

# BR. 14 NEWSLETTER



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SERVING LOUISVILLE, FORT KNOX, BARDSTOWN, RADCLIFF, LAGRANGE,  
LEBANON, EMINENCE, SHELBYVILLE, VINE GROVE, SPRINGFIELD, & CAMPBELLVILLE

JUNE 2025





**JARETT SIMS**  
*President*

*On what foundation stands the warrior's pride  
How just his hopes let Swedish Charles decide  
A frame of adamant, a soul of fire  
No dangers fright him and no labours tire*

The Vanity of Human Wishes  
Samuel Johnson

In the early 1700s, the Kingdoms of Russia and Sweden were pitted against each other in the Great Northern War. After early success, Charles XII, the King of Sweden, made the fateful decision to attack Moscow to end the war. He failed miserably, and ultimately, Sweden had to sue for peace. The lesson is you don't attack Russia in the winter. In subsequent centuries, both Napoleon Bonaparte and the German forces of the Second World War failed to learn from Charles' mistake and attempted to invade Russia. They were also both soundly defeated.

What does this have to do with the Union? From 30,000 feet, it would appear very little. However, I contend that there is a great lesson to be learned.

When we fail in the grievance process, it's often due to the same mistakes repeated over and over. City Letter Carriers are often reluctant to perform a few simple tasks to ensure case success. It might be from a lack of knowledge.

First, learn about your contractual rights. Read the local newsletter, *The Postal Record*, and come to meetings. If you have questions, ask to see a union steward (preferably in writing).

If you think you have a grievance, make notes to discuss with your steward and request time on the clock. Remember that all union stewards and active participants in the grievance process also carry mail. Write a statement to bolster our case.

On the discipline side, be an active participant in any investigative process. That is your "day in court". If management asks you about a provision from the ELM that you may not understand, have

management explain what the provision means. When you consult with your steward before the investigative interview, be candid with them. The steward has a right to intervene and ask questions on your behalf.

When presented with any document from management, it is okay to refuse to sign it. However, I would advise to always put a date on which it was presented. It can be helpful in a disciplinary case.

If we as union brothers and sisters work together, we have a much better chance at success in the grievance process and ultimately protecting the rights of the city letter carrier.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on June 24. Please stay safe out there.



**ADRIANE SHANKLIN**  
*Sergeant at Arms/Scribe*

Here in Louisville, the Postal Service has recently been the spotlight. USPS Inspector General did an audit of our distribution center along with three stations (Middletown, PRP, and Iroquois). This comes along with the many delays that we've been having on the average daily mail, and any packages coming in. This spotlight of course shows us in a negative light with our customers. Where do we go from here? The audit showed five areas of concern. Things, as carriers, we complain about every day! With these audits as public record we'll continue to have eyes on us going forward. So as a carrier we can only make sure we're doing our part to keep our customer's trust.

Going into July, we're looking at our new Overtime Desired List! Please take the time to read Memorandum-02009, that outlines important changes taking place July 1, 2025. For example, the PTFs are now entitled to one off day a week, and it needs to be posted on Wednesday prior to the week (just like our regular schedule). Are there questions regarding our changes in this new contract? YES! Do we have all the answers? NO! We'll be learning together and asking questions along the way.

In closing, July 12<sup>th</sup> we'll be hosting our first Karaoke Nite at the Hall!!! The entry is \$5 and all proceeds will go to MDA. This event will be adults only, and open to all. Come on out and have a good laugh with us. Snacks and drinks will be provided!



**LANCE SCHWEDE**  
*Executive Vice-President*

### Article 8 War- Round 3

After lying to the Union about cases that are still unresolved from last year, Management has begun the assault on letter carriers and earlier Arbitration decisions. Management is again refusing to pay the non-odls the 100% awarded by arbitration. This is a slap in the face to the non-odls that have had to endure countless hours of work without being on the overtime desired list. Management has been resolving these grievances and paying out the violations for the last 12 years. Management wants to violate the National Agreement with impunity, a right they do not have.

The branch has appealed a case to DRT/Step B that involves the escalating remedy payment to the non-odls. The branch has asked that all non-odls improperly mandated to work overtime be paid out at the 100% payment awarded by arbitration. We have asked that in the future all non-odls improperly mandated be compensated at 200% base pay per time improperly mandated and that the branch be compensated \$500.00 for every Article case involving improperly mandated non-odls. This payment to the branch is for the continued violations of Article 15 and management's refusal to abide by precedent setting language gained through arbitration.

New work rules for Article 8 take effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Among these work rules are the changes to the overtime desired list. Contrary to Management opinions during LMOU negotiations, work assignment list does still exist. The new lists are as follows: no overtime, work assignment, day off only overtime, and overtime up to 12 hours on a regular scheduled day. This is going to make overtime equitability a nightmare.

Until next month, stay hydrated and protect yourself from the heat. Please take your breaks as needed and cool off, no discipline will stand for protecting yourselves from the heat.

### BRANCH 14 NEWSLETTER

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4815 Poplar Level Road  
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964-3200

964-3276

#### Officers & Staff

President.....Jarett Sims  
Executive Vice-President.....Lance Schwede  
Vice-President.....To Be Announced  
Recording Secretary.....Steve Terry  
Treasurer.....Greg Ray  
Asst. Recording/Financial Secretary.....Bill Davis  
Retirement/HBP/MBA Rep.....Coulter Marvel III  
Sergeant-at-Arms/Scribe.....Adriane Shanklin  
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Trustee.....Stephanie Diaz  
Trustee.....Daria Duvall  
Trustee.....Jon Endelmann  
Trustee.....Nick Schneider

#### Branch 14 Stewards

40202.....Leroy Gutierrez  
40203/08/10.....Yodari Balcarcel  
40204.....Leroy Gutierrez  
40205.....Thomas Derringer  
40206.....Vacant  
40207.....Cortne Niehaus  
40209/14/15.....Trevor Gay  
40209/14/15.....Mark Wright  
40211/12.....Damon Braxton  
40213.....Jarett Sims  
40216.....Jon Endelmann  
40217.....Joe Spencer  
40218.....Jarett Sims  
40219.....Ron Bowman  
40220.....Rodgerick Streater  
40222.....Nick Schneider  
40228/91.....Tina Davis  
40229.....Ron Bowman  
40241/42.....Adriane Shanklin  
40243.....Nick Schneider  
40258.....Chad Grosso  
40272.....Lance Schwede  
40299.....Adriane Shanklin  
Bardstown.....Jessica Clark  
Campbellsville.....Ryan McCormick  
LaGrange.....Stephanie Diaz  
Lebanon.....Ryan McCormick  
Shelbyville.....Vacant  
Springfield.....Ryan McCormick  
Fort Knox.....Vacant  
Radcliff.....Mike Watson  
Vine Grove.....Timothy Embry

*All facts, opinions and statements appearing within this publication are those of the writers and editors themselves, and are in no way to be construed as statements, positions or endorsements by Branch 14 or it's officers.*







**Mat Tanner**  
NALC LPO  
REGION 6

.Hello Sisters and Brothers of branch 14.

My name is Matt Tanner. I am the Legislative Political Organizer (LPO) for Region 6 (along with a few other states/regions) of the NALC. I am a letter carrier and proud NALC member just like you!

Basically, as an LPO my job is to educate our members on the different legislative issues we are collectively facing. With us being federal employees, we not only have to stand up collectively to those managers/postmasters at work, but also have to have a seat at the table for legislative issues that can and do affect us. The problem with legislation, if you are anything like me, the entire process seems to be a joke or even criminal at times. It is so much easier to deal with problems we all see with our own two eyes on a daily basis. Legislation or laws can and usually affect us in a much more serious and long-term way and unless you are paying attention, they tend to sneak up on us. Many times, they are even passed before we know it, forcing us to just deal with whatever that outcome may be.

For example. I am sure you have either heard or read that the current administration has inquired about possibly privatizing the service. What exactly does that mean for us letter carriers? How does it hit our homes, families and even our customers?

First, it's important that you remember that we, the USPS, are a service to the American People and have been since the birth of the United States. We, the USPS, are a non-profit service. We deliver universal service nationwide to every house **AT LEAST** 6 days a week. The services we provide are basically the same price throughout our great nation no matter where we live. Our goal, as a non-profit business, has been to break even since 1970 when we fought and earned the right to collectively bargain. That's not to tell us making money isn't a great thing. Showing profit helps us improve our service. It helps us to update our needs to stay current with public demands. However, all said and done the goal as I said is to break even.

. Now let's talk about private business or For-profit services. Businesses are all driven by profit. Whether it be a mom-and-pop small business or the biggest of businesses, they can only survive if they are making money! These businesses will adjust their prices or their services they provide to make more money. If we are privatized, other businesses like UPS, Amazon ect... would be able to buy up some of our services that they feel could add to their profits. For example, parcels are our bread and butter...so if Amazon feels they can accommodate the extra parcel work in certain areas and make money they will be able to buy those services. The competition comes in and picking and choosing the areas where they want our work. They would absolutely want the parcel delivery in all of the Metro/City areas. Leaving rural or country areas without service. Proof is seeing the Amazon drivers dropping off parcels on a daily basis for us to deliver. Why would they drop off that work if it wasn't cheaper to deliver themselves?

As our competition picks through our services and takes the work, they can make money on, we lose our value to the American People. Once the competition gets our work, they can then control the costs of parcel delivery without having the price we, the USPS, charge for these services. Basically, charging more based on where you live and the ability, they have to make a profit from those services they would provide.

Where does that leave us? Currently there is a resolution in Congress, House Resolution 70. This legislation was introduced at the end of January, and we currently have 215 Co-sponsors in the House of Representatives. Clearly, this legislation is important to us.

As I wrote earlier, it is so much easier to recognize battles or fights that we see on a daily basis. When we face political issues, most of the time, as letter carriers we don't know what course of action to follow. It seems like it's easier to just hope my branch or national leadership will take care of this for us. We are used to asking for a steward or talking to our branch leadership with those issues we deal with at work. Nationwide about 93% of people that join the letter carrier work craft with the USPS voluntarily sign an 1187 and agree to pay union dues to join our great union.

In other private unions, that's enough. They are able to use their union dues to influence politicians for their needs. Unfortunately, we have a law (The Hatch Act) that prevents us from doing just that. We are forced to raise our money used to

battle these issues outside the dues. We raise our money using The Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF). LCPF doesn't support any other issues except things that directly effect our jobs, benefits etc.... Basically we DO NOT engage in any of those issues everyone argues about on social media. Letter Carrier rights and issues that's it!!

The above is just one example of issues we are collectively facing together. Are you or where you ever a CCA, TE or Casual employee? Nationwide over 66% of all active letter carriers have some sort of non-career time. Currently, we are unable to get credit for this time toward our retirement. Under the current hiring process for most of the PO's...letter carriers end up with about 2 years of non-career time (more for many). Being able to add those 2 years would not only possibly get you to retire faster but add about \$130 more to your retirement check EVERY month you live while being retired. Money you earned! We all know CCA's do or have done the same work. Your body took the same beating from all that walking, steps, lifting etc.... why shouldn't you get credit for that time. You SHOULD! This can't be bargained for, this 100% has to happen in legislation.

There are plenty of other issues we face together in the legislative process. Unfortunately, I was only asked to write an article, not a book.

So, I am going to leave you with this. This great union isn't just a branch, a region or a national level party. It is all of us. If we collectively want to achieve these things through legislation, we need you to get involved. Educate the carrier casing a route next to you. Talk to your fellow co-workers and explain to them that we all have to **Take Action** on the NALC website. We all have to write/call our Representatives and let them know that it is important to the American People to have a Postal Service. Protect our jobs and benefits. Also, educate yourself on the LCPF. Please sign up. If we all contribute a small amount, like \$5 a check, we collectively raise millions to keep the men and women in Congress that have our best interest.

If anyone has any questions, please give me a call or send me an email. I work for you and am very thankful to have this opportunity.

Thanks, stay safe!

Matt Tanner

[tanner@nalc.org](mailto:tanner@nalc.org)

810-444-5286



## KYSALC 2025 CONVENTION







**The Dynamic Trio**  
Doris Sanders, Nolvía  
Prudencio, & Yodari Balcarcel,  
DTCU



The Branch recently gained an unwelcome pet at the Union Hall. Members of the Eboard had begun to see the signs some time ago. Greg Ray, seen here with Rocky Raccoon (the critter's name) after pulling him from the void above the ceiling tiles. Greg says, "Rocky put up a helluva fight!" (I think he was reading Greg's shirt)



**Dee Duvall enjoying a  
surprise photo shoot!**



**Branch 14 delegates soaking up  
the knowledge at the KYSALC  
convention**



**Karina Brown and Shannon  
Devine at the Fern Creek PO**



**Your new President and EVP at  
the KYSALC convention  
learning with other branch  
delegates**



**NICE HAUL!!**

**COULTER MARVEL III***Health Benefits/Retirement/MBA Rep*

### **WHEN A LETTER CARRIER OR RETIREE DIES...WHAT SHOULD YOUR FAMILY DO?**

1. Notify the employee's immediate supervisor, Postmaster and Human Resources Shared Service Center (HRSSC) AT 877-477-3273. No death certificate is needed. HRSSC will advise of any benefits payable, and of the right to apply for them. They will assist in completing multiple claim forms.
2. Notify the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) at 877-968-8778.
3. Notify National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 14 at 502-964-3200.
4. If the employee was a Veteran, notify the Veteran's Administration at 800-827-1000.
5. Call the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213.
6. Notify banks and other financial institutions.
7. Notify insurance companies (life, health, home, automobile, etc.). If the employee had or possibly had a policy with NALC's Mutual Benefits Association contact them at 202-638-4318 or write to MBA, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144.
8. If the employee had health insurance with NALC Health Benefit Plan, call 888-636-6252. If the employee had health insurance through another FEHB, call the phone number on the back of the insurance card. Health benefit coverage for a surviving spouse and dependent children continues automatically if the employee had family coverage at the time of death and if a monthly survivor annuity is payable.
9. Obtain a sufficient number of death certificates for your needs.

Place a copy of this information with your important papers and with those who may need directions in case of a death.(information gathered from NALC "When a active carrier dies")

As always, I can be reached in the office most Tuesdays or feel free to call me and leave a number to set an appointment. Office 502-964-3200. Cell 502-386-0041

**MISSY HARRIS***Community Activities Coordinator*

Let me start by saying thank you for all the hard work for the food drive. We collected 40,568 pounds of food so far. I have a few stations with stragglers to pick up today. So, for everyone who made the effort, thank you. This food will help kids all over Kentucky have food for the summer while they are out of school. We are blessed to be able to help people while we do our job as carriers. It's one day a year most of us look forward to.

Next up, I have some information on very important legislation that needs your help to get passed. First up is the *Privatization Act H.R.70 and S.R.147*. This bill would keep the Postal Service from being privatized. Next is *Protect our Letter Carriers Act. H.R.1065 and S.R.463*. This bill would protect Carriers with stiffer sentences for anyone harming a postal employee. It would make available funds to make collection boxes more secure and have more security for carriers. Then we have *H.R. 1522 Retirement Fairness Act*. This protects the supplement for carriers eligible to retire to receive a supplemental count to equal what you would approximately get thru social security. All of these bills are very important to both active and retired carriers. Together we can fight back and have our voices heard and it's very simple to do. It takes about 5-10 minutes online. Go to [NALC.org](http://NALC.org) and click on government affairs. Then scroll thru and read the bills and who sponsors them on the bill tracker. If your Congressman has already co-sponsored this bill, you can send them a thank you in the take action section. If not just click the take action button on the portal and you can click a few times and send emails to both the Senators and Congressman with the ask. There is a lot of information available on the website. Do yourself a favor and fight to keep your job and help make it a better place to work.

The annual golf scramble was a great time. We had 10 teams this year. I believe all of them had a good time. The food was plentiful and lots of prizes were won. I hope to see all of you at the MDA scramble on October 5th. This one is open to anyone so bring some friends and help us raise lots of money for the kiddos. Hope to see you at the next Union Meeting.



**UNION MEETING**

Date: May 20th, 2025

Br 14 Union Meeting Attendance by Zone	
Annshire 40205	1
Annshire 40213	3
Annshire 40218	0
DTCU 40202	0
DTCU 40203	1
DTCU 40204	0
DTCU 40208	0
DTCU 40210	0
Fern Creek 40228	2
Fern Creek 40291	1
Hikes Point 40220	2
Iroquois 40209/14	1
Iroquois 40215	2
J-Town 40299	0
Lyndon 40222	0
Lyndon 40241/42	2
Middletown 40243	0
MLK 40211	4
MLK 40212	1
Okolona 40219	1
Okolona 40229	0
PRP 40258	1
PRP 40272	1
Shelby 40217	1
Shively 40216	0
St Matthews 40206	0
St Matthews 40207	2
Bardstown 40004	1
Campbellsville 42718	0
Eminence 40019	0
Ft Knox 40121	0
LaGrange 40031	1
Lebanon 40033	0
Radcliff 40160	0
Shelbyville 40065	0
Springfield 40069	0
Vine Grove 40175	1
Retired	9
Guests	0
Total	38

**Officers & Stewards Excused: Schneider, Endelmann, McCormick, Gutierrez, & Watson**

**Officers and Stewards Absent: Wright**

**MDA 50/50 Drawing.....\$51 MDA  
.....\$51 Tom Webb**

**\$50 Door Prize.....Yodari Balcarcel**

**SHIVELY POST OFFICE RETIREES  
“10th Annual”  
“REUNION LUNCHEON”**

**DATE:** WEDNESDAY, July 9th, 2025

**TIME:** 1:30 PM

**LOCATION:** MIKE LINNING'S RESTAURANT  
9308 CANE RUN ROAD 40258

**IF YOU'VE EVER WORKED AT ANY OF  
THE SHIVELY POST OFFICE LOCATIONS,  
ANY CRAFT,  
PLEASE COME!**

**INVITE OTHERS THAT MAY NOT KNOW**

**WE WILL BE IN THE LARGE GAZEBO  
RESERVED SECTION IN THE BACK, SEE  
YOU THERE!!**

**(If Rain-we will be inside)**

**BRING PICTURES TO SHARE IF YOU HAVE  
THEM!**

**QUESTIONS? CALL OR EMAIL MIKE SPAULDING  
502-439-1154 SPAULDINGK@GMAIL.COM**

**Shared Services (National Human Resources)  
1-877-477-3273 <http://liteblue.usps.gov>  
You'll need your Employee ID# and USPS PIN.**

**Next Union Meeting  
June 24th, 2025 at 7:30pm  
United we bargain, Divided we beg**



## CUQITA BOYD



OPEN TO ALL



SNACKS

BRING YOUR  
SINGING VOICE

**JULY 26<sup>TH</sup> @ 8PM**  
4815 POPLAR LEVEL RD.

ADULTS ONLY

BYOB

**\$5 ENTRY FEE (ALL PROCEEDS GO TO MDA)**



National Association of Letter Carriers  
Falls City Branch 14  
4815 Poplar Level Road  
Louisville, KY 40213  
06/25

Address Service Requested



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**Contact Us:**

**Mailing Address:**

P.O. Box 33303

Louisville, KY 40232-3303

**Email:** lfou@louisvillefou.com

**Main Branch:**

1420 Gardiner Ln. Room 66

Louisville, KY 40231

P: 502-458-2681

F: 502-458-2682

**Downtown Branch:**

600 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Place

Room 166

Louisville, KY 40202

P/F: 502-584-3579

We're putting the "US"  
back in TRUST!

Talk to a Member Service Rep today &  
start seeing your money grow.



DON'T GET PLAYED,  
BEAT YOUR RATE!

We strive to have the lowest rates for  
our members. If we can't beat your  
auto rate, we'll match it!\*

\*Restrictions Apply

