

# NALC BRANCH 758

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2019

## 2019 MISALC State Convention

The 2019 Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers took place between April 28th – April 30th at the Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City. Day 1 consisted of a golf outing, registration and a bonfire mixer giving members a chance to relax and mingle before getting to work on Monday morning.

Day 2 kicked off State President Carl E. Blassingame Jr. speaking on many topics including legislation, importance of communication our message to our senators and congressmen, and educating our members on contractual training. Current House resolutions in D.C. concerning us include H. Res 23 (maintaining door to door delivery), H. Res 33 (Privatization), H. Res 54 (Six day delivery), and H. Res 60 (delivery standards).

Nominations were held with all the incumbents being re-nominated and running unopposed. State President Carl E. Blassingame Jr., Secretary Jane C. Grant, Treasurer Catherine Tondreau, Director of Education John Serwach, Director of Retirees Mike Sheridan and Chairperson of the Executive Board Walt McGregor will all serve another term.

Many classes were made available, including CCA Rights, Retirement, Leadership, LCPF, and more.

Day 3 started with a memorial service for fallen carriers. NBA Agent Troy Clark then took the stage to cover a myriad of issues, including the need to make available more training, MDA goals, KIM training location for 2020 (Ypsilanti will host), and new classes being made available at KIM (Postal forms, M-39, etc.)

Director of City Delivery Christopher Jackson then took over to touch on several topics concerning current and former letter carriers. This included the current budget proposal in D.C. and how it affects carriers and retirees, the USPS once again being over the national cap level for CCA's, consolidated casing concerns, Amazon losses (over 1000 zip codes lost now), expansion of services, new vehicle roll out (180k expected, with the first ones expected to roll out in 2021) and testing of smaller MDD's.

Voting took place for the location of the 2021 convention with Kalamazoo, Port Huron, Lansing and Detroit making the finals. Motor City Casino was the winner and will host. (Our 8 votes were cast for Detroit). All in all it was a great learning experience and I would encourage anyone who has not been to one to make an effort to go, get involved and learn how you can help protect your job.

Some facts and stats from the convention:

- 285k letter carriers currently
- 10% of e-commerce goes through USPS
- CCA's and former CCA's make up 50% of our craft
- 70k CCA conversions since the position was implemented

**Bill Hall**  
**Branch 758**

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## **Health Benefits**

By: Harry LaFleur

### **Egg Research Suggest Higher Cardiovascular Risk:**

Just when you thought it was safe to have an omelet, a study in the American Medical Association concluded that regular egg consumption may increase the risk of heart disease.

New research from Northwestern University looked at data from six studies on nearly 30,000 U.S. adults and found those who ate more eggs and dietary cholesterol had a significantly higher risk of cardiovascular disease and death from any cause.

Eating 300 milligrams of dietary cholesterol per day was associated with a 17 percent higher risk of cardiovascular disease and a 19 percent higher risk of all-cause deaths. Research also reported that eating three to four eggs per week was associated with a 6 percent higher risk of cardiovascular disease and an 8 percent higher risk of any cause of death. The author's take home message, as part of a healthy diet; people need to consume lower amounts of cholesterol.

In contrast, the 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines, for the most part, gave eggs a pass with the elimination of a daily dietary cholesterol recommendation. Previous guidelines encouraged consuming no more than 300 milligrams of cholesterol per day. The American Heart Association has also moved away from providing a specific daily cholesterol guideline.

When evaluating this latest research, keep in mind the study was observational. That means it only found an association and cannot prove that eggs or dietary cholesterol cause heart disease. As with all the conflicting diet and health studies, common sense and moderation should prevail. Eggs can be part of a healthy diet which includes fruits and vegetables, whole grains, legumes, low-fat dairy products, lean meats, and good fats.

### **Heath Scare of the Week:**

**Supplements may be harmful:** Dietary supplements don't reduce your risk of early death, and may even be harmful in large quantities. Researchers from Tufts University examined data from a health survey involving more than 30,000 people ages 20 and older. After accounting for lifestyle factors, they found that people who ingested adequate amounts of magnesium, zinc, and vitamins A and K had a lower risk of death over the study period, but only when those nutrients came from food rather than supplements. Furthermore, the participants who took more than 1,000 mg of calcium supplements a day had a higher risk of death from cancer, while those who took more than 400 IU of vitamin D supplements had a higher risk of death from any cause. It's becoming more and clearer that the regular use of dietary supplements is not beneficial in reducing the risk of mortality among the general population.

The hypocrites in management have unleashed their latest attack on letter carriers. The new disgraceful tactic is a report dealing with “stationary time”. Every day someone from the Fort Street Follies sends a report to local agency management showing how long their scanner didn’t move. Remember the lies about always having your scanner with you in case something shows up missing a scan? Simply untrue, as this is another agenda item of MSP (management’s surveillance plan), to engage in covert actions to harass and intimidate letter carriers.

Some genius in management calls you in the office, asks you if you know your due process rights; tells you this investigation could lead to discipline up to and including removal from the Postal Service, and you’re like, um okay? They then ask you why their fabulous report shows you had one hour and a half of “stationary time”. You say it could have something to do with the 25 cluster boxes on your agency assignment, and you just laugh looking at their sad face. You then ask them why their PARS system is a failure, DPS has more errors than ever, priority parcels are late, you lost 15 sets of bundle break cards, we bag loads of damaged mails, management is unable to conform with load leveling, you trucks start on fire, letters show up in flats, and why it takes 14 days to forward a letter after a customer put in a change of address card. Management then looks at you and gives you the management stare of how dare you. Management then has nothing left to say, I guess they are on “stationary time”

*“When will James Comey go to prison?”*

**Phil Bzura**  
**Branch President**

I attended the 2019 NALC State Convention from April 28 thru April 30 at the Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City, Mi. There were a total of 248 delegates in attendance.

The weekend started on Saturday with the drive up there since we were golfing on Sunday morning at 9:00 a. m. The weather people predicted snow on Sunday morning, but we got lucky with only a temperature of 29. It really wasn't that bad since there wasn't any wind. We had a good time golfing two carriers from Port Huron.

I had signed up to attend a class about Veterans Benefits and the other class was on Retirement. Tom Minshall from Branch 246 out of Kalamazoo gave the class on Veterans Benefits. He is a 20 year Air Force retiree now employed with the USPS. He gave us a lot of good information for Veterans and answered a lot of questions to the group. I also had the opportunity to join the NALC Veterans group. There is information in the Postal Record Magazine about this group that any Veteran can join.

My other class on Retirement was given by Mike Sheridan. He can be contacted at [sheridanstudios@msn.com](mailto:sheridanstudios@msn.com) if anyone has any questions. Some real good information was given out at both of these classes. The time spent at the Convention seemed to go by kind of fast. Just talking to other offices and the problems they have, kind of fits in with what we put up with. Before I knew it, it was time to get back on the road, and head for home.

**Keith Zelesko**  
**Branch Vice President**

## **The Great Wolf Convention**

**By Keith Zelasko**

This year the MISALC (Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers) convention was held at the Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City. There were over 240 delegates in attendance.

At the general session I learned that the state association has a website. The address is [www.misalc.org](http://www.misalc.org). You can find contact information for the State Officers on the site among other things.

My first class was a class on safety and health. It may surprise so of you but it is management's contractual obligation under Article 14 to provide us with safe working conditions. As union members it is on us to cooperate and assist management to live up to this responsibility. I learned about the Safety Ambassador program and that the union is against it because the ambassadors are chosen by management and their observations can be used for disciplinary purposes. One other thing is that there have been 12 LLV fires so far this year. If your LLV catches fire get out of the vehicle, call 911, call your supervisor and then get as much mail out of the vehicle as long as it is safe to do so. The class concluded with a game of jeopardy.

My second class was on CCA rights and responsibilities. As the name of the class would imply I learned about CCAs. I also learned that there is an app to track your work hours called NALC Track Hours. I feel this could be a beneficial app for all employees.

The next morning I attended the memorial service. At this service the names of the union members who have passed away since the previous convention are read. This is done in alphabetical order by branch with a member from the branch reading the names for their branch. After the names are read for a branch the person goes and lights a candle. It is a beautiful service.

The next state convention will be in the spring of 2021 at Motor City Casino. I encourage any member who hasn't attended a convention to put some thought into attending one in the future.

## **Looking Back and Looking Ahead**

**By Keith Zelasko**

When last I wrote an article I was going through some difficult times. I was working through stress brought on by the tough year known as 2018. I got the help I needed for that but little did I know something was on the horizon that may have contributed to the feelings I was having.

When my doctor examined the CT scan of my head that had been done the day I was at Wyandotte Hospital he noticed some blockage in my sinuses. He referred me to an ENT (Ear, Nose and Throat) for a more thorough examination. After that exam and a dedicated CT scan of my sinuses he determined that the blockage was "quite impressive" and that the best course of action would be sinus surgery. I had the surgery at the end of January and since then have been able to breathe through my nose so much better.

In the months following the surgery I am doing much better, I feel like my old self and I am hoping that all the stress issues will stay in the past.

## **Branch Treasurers Report**

Begin Check Balance - \$10,437.62

End Check Balance - \$19,973.34

3 deposits total \$2129.33 for NALC Union Disbursements and CD interest.

5 checks paid for \$628.00 – PLAV Meet Hall, Newsletter Postage, Food Drive signs, PO Box fee, and Christine Belmare's Retirement Gift.

One Debit Transaction \$154.88 for Officemax Branch 758 newsletters.

\*\* CD \$8188.87 matured and was deposited to Check Account on May 2, 2019.

We have one remaining CD for \$2000.

Total Assets May 9, 2019 are \$21,937.74

Final Note: When you are on your route dealing with rain, snow, ice, unruly supervision, traffic, etc ---- Remember To Be aLERT, Because the World needs more LERTS!

**Maurice Marentette  
Branch Treasury**

## **Ladies**

Why do we have so much to do in such a short time? Twenty four (24) hours isn't enough time to get all my business done. We spend anywhere from eight to ten hours at work, go home attend to our children or family and still have to clean and cook.

I am just taking this time to say slow down and don't forget to take care of yourself! What I have learned is all these things will get done with or without us! Go get your hair done. Get a pedicure/manicure. Soak in a hot bath and turn off the phone.

Eventually our bodies get tired and all the things we do and people we take care of will have to understand! If we are not there, life will go on just not as efficient!

**Ursa Allen  
Branch Secretary**

## **Website and Band APP**

The Branch has a website if you were not aware. The website address is [www.nalcbranch758.org](http://www.nalcbranch758.org). If you have pictures or an article you want to submit, email them to [nalc758mba@gmail.com](mailto:nalc758mba@gmail.com). The website will always be growing and any suggestions or input would be appreciated.

The Branch also has a communication APP called BAND. If you are interested in joining the group, email me your info. The app is a great tool to keep in contact with each other, while not knowing each other's contact info.

**Jose Eplin  
Branch Editor**

# **One More Time For the People In The Back**

By: Lee Widenhofer

I know the last newsletter was filled with articles about mental health. Well, this article was originally supposed to come after the most recent newsletter, but has been delayed to certain circumstances. However, I wanted to reiterate how important it is. The main point being that just because it's not something you can physically see, doesn't mean it isn't real. Some of you will read these first few sentences and think "Oh great, another person whining and complaining. Just stop whining and do your job.". But please, take a few moments out of your day, your lunch break, a 10 minute break, whatever the case may be and really listen (or read) to what I, as well as many others that might be afraid to speak up, have to say.

At the end of 2017 leading into 2018, if you would have asked me how I was doing I would have told you I had never been better. Life was treating me well. Earlier that year I had bought my first house at the age of 22. That was one of the proudest moments of my life. I had (and still have) two healthy puppies. Work was going well. I had a lot of great friends. Life was good. Sure, I had little stresses commonly attributed to owning a house. But they eventually worked themselves out.

Fast forward a few months. Those little stresses I had mentioned became more frequent and more serious. I had gotten into some debt, cars were needing repairs, my home life was very stressful, etc. I started to question what was causing me so much stress and started to remove that stress from my life. It worked for a short while. My anxiety was starting to get a little worse. I had a string of bad luck. One of my vehicles was hit while it was parked overnight on the street. Damaged the fender and a little bit of the door. Not a huge deal, but it was just one more thing that added to my bad luck. The next few weeks were just kind of a blur, as are most weeks for me anymore. But July 9th was a day that would change my life forever.

The accident. It was a really nice day out. Sun was shining, no rain in sight, mail was rather light, and I wasn't given any extra that day. I had some stress from my personal life bothering me that day, but other than that, it was alright. I left the office and began delivering my assignment. It was a quiet day. Allegedly, I wear headphones on a normal day. Not that morning though. I was 2 hours into my route and I was starting my next loop. It was oddly quiet. I had no idea what was in store for me in about 7 minutes. I had finished the odd side of the loop and was getting ready to cross the street. The customer at the first address on the even side had a vacation hold that had resumed that day. He was in his front yard waiting for me. I stood at the end of the driveway while I checked for traffic. Looked to my right, then to my left, and once more to my right. The coast was clear. I took my first two steps into the street. Lowered my right hand into my bag to grab the bundle of vacation hold mail for the customer. You've heard the term "in the blink of an eye" before. Let me tell you how much of an understatement that term was in that moment. My head turned to the right. In what had seemed like less than a half second I saw, in big red letters, "GMC", and a blur of white. Where the instinct and laser fast reflexes came from is beyond me but I am really glad they surfaced in that moment. I bent my knees a bit, and jumped. The headlight of the truck hit me at my hip and the bumper had hit my shins, sweeping my legs out from underneath me. I hit the hood with enough force that at the time it had sounded like a gunshot. I didn't hit my head on anything, but the second I was hit I instantly had a headache. Maybe because it was reality hitting me. As I had gone up and over the windshield, I remember looking at the concrete while I was upside down in the air. As fast as the impact happened, my flight time seemed like an eternity. The exact words going through my head while airborne were "This is it. I'm going to land straight on my head and this is how I will go."

I landed. I didn't exactly stick the landing, but by some miracle I didn't land on my head. I sat up. The next words through my head were "Did that seriously just fucking happen?". Pardon my French, but I'm

trying to paint a very vivid picture of the scenario in its entirety. I looked down at my legs. They were still intact. So I had that going for me, which was nice. The customer that was watching my cross the street came running at me telling me not to move. My next move was looking up to get the description of the vehicle. It was a late 90's, white, GMC Yukon. Basically a shorter Suburban to those of you non car savvy folk. There were a few patches of grey primer where the white paint was missing. I saw a quick flash of brake lights, and just as quick as those lights came on did they go off and the truck disappeared around the corner. I had never felt so abandoned, so overlooked, so un-cared for in my life.

Thankfully another customer had come outside when she heard the impact. YES. She was in the privacy of her home and had actually heard the impact of my body being slammed against the hood of that truck. I am not exaggerating when I tell you that it sounded like a gunshot. She had called 911 while I gave her the description of the vehicle as I was still sitting in the middle of the street. I slowly moved over and sat on the curb. Mail was scattered everywhere. By this time there were about 7 or 8 people there. Some of which were helping gather the mail, as well as my hat, sunglasses, scanner, wallet, pens, and keys. Others were standing there in utter disbelief. One gentlemen gave me a napkin to wipe the blood off my elbow. Somehow the bundle of vacation hold mail stayed rubber banded together. The customer said "Well, this must be mine because we were on vacation." By this time I was able to stand. I started to hear the sirens. I looked to my right and saw Wyandotte Fire Department heading my direction. It was an ambulance and a fire truck. As they were heading towards me, a Wyandotte police officer had pulled up. He asked a few questions and radioed in the vehicle description and the direction they were traveling. The paramedics arrived on scene and examined me. I was up and walking with some cuts and bruises. My neck and head showed no signs of injuries other than a small scrape of my ear from my sunglasses. I refused an ambulance ride to the hospital. Who wants that giant medical bill, right? I called the office and notified a supervisor of the incident.

As crazy as it sounds, I said that I was going to keep going and see how I was feeling. Adrenaline is a hell of a drug. Mix that with pride and you've got yourself quite a crazy rush. After everything had settled I limped back to the truck. I sent a message to a few close friends saying that I had just been hit. I attempted to deliver the next loop. I was walking pretty decent considering what had just happened. Slow, but decent. Porches were difficult to climb. My legs were starting to get really sore. One customer, whom I will never forget her name or address, saw me walking and called me crazy for continuing my route. She gave me a can of Coke and told me to go home and get some rest. I decided that I couldn't continue. I drove out some packages for the rest of the street, knowing that I was going to bring back 4 hours of the route. By this time a supervisor had come to check on me. I said that I was going to bring the mail back and go home.

I returned to the office and explained the story to a few people. It almost brought one person to tears. I will never forget that. As I went outside to unload my truck. The adrenaline had started to wear off. This is the part I have never told anyone. I opened the side door of the truck and just stared. I completely broke down. I cried. I was shaking. Realizing that the situation could have had a much different outcome, I texted my family members and informed them what happened and that I love all of them. As I was driving home, my best friend called me and told me that I should really go to the hospital because I could have possible internal bleeding that I don't know about. That's what did it. That's where I swallowed my pride and drove myself to the hospital.

I was in the E.R. from about 3 p.m. until almost midnight. I had three X-rays of my leg, and abdominal and pelvic CT, and blood work. Everything came back clean. I was discharged and given a prescription for ibuprofen. I had severe soft tissue bruising, and a small amount of deep tissue bruising. Which I can still feel to this day. The doctor gave me 4 days off work. That's right. Only 4 days. Maybe had I been bit by a dog, slipped off a step, or rolled my ankle I would have been given a few weeks off. Nope, 4 days. Luckily when I came back I was able to do a mounted route, given that I was still in a lot of pain.

I've strayed away from the point of this article. And to some of you, this may be old news. But this incident is a part of my life every day. I wanted to give a detailed description of that incident to those that

may have been misinformed, or just didn't know about it at all. A description of the reason why my life is the way it is now. Back to the string of bad luck and stress. A few weeks later I received a letter from the U.S. Department of Labor stating that they weren't going to cover my medical expenses because it was a third party that had caused my injuries. They told me that I had to hire an attorney and sue the party personally, and that they wanted one fifth of the settlement that I receive. So I acted accordingly. I called an attorney and they opened a case for me. They sent me to a doctor for a follow up appointment. At the appointment the doctor said that I had no apparent injuries. Just a lot of bruising still. When the attorney was informed of this news, they called me and said they were closing my case because I had no injuries. No injuries meant no case. Remember how I mentioned how I felt abandoned and pushed aside? This just doubled, or maybe even tripled those feelings.

A few weeks had gone by. I was still in pain from the accident. Life was still throwing curveballs at me. My two favorite weekends of the year were approaching. Yet for some reason, I wasn't as excited for them as I usually am. I couldn't figure out why. I was struggling to find happiness in any part of my life. Summer was fading fast and my mental health was deteriorating just as fast. I had cancelled a vacation where I was supposed to go visit my mom who had recently moved to Florida. Having to do that really weighed on my mind. My birthday was coming up but I couldn't care any less about it. Things just weren't great. Work started to become a nightmare. Then, I watched a video. A video of someone speaking out about not being ashamed of mental health issues. I then did a little research.

Before my research, I thought that mental health disorders meant that you were challenged or insane. I had no idea how common these disorders were and how wrong I was about what is actually a mental health disorder. I hate to self diagnose, but I am 99% sure that I have OCD. Which is a disorder that is commonly misunderstood. I won't get into the boring stuff. You can do your own research to figure out the symptoms of OCD. Mix this with anxiety and depression and it can become an absolute nightmare. Another disorder that I had never thought that I had until just recently is PTSD. I never would have thought about it until the day I sat back and tried to understand when my mental health became so bad. It had seemed like ever since that accident I have been getting worse and worse. Every time I hear a car passing me while I'm walking, I can't help but turn and watch to make sure they don't hit me. When I'm walking to an intersection, I refuse to walk when drivers wave me on. I have no trust anymore when it comes to standing in front of a moving vehicle. Sure, I can make jokes about the accident. Maybe it's a coping mechanism. Maybe it's just my sense of humor. But when I actually replay that day in my head, I break down all over again. Living with these issues is by no means easy, but I'm here to tell you that it can be done.

By the time you read this, I will have gotten help. Just know that I am absolutely scared shitless to get help. However, I believe it is what I need in order to get better. Right now I am having a hard time coping with all of the stress, anxiety, and depression that I believe is a result of the PTSD. I am struggling to find an answer to what's wrong with me, which is why I am getting help. If you're still reading at this point, I want to say thank you. I also want to say that you may be shocked to discover when someone you know is going through a rough time in their life. So don't judge a book by its cover. As cliché as that may sound, it is very true. You never know what a person may be dealing with. Whether it be in their personal life or in their head. **NOT ALL DISABILITIES ARE VISUAL.** Just because there's nothing there that you can physically touch, see, or feel does not mean it isn't there. I want to say one last thing before I end this. If you are someone who is silently going through any mental health disorder or any difficult obstacles in your life and you're not sure how to handle it. Just remember this: You are loved. You are special. You have a purpose. Your difficult times right now could lead to saving your own or someone else's life someday. Do not give up. As much as you may want to and as much as it may feel like your only option. Don't.

Thank you for reading what hasn't been easy for me to say.

-L.W.

## **LABOR MANAGEMNET QUESTIONS 2ND QUARTER 2019**

1. What is your policy for your carriers regarding walking across customer's lawns?  
*When it is safe unless the customer requests that we stay off their lawns.*
2. Was the drop off box density report reviewed before the new pick-up times were put on the boxes? The box at the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> and Superior, a high volume drop off box, has a pick up time of 9:00am, when the carrier is in the area later in the day. *No, the carriers were asked what time they go by the box.*
3. What is the agency's plan to convert CCA carriers to FTR when personal vacancies occur? Should it not be within 15 days after no bids were received? *The residual vacancy is sent to HRM, and since we just took a transfer recently, the senior CCA should be converted.*
4. What is the office policy regarding E reassign versus CCA conversion? *1-4 Ratio*
5. When will route adjustments be implemented regarding routes consistently showing up over eight hours long? *We are looking at doing a minor route adjustment in the fall.*
6. Is it Postal Proud or Delivering the brand having thousands of pieces of Dearborn/Dearborn Heights letters in you failed DPS systems? Who in management is accountable for this? *Really? I sent in-plant support an email almost daily about the DPS errors.*
7. Is it Postal Proud or Delivering the Brand having numerous PARS flats mysteriously returning to our unit for no logical reason? Who in management is accountable for this? *I don't know.*
8. Is there a date planned for a meeting between the Postmaster and our Food Drive Coordinator regarding the food drive? If not, when will this happen? *Whenever, I am always available.*
9. Why is the District seemingly incompetent in regards to the Load Leveling program? Who in management is accountable for this? *I don't know I don't know*
10. The Riverview Junkyard Jungle is an eye-sore and an embarrassment to your brand. What are we supposed to tell our customers when they inquire about this eye-sore? *That as the weather breaks we will be scraping as much as possible to clean up the Riverview Post Office.*
11. Why has the retired janitor's position never been filled? How are her duties being performed? Who is performing them? *It is currently in the e-reassign process. The duties are split between the current custodians.*
12. Are we going to have a plan regarding accountable mail and keys? What is happening isn't working to well. *We have a plan, and it's your opinion that it's not working.*
13. What are the plans for the carriers on long term disability? Are there return dates for them? If not, why. *Currently working on them, 5 day letters were sent out on 4/11/2019.*
14. Is anything being done about the people throwing toys over the wall creating a safety hazard in the parking lot? If not, why. *This was recently brought to my attention. Dave Chacon will be going to the customer's House.*
15. Why is there no accountability in management in regards to processing grievance settlements in a timely manner? You criticize the union for being untimely, how is this fair? *I process every grievance in a timely manner. There are timeframes set.*
16. Why are your supervisor's failing and/or refusing to answer PS form 3996 promptly?  
*Promptly?*

17. Why are there no consistencies in advising carriers their projected leave and return times? When will this be corrected? *Should be daily, ASAP*
18. Can you please show us in the Collective Bargaining Agreement where it says carriers automatically get an unscheduled day after 10 days even if they are on a hold down? If you cannot, we consider this a willful and deliberate contract violation as well as an unfair labor practice. Do you agree? If not, why? *There is nothing. Just follow my instructions.*
19. Does the new agency leader have a plan for cooling stations in the facility for carrier safety? If not, why? *Define cooling station. Water and cooling towels will be available.*
20. Can we all have the same and consistent rules enforced by all members of management or will the rules be on a monthly basis when management is mad at a carrier? *Explain further*
21. What exactly does it mean to be "regular in attendance"? *Come to work, don't have unscheduled absence, . AWOL etc.*
22. Why is management not taking meeting on grievances in a timely manner seriously? When will the agency correct this deficiency? *Management does, and management does meet timely.*
23. Are all of the agency management personnel aware of their responsibility to provide the union routine information within 48 hours after the request was made? *Yes*
24. Why does Eugene Kolbusz sit on the workroom floor answering 3996's? *Because he can, is there an issue with Eugene answering 3996's and running the floor?*
25. With past practices of mismanagement, how do you plan to bring about contract compliance? *By being consistent, I am not part of past practices.*
26. With the summer months vastly approaching, what is being done to control temperature levels in postal vehicles according to Article 41.3q? *We are always looking into newer/better trucks. Testing of a Mercedes truck is going on now in Detroit.*
27. With the summer months vastly approaching, will management be providing cooling towel's. *Yes*
28. Are you willing to barbecue for the carriers on Food Drive day? *Yes*
29. What is Alexis Moody-Brock's title? *Supervisor Customer Service*
30. Are any supervisors assigned to individual units? *Each supervisor has individual responsibilities as well as team responsibilities.*
31. Is the concept of organization structure understood by the agency as defined in the ELM section 112? *Yes*
32. Why are letter carriers allowed to work their assignments clocking in, in the A.M.? *They should not work off the clock and I am unaware of any that do.*

**National Association of Letter Carriers – Region 6**

**National Business Agent**

**May 2019 Report**



Brothers and Sisters,

The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. Have you heard this saying before? I wonder if this is the Postal Service. They have taken an old concept from 2011, resurrected it, renamed it, and will be testing this concept again this year. The one in 2011 was called “Caser/Streeter” – its new name, “Consolidated Casing”. Those of you familiar with the Caser/Streeter will remember the chaos and utter failure that happened. In most of the test sites management chose the carriers that would case assignments and those that would stay on the street almost their entire day. Multiple contractual violations were made by management and the union grieved those violations accordingly. Will this happen again? We’ll see. A national interpretive grievance has been filed.

The NALC have had many questions for management regarding this new test; however, most have remained unanswered. Yet, management has planned on moving forward with this test this month in Annandale, VA with phases two and three rolling out in June and August, respectively. Our office held a teleconference with those branches that are identified as a part of this test. Offices identified at this point are: Louisville Iroquois, Louisville Martin Luther King, New Albany, Evansville River City, Detroit Fenkell, Detroit Strathmoor, Lincoln Park, Madison Heights Carrier Annex, Gary, Fort Wayne Diplomat, Marion IN, Terre Haute Main, Grand Rapids Wyoming, Benton Harbor, and Lansing SW Carrier Annex. We will continue updating the branches with any information we receive. I strongly urge all members of those offices identified above to stay connected with your branch by attending all branch meeting for updates.

Make no mistake, this is not a joint process; however, rest assured, the union will be at each of the test sites in order to protect our contractual interests.

**Food Drive**

By the time many of you read this article the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual NALC Food Drive will be in the books. Although the results will not be in until June or later, last year letter carriers from around the country brought in more than 71 million pounds of food into local food banks at a very pivotal time of year. I want to thank all who volunteered for this most worthy cause. I would especially like to thank Region 6s Food Drive Coordinator Jim Hunter from branch 3126, Royal Oak, MI. Like all of you, I’m proud to be a letter carrier and a community servant!

## MDA

This is also the time of year were NALC branches sponsor golf scrambles in order to generate money for our national charity, the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Since 1952, millions of dollars have been contributed by members of the NALC to the fight against this nondiscriminatory disease. Great breakthroughs have been made and it seems that momentum continues to build towards its defeat. However, we still have a way to go. Therefore, please join your fellow brothers and sisters in their continued support of all branch events to help the fight against this horrible disease.

## LCPF

Have you contributed to the Letter Carrier Political Fund yet? As most of you know, our goal for Region 6 is to get to 20% of our members to contribute by June of 2020 – “20 in 2020”. We are over half way there! All funds raised will only support those that support the NALC platform. So, if you care to keep our constitutional institution, the Postal Service, and your negotiating organization, the National Association of Letter Carriers, viable entities, please start contributing today. Contact our office to find out how easy it is to get started.

In Solidarity,

Troy Clark

National Business Agent – Region 6  
Kentucky – Indiana – Michigan (KIM)

## **BRANCH OFFICERS**

President – Phil Bzura (734) 306-3114

Vice President - Keith Zelasko (734) 771-7081

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Treasury – Maurice Marentette

Sgt. Of Arms – Joe Zelasko

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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**

### **NALC BRANCH 758 UNION MEETING**

PLAV POST #7

438 FORD AVE, WYANDOTTE, MI, 48193

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2019 7:30 PM

UNION MEETING

### **MEMORIAL DAY**

MAY 27, 2019

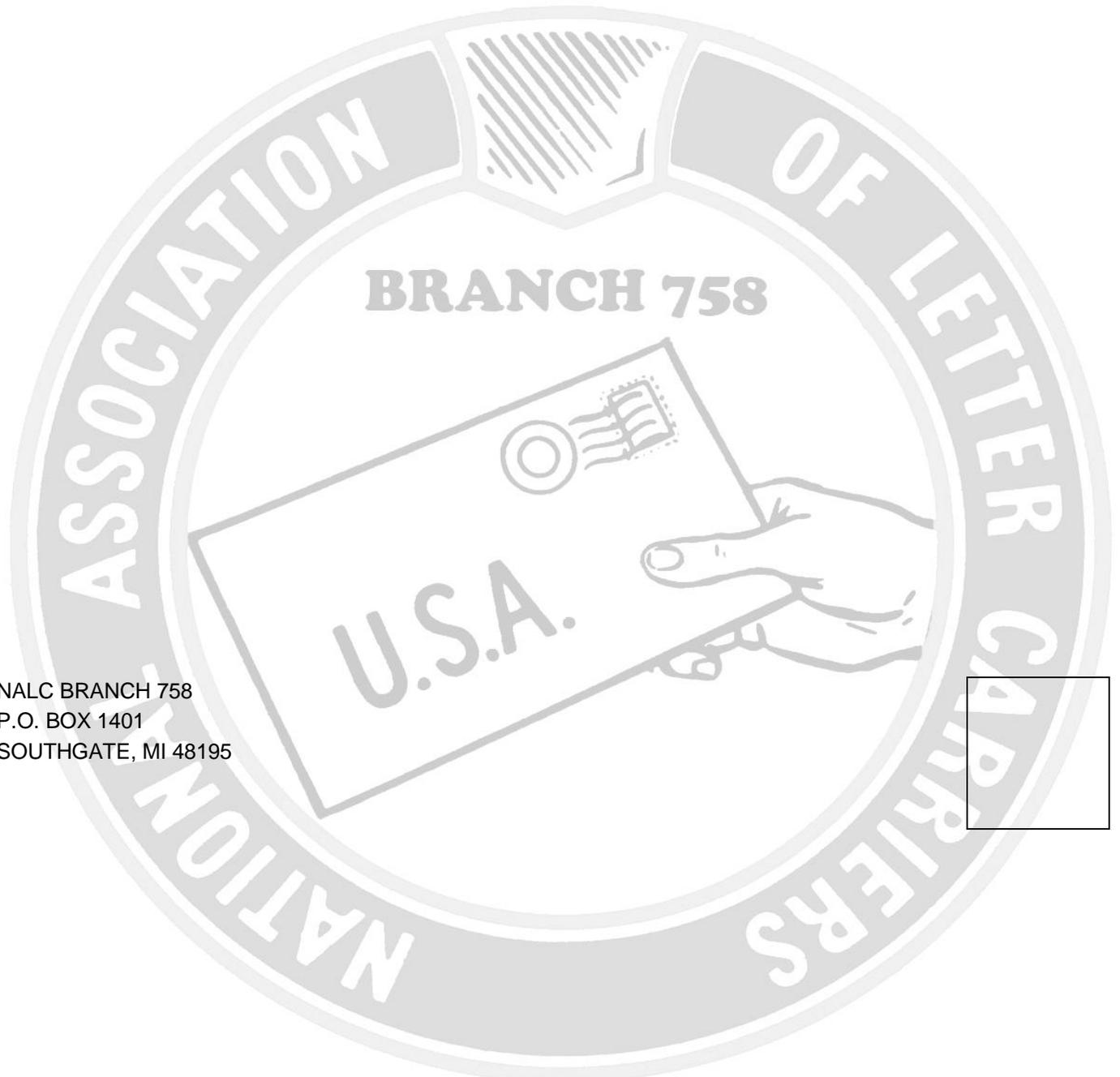
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