

# BRANCH MEETING

BRANCH 343, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI  
OCTOBER 10, 2024

## Summary of Branch Action

- MSC To pay the branch bills.

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- MSC That Branch 343 donate \$200 to Meals on Wheels.

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- MSC That Branch 343 make a \$500 donation to the United Way.

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- MSC That Branch 343 host a dinner for the Mound City Carrier committee along with our printers.

*Smile  
for the  
Camera*



On hand to offer congratulations to retiring Southwest letter carrier Terry Dearing are: (Front) shop steward Brian Gray; (Back L-R) Terry, Br. 343 President John McLaughlin and shop steward Nate Markovich

## New Members

- Jason Eads ..... Cuba ..... 8/16/2024
- Devonta Jackson ..... South County ..... 9/7/2024
- Kendrick King ..... Fenton ..... 9/13/2024
- Lanikia Lawrence ..... South County ..... 9/20/2024
- Tabitha Mann ..... Park Hills ..... 9/7/2024
- Clarence Mixon ..... Southwest ..... 9/7/2024
- Alyssa Pierson ..... Rolla ..... 9/21/2024
- Gregg Troupe ..... Sappington ..... 9/20/2024

## Recently Retired Members

- Terry Dearing ..... Southwest ..... 09/30/2024
- Mark Ebert ..... Sappington ..... 09/30/2024
- John Grace ..... Coyle ..... 09/27/2024

## Deceased Members

- JoAnne Holbrook ..... Retired ..... 09/15/2024
- John P. Konopka ..... Retired ..... 10/06/2024



## BRANCH MEETING ATTENDANCE PRIZES

- |                                |         |                                |
|--------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|
| 1. SLU Billikens vs. Rockhurst | Oct. 18 | La'Tecse Litteken, Creve Coeur |
| 2. SLU Billikens vs. Maryville | Oct. 25 | Lucille Snow, Retired          |
| 3. Blues vs. Ultra Hockey Club | Nov. 7  | Steven Powers, Fenton          |
|                                | \$42    | Richard Thurman, Retired       |

## Highlights

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 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.

**Legislative Report, Mike Weir:** COLA for 2025 is 2.5% for CSRS and 2% for FERS employees. H.R. 82 will be reviewed when Congress comes back to session. “No excuse voting” is scheduled to start on Oct. 22. Mike referred to project 2025 and some of the agenda items bundled into it, i.e., raise retirement age, tax cuts, they want to use the military to break up domestic protest.

**Retirees Report, Tom Schulte:** There were 40 in attendance at the retirees picnic on Oct. 2. Tom thanked the NBA office for picking up the tab for the picnic.

**Labor Council Report, Pam Stepney:** Pam read some literature provided by the Labor Council, regarding elections. She advised there will be more door knocking and phone banking coming.

**Health Benefit Report, Barry Linan:** Barry spoke on the new biweekly premiums for self and family (NALC \$238, GHA \$365 and Blue Cross-Blue Shield \$435). The Postal Service is supposed to send a letter advising of the plan you will be automatically re-enrolled in. Verify you are re-enrolled in the correct plan. If enrolled in a plan that you do not want, you can change during the Open Season (Nov. 11-Dec. 9).

**Mound City Carrier Report, Tom Schulte:** Tom reminded us that the Shop Steward Banquet is Sunday, Oct. 13, and the Golf Tournament is Monday, Oct. 14. Tom advised that the delegate nominations to the State Convention (2025) and National Convention (2026) will be at next regular branch meeting, November 14.

**Haake Scholarship Report, Pam Stepney:** Pam has taken the scholarship applications that are in the MCC, to several post offices for carriers to have their seniors complete.

**Safety and Health Report, Richard Thurman:** Richard is getting the area safety committees reactivated, per Manny Peralta (national safety captain). Teams are in each location and are visiting offices to check the buildings and vehicles for safety issues. Some of the teams are addressing the security of carriers (box keys, gas cards, vehicle keys), it is to be immediately addressed with local police. He informed us

that sensors are being disabled in the Metris vehicle by carriers, and that is a removable offense. Richard asked us to contribute to the Disaster Relief Foundation.

**OWCP Report, Barry Linan:** Management is supposed to give you a CA-16 (authorization for treatment), to go wherever you choose. They are to write the facility name on the form, and they are not to tell you where to go. Also, you are not required to take a drug test when reporting to a facility for an injury. This can only be done if you are sent for a fitness for duty.

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

**Political Action Committee Report, Mike Weir:** Mike read the names of contributors to the PAC fund. He encouraged us to contribute to the PAC fund and LCPF.

**Executive Vice President/Treasurer Report, Brian Litteken:** Brian updated us on contract negotiations. The executive council is expected to meet promptly after a tentative agreement is reached. Brian reminded us of the motions that passed last meeting, and that the bar cooler has been installed and the new laptops will be installed Friday, Oct. 11. The full-time officers met with Swipt (software developer) on Tuesday, Oct. 8, and they signed an agreement for them to start on the new database and web-portal.

**Vice President/Financial Secretary Report, Marvin Booker:** Booker spoke on the expiration of the contract (it's been 509 days since the last negotiated contract). He advised that when we receive the tentative agreement to look at it closely when determining if you should vote to accept it.

**President's Comments, John McLaughlin:** John spoke on the passing of John Konopka. He also spoke about the State Convention and mentioned some of the things we were advised has been agreed upon in the new contract. It will take less time to get to top pay, we will have the option to use annual leave if put on EP, CCAs will be advanced annual leave at start of second 360 day appointment, we will be able to sell back annual leave at the end of the year, two new overtime lists will be created (work on off day only and/or work overtime on regular scheduled day only), uniform allotment.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Richard Brown, Recording Secretary*