

# BRANCH MEETING

BRANCH 343, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI  
AUGUST 15, 2024

## Summary of Branch Action

- MSC To pay the branch bills.
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- MSC That the branch donate a pair of Cardinal baseball tickets to the Missouri State Association SILENT AUCTION AND RAFFLE to benefit the Charles Coyle Scholarship Fund.
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- MSC That the branch purchases a pair of Blues tickets for 10 games at a cost of no more than \$1,500. These tickets will be given away as attendance prizes at the October through February branch meetings.
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- MSC That Branch 343 sponsors two holes at \$50 per hole for the Charles W. Cook Memorial Golf Tournament to Benefit MDA to be held on Sunday, September 22.
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- MSC That Branch 343 sponsors a hole for \$100 for the Missouri State Association 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament for MDA on Sept. 27.
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- MSC That Branch 343 sponsors a hole for \$100 for the VFW Post 3944 golf tournament. Post 3944 always sponsors a hole and a team for Branch 343's annual golf tournament.

## New Members

- Bobby Anderson..... Affton ..... 7/27/2024  
 Kaylen Austin..... Fenton ..... 7/5/2024  
 Aveounia Burns..... Olivette ..... 7/20/2024  
 Ty Coulter ..... Southwest ..... 7/11/2024  
 Austin Dillin..... Gaffney ..... 7/11/2024  
 Alexius Dilworth..... Maryville Gardens ... 7/12/2024  
 Tiffany Harris..... Olivette ..... 7/12/2024  
 Ahab Mack..... Oldham..... 7/12/2024  
 Jewel McWell ..... Olivette ..... 7/11/2024  
 Montra Mumphard .. Kirkwood..... 7/27/2024  
 Eric Ramirez..... Southwest ..... 7/22/2024  
 Charles Simmons ..... Affton ..... 7/27/2024  
 Jacob Smith..... Creve Coeur ..... 7/12/2024  
 Tom Willcockson ..... Washington ..... 7/27/2024

## Recently Retired Members

- Virgil Harden ..... Carrier Square..... 07/23/2024  
 Gary Smith..... Normandy ..... 07/31/2024

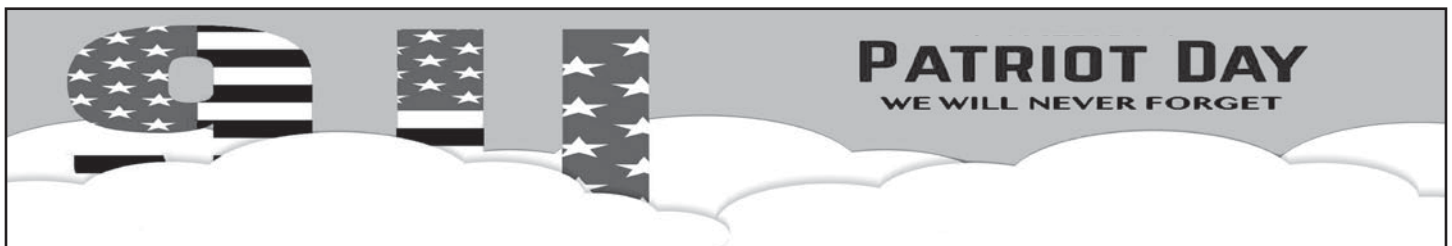
## Deceased Members

- Sabrina Taylor..... Active ..... 06/26/2024  
 Patricia Tutin ..... Retired ..... 06/10/2024

# BRANCH MEETING ATTENDANCE PRIZES

## AUGUST 15, 2024

- |                                    |          |                           |
|------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| 1. Cardinals vs. Milwaukee Brewers | Aug. 20  | Frank Enlow, U-City       |
| 2. Cardinals vs. San Diego Padres  | Aug. 27  | Richard Thurman, Retired  |
| 3. Cardinals vs. San Diego Padres  | Aug. 28  | Earl Bentley, Retired     |
| 4. Cardinals vs. Cincinnati Reds   | Sept. 10 | Nate Markovich, Southwest |
| 5. Muny - Anything Goes            | Aug. 20  | Brian Gray, Southwest     |
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- |   |      |                           |
|---|------|---------------------------|
|  | \$47 | Nate Markovich, Southwest |
|---|------|---------------------------|



## Highlights

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Chet Drain and the minutes were read by Recording Secretary Richard Brown and accepted.

**NBAs Report, Pat Baker (RGA):** Pat spoke about the resolutions discussed at the National Convention. He addressed the backlog of cases at Step B and that we have three teams and may soon have four to settle them. Management has been told that if they don't increase their productivity, they may be gone. Pat also spoke on the Leadership Academy and its benefits, which is held in Maryland. Applications for the 2025 class are due September 27.

**Legislative Report, Mike Weir:** Mike read the names of contributors to the PAC Fund. He announced that the projected COLA is still the same as last month (2.3% CSRS, 2% FERS). He spoke on the presidential debate in June (some Democrats are questioning the current nominee (Biden)). He spoke on "Project 2025" and the issues with it. He cautioned us to think about that when deciding who to vote for.

**Retirees Report, Tom Schulte:** Tom reported that they had 30 retirees in attendance. Mike and Jeanette Weir provided food. Tom said that retirees are interested in the same issues as active carriers, cost of living, legislative issues, and health benefits.

**Labor Council Report, Pam Stepney:** Pam spoke on the August voters and encouraged all to vote in November. Those candidates that were backed by labor won their respective races. She advised members that they could see Richard Brown to sign-up to participate in LCPF. The Labor Day festival will be Sunday, August 25 (noon - 4 p.m. at Florissant Knights of Columbus Park, Florissant) free food and water, petting zoo, and more. On the ballots in November: minimum wage, sports betting, paid sick leave, and abortion. Remember to vote for candidates that are labor friendly.

**MBA Report, Saronda Sutherland:** Saronda referenced the 20-year term life insurance, which is payroll deduct eligible.

**Health Benefit Report, Barry Linan:** Barry has been receiving calls about the PSHB Plan. We will all need to re-enroll this year (Nov. 11-Dec 9) as there is a new enrollment code. Information on how to enroll will be available in October on the OPM site. OPM will enroll you in a "similar plan" if you fail to enroll. He advised not to depend on that and enroll yourself.

**Mound City Carrier Report, Tom Schulte:** Tom reminded us of the golf tournament, retirees picnic in Creve Coeur Park, the Labor Day picnic, Missouri state training and stewards banquet. He also said that the September issue of the MCC will have the 2025 rotating day calendar.

Tom took a moment of personal privilege to present honorable

mention writing awards from the NALC publication workshop. (See pg. 17)

**Haake Scholarship Report, Pam Stepney:** Pam reminded us to look in September issue of the MCC for the John Haake and Charles Coyle Scholarship applications for 2025, which are due December 31, 2024.

**Safety and Health Report, Richard Thurman:** Richard spoke on the new NDGV vehicle which was on display at the National Convention. The vehicles are being produced in South Carolina by non-union workers. He said 16 have been produced, but they have all been recalled for deficiencies. The vehicles cost more than 65k each and it is not clear who will be responsible for any damage to the vehicles.

**OWCP Report, Barry Linan:** A letter carrier was rear ended and taken to the hospital, the Postal Service is not paying the carrier COP, claiming "the case is pending. This is improper as all cases are pending until the DOL approves.

**Trustees Report, La'Tecse Litteken:** Books audited and found in good standing.

**Political Action Committee Report, Mike Weir:** Mike recognized honor roll and star contributors to PAC Fund. He reported that inflation is coming down. H.R.82 and S.597 now have 323 co-sponsors and 62 in the Senate, only 60 votes needed to beat the filibuster. Mike reported that every candidate we supported with the PAC Fund won in the primary. He asked everyone to contribute to the PAC Fund and the Letter Carriers Political Fund.

**Executive Vice President/Treasurer Report, Brian Litteken:** Brian talked about some of the resolutions presented to the membership at the National Convention and explained what they meant and/or how they affect us. These items are things NALC headquarters are seeking to add/change in the contract we are currently negotiating.

**Vice President/Financial Secretary Report, Marvin Booker:** Marvin read his financial report. He then spoke briefly about the first-time delegates attending the National Convention. While the contract is still being negotiated, any monetary gains will come with backpay.

**President's Comments, John McLaughlin:** John echoed Pat Baker regarding the Leadership Academy. He referenced upcoming training at the steward meetings (OSHA, Labor Board). He also spoke briefly about issues at the National Convention, specifically, the Article 10 charges brought against NALC President Brian Renfro, and how those charges were addressed during the convention.

*Respectfully Submitted, Richard Brown, Recording Secretary*