article 3 violation? Plant **issues / machine break down**
24. With the newly vacated routes is there a plan to convert CCA's to regulars? **After the bidding process, I will review it.**
25. Is there a plan to hire more CCA's or take in transfers? **See 24**
26. Is there a plan to get more LLV's and/or FFV's so carriers don't have to wait around? If so, what is it? **No, we are reducing routes.**
27. Are your supervisors still in their learning curve? If so, how long do you expect it to last? **Seriously?!**
28. Why is FedEx delivering USPS parcels and leaving then USPS bar code on them? **Example?**
29. Is it your belief the plant problems are due to utter incompetence or are these unlawful actions willfully violated many U.S.C. citing? **Seriously?!**
30. Is it postal proud or delivering the brand that the Detroit District Labor Relations Department is allowed to make illegal grievance payments and perjure themselves during arbitration? **Example?**
31. A carrier has 17 certified letters, 112 parcels, 12 feet of flats, the agency vehicle needs fuel, he/she is waiting for late DPS, management fails and/or refuses to answer PS Form 3996 and the carrier is told to call back at 3 P.M. If they can't make 8 hours. Does this only sound dumb to us? **Explain in Depth. What are you looking for?**

BRANCH OFFICERS

President – Phil Bzura (734) 306-3114

Vice President - Keith Zelasko (734) 771-7081

Secretary – Ursa Allen

Treasury – Maurice Marentette

Sgt. Of Arms – Joe Zelasko

Health & Benefits Rep.

Harry LaFleur (734) 283-1623

NALC Mutual Benefits Director - Jose Eplin

Newsletter / Website Editor - Jose Eplin

Stewards: Phil Bzura, Daniel Watson,

Sarah Niedowicz

MDA: Keith Zelasko

Trustees:

Chris Williamson, Rhonda Franklin, Karen Balamucki

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

RETIREMENT PARTY FOR SHANNON AND AL

FEBRUARY 16, 2020 3PM

**WHITE HORSE LOUNGE
SOUTHGATE**

FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE

Union Meeting

February 27, 2020 7:30pm

PLAV Post 74

Wyandotte, MI. 48192

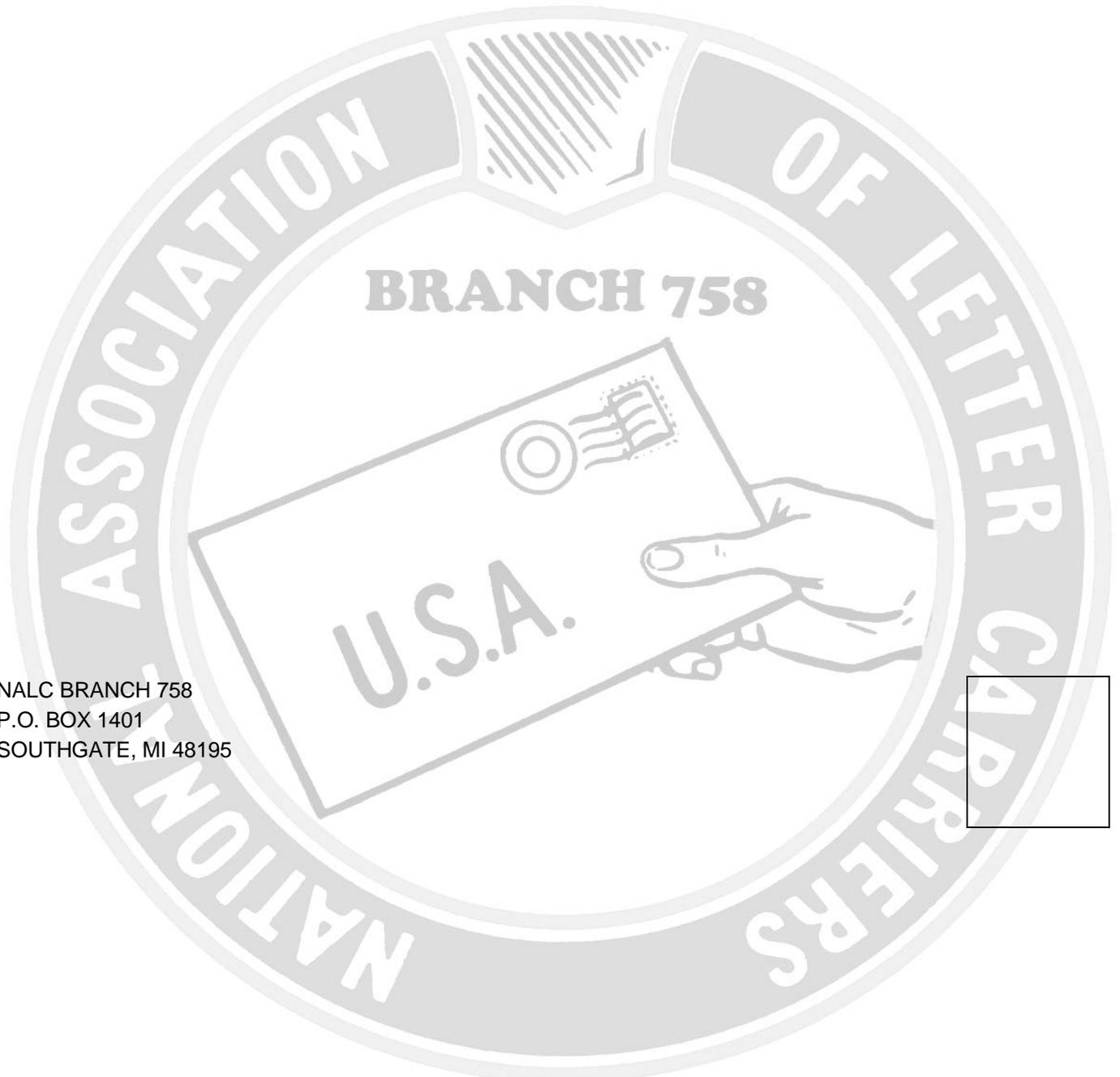
Branch Website:

www.nalcbranch758.org

Editor Email:

Nalc758mba@gmail.com

NALC BRANCH 758 NEWSLETTERS ARE DESIGNED, PRINTED AND PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE BRANCH. ANY BRANCH 758 MEMBER MAY SUBMIT MATERIAL FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN THIS NEWSLETTER. THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY THE CONTRIBUTORS ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF BRANCH 758.



NALC BRANCH 758
P.O. BOX 1401
SOUTHGATE, MI 48195

