

NALC BRANCH 758

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2019

Branch Secretary Report

I want to start off giving kudos to our outstanding newsletter editor. He stays on me about my articles. I am thankful that he waits for me to get it together. Sometimes our lives get so busy we just don't take a minute to breathe. I am so proud to be a NALC member. I believe that the more interest the older members show, maybe the next generation will join in. I am hopeful that the union will continue to grow in numbers and become strong as ever. We all win when we stand together. I am asking all our members to come out and see what's going on in your union!

**Ursa Allen
Branch Secretary**

Branch Treasury Report

Checking Account Begin Balance -- \$11,930.47.

4 Deposits made from two union disb. cash cds, cd interest, and transfer of a matured cd - \$10,332.25.

11 Checks Paid for Branch Audit, Food Drive signs, newsletter expense, Br 758 PO Box fee, April Meet expenses, and Joe Zelasko State Convention Travel/Meal expenses -- \$962.22.

Checking Acct Balance May 31 -- \$21,300.

CD Acct Balance -- \$2000.

Total Bank Assets -- \$23,300.

Thanks to our Fabulous Trustees - Karen Balamucki, Chris Williamson, and Rhonda Franklin for last month's Outstanding Branch 758 Audit.

**Maurice Marentette
Branch Treasury**

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Branch President Report

This is in further reference to our January 9 notice regarding the postal services' intent to develop a study, pursuant to article 34 of the collective bargaining agreement, designed to determine the impact of consolidated casing on city delivery routes. This letter serves as written notification, pursuant to article 34 of the national agreement, that the postal service will conduct a study regarding city carriers' office activities in order to develop engineered work methods and standards.

Please be advised that, pursuant to arbitrator Nolans' award in national case Q06N-4Q-C 12013405, information obtained through either of the studies may be used by the postal service during our upcoming collective bargaining process. See the pattern here? Management is going to try and tear every second out of our office times they can in the next contract!

It's time every carrier read the M-41 handbook and start performing office duties in accordance with this book. Whoever tells city carrier assistants this handbook does not apply to them is a liar. Each carrier should fill out postal service form 3996 whenever he or she believes the route cannot be completed in eight hours. The agency must give you a prompt response and you should ALWAYS request a copy. No carrier should ever leave for the field with even one piece of mail left at the agency case unless postal form 1571 was ISSUED to them by agency management. The carrier should ALWAYS request a copy.

Each carrier should do a proper vehicle check as outlined in the handbook. Every carrier unfamiliar with an agency route should be using postal service form 3982 prior to tying down the agency assignment. Every carrier having collection keys for the assignment should have a chip and key exchange.

Upon return from the field, every carrier should fill out postal form 3821, for accountable mail returned to the office, obtain a copy, and in some cases kept by the carrier for two years. The chip and key exchange should then occur again.

Upon return to the agency assignment, mail brought back from the agency should be processed through the guidelines, not rubber banded and left on the agency case. When mail is returned for whatever reason, a postal form 1571 should be signed by a supervisor, and the carrier should ALWAYS request a copy. There should be zero mail at the agency case when the carrier ends tour.

These are only some of the office duties we should be performing on a daily basis. If management wants to deny anyone these fundamental rights, they should immediately request union representation.

When does James Clapper go to prison?

Phil Bzura
Branch President

Health Benefits

By: Harry LaFleur

Your Immune System: What is it, and what does it do.

Its nature's defense against harmful items that affect you body. You are born with it, and it grows with you as you grow. But, ever so often, your immune system leaves you and your body becomes open to any and all problems.

Case in Point: In 1982, my wife and I spent a considerable amount of money to have Vinyl/Fiberglass replacement windows installed replacing the original wood windows in our house, only to find out that my wife could not tolerate the odor of the product.

Vinyl/Fiberglass is made from a petroleum base and emits an odorless colorless gas called "out gas". If your immune system is working, no problem, If not you have a problem. The replacement windows were out of our house in six weeks, replaced by another product.

Water-base Latex interior paint products contain VOC (volatile organic compounds). You can buy non-VOC paint. Ask before you buy.

BBQ's. Who doesn't enjoy an outdoor meal? But if a neighbor three doors down is having an outdoor BBQ and the wind is blowing the right way, it's in the house for my wife.

Grass Cuttings: Most people have a gasoline power lawn mower. When in use, it produces odors, so into the house goes my wife.

Ink: Ink in newspaper's produce an odor, offensive to people who have a non-functional immune system. Bottom line: to the degree that your immune system is working, your body is open to a host of potential problems.

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



Brothers and Sisters,

The heat is on! It's that time of year when all of us should be aware of the extreme heat conditions and what to do if we, or one of our brothers or sisters, looks or feels like we/they are having some sign of a heat issue. This is something that cannot be discounted – it's extremely serious. We've experienced too many heat related issues in the recent past that affected the lives of too many of our members. The Postal Service has to be responsible and held accountable in the education of its employees. Is this possible?

I ask that last question for an obvious reason. The answer, in my opinion, is not without our prodding and contractual/legal vigilance. According to a communication received at NALC headquarters on May 20th from the Postal Service, all Postal employees were to be trained through the *Heat Illness Prevention Program* (HIPP) no later than April 30th. The Postal Service doesn't have the vision or decency to notify the employee's bargaining representative until almost a month afterwards. Do you think they care or are they just going through the motions? Either way, that's why it's incumbent for us, the NALC, to police their own policies for the safety of our members.

So, I ask, has the Postal Service done what they say is required at your facility? Here is what's required:

- Completion of a HERO course (SAF:SS:Heat Stress Recognition and Prevention: Course number 10019802) yearly by ALL employees in every facility.
- Employees who are absent when the training is conducted are required to be provided the training prior to returning to street duties.
- MDD messaging is to be sent out from April 1 through October 31 addressing issues related to heat exposure and prevention of heat-related illnesses.
- Each week the supervisor will give a safety talk addressing issues related to heat exposure and prevention of heat-related illnesses. These talks will be documented in the Safety Toolkit with certification of completion for all employees.
- Employees will be trained to recognize symptoms of heat-related illness and taught basic first aid measures related to heat stress.

- Employees observed by management exhibiting signs of a heat-related illness will be monitored and shall not be left alone or sent home without being provided with emergency medical service.
- Potable water sources are available in all facilities and are monitored during regular safety inspections.
- A postcard promoting heat stress awareness is mailed annually to all employees.
- Stickers are installed in every vehicle identifying the signs and symptoms of heat-related illness.
- Laminated cards containing information identifying the signs and symptoms of heat-related illness for all carriers and supervisors for attachment to their ID badges.
- Prioritize requests for all HVAC repairs and temporary abatement efforts in all postal facilities.
- Postal vehicle fans are included in all preventive maintenance inspections and any necessary repairs are made.
- When HIPP is in effect, supervisors, while performing required street observation, will include HIPP related conversations paying attention to those who are newly hired or returning from extended absence of seven or more consecutive days, if known.

Has these procedures been done in your facility? If not, please address your concerns to your shop steward. And branch officers, if these have not been done, address this either through the grievance process or local labor management meetings. Please let our office know if management refuses to train the employees on this very serious, potentially lethal, issue.

Additions to our Regional Family

It is with great pleasure I am able to introduce three new advocates working with us for everyone in our region. They are:

Anita Lewallen. Anita is a Regional Administrative Assistant (RAA) from Region 4; however, her new duties will be the Regional Workman's Compensation Assistant (RWCA) replacing Ron Adams who retired this past December. You will see that Anita is a smart, hardworking advocate for letter carriers. If any member gets injured on the job, please have them or a branch officer contact our office for any assistance. The paper work and lingo can be daunting for those not used to working with the Office of Worker's Compensation Program – we're here to help!

Anna Mudd. Most of the region is already familiar with Anna who comes from Branch 14 in Louisville, KY. Anna served as the Vice President of the branch and the Vice President of the Kentucky State Association prior to being assigned as Region 6s Legislative and Political Organizer (LPO) by Fred Rolando. Due to

territory realignment of the LPOs, Brent Fjerestad, our former Region 6 LPO, was moved further west and picked up region 10 for the NALC. Brent worked tirelessly for our legislative goals and will be missed; however, I'm sure Anna will pick up the good work that Brent has started for us here in Region 6.

Mike Brim. Mike is from Columbus, Ohio branch and will be domiciled in Region 11s office but will work with us as well in his new role as the Regional Grievance Assistant (RGA). Mike will be tasked with helping our Region represent letter carriers through the grievance procedure. However, being a newly created NALC position, his duties are still being formulated. Trust me, there is plenty of work our Region will be sending Mike's way for help.

If anyone needs to contact any of your Regional officers, give our office a call.

BRANCH 758

Please help us welcome the new members of your Regional team. Our office looks forward to working with them!

In Solidarity,

Troy Clark

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

(Corrected article - May 2019 Newsletter)

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 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.

Joe Zelesko
Branch Sgt. Of Arms

Food Drive 2019

Another Food Drive is in the books and I'm here to report that it was a resounding success.

This year we collected 21,146 pounds of food which is an increase of approximately 5000 pounds over last year. Great job everyone; let's go for 25,000 pounds next year.

I would like to thank everyone for all their hard work making this year's Food Drive successful.

I hope next year to have a plastic grocery bag attached to each postcard. That was in the works for this year but we, the Salvation Army and I, ran out of time.

In closing, if anyone has any ideas to make the Food Drive better let me know. I am open to any and all suggestions.

Keith Zelesko
Branch Vice President

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

NALC BRANCH 758 UNION MEETING

PLAV POST #7

438 FORD AVE, WYANDOTTE, MI, 48193

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2019 7:30 PM

UNION MEETING

Branch Website:

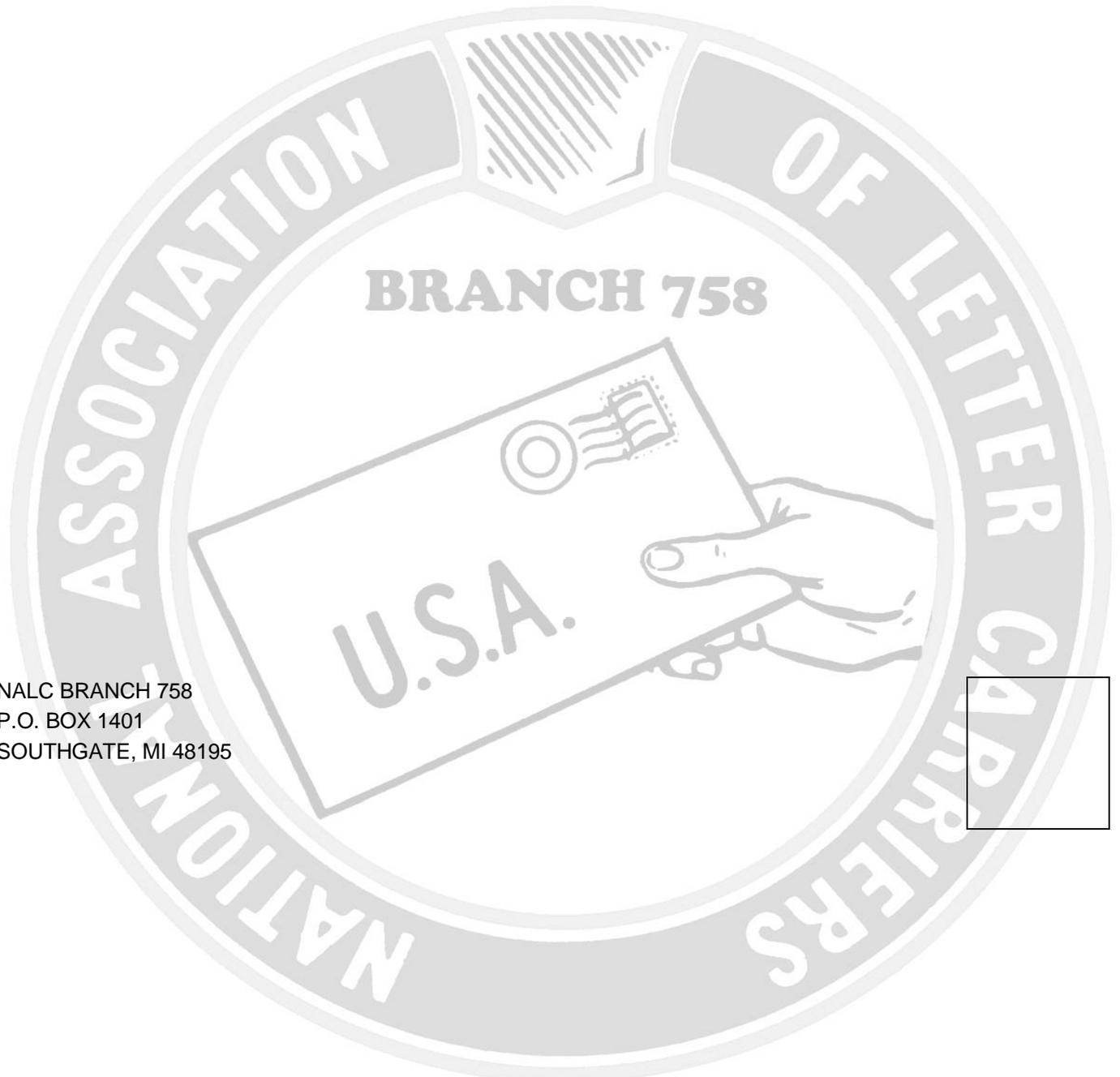
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BRANCH 758

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