2017-2018
John H. Haake Scholarship Recipients

Front row L to R: Pam Stepney sitting in for Shannon Morrissey, Amber Hodge, Allison Weiler and Tyler Wilder
Second row: Br. 343 Pres. Bill Lister, Mr. & Mrs. John Warner, Mrs. Rachael Weiler, Mrs. Gwen Moore, John Haake and Tom Schulte from the Scholarship Committee
The USPS is an expansive and ever-changing organization that oftentimes becomes its own worst enemy for those exact same reasons. We’re so big that many times directives from higher levels drastically change as they make their way down the chain of command. By the time a directive reaches a supervisor on the workroom floor, it has changed and become unrecognizable as to its original intent. The supervisor interprets what the manager has been told by the area manager, who was told by someone in labor, who interpreted what a district person said during a telcon from … well you get the idea. Other times the person giving the telcon can put something out without even realizing that their words will be used exactly as they spoke them by a supervisor the next day on the workroom floor. Still other times, directives are put out with the intent of accomplishing the exact interpretation of the words they spoke.

Recently, someone I know heard a part of a telcon and relayed the part he heard to me. Granted it was only a portion of what was said and perhaps he didn’t hear enough to fully understand the intent or the entire context the statement was being made in. Then he told me that a question had been asked about when management should decide that an employee has done something that they should place the employee off the clock on emergency placement. The question was then answered with the statement, “When in doubt, put em out.” This statement represents management’s or labor’s order to managers and supervisors regarding any violation or perceived violation of work rules by an employee when a supervisor doesn’t know what to do. With the full content of what was said, perhaps the meaning would change, at least a little bit. Or maybe that’s just me, hoping that no-one giving a telcon could possibly be this uncaring, uneducated, or unqualified, to not then explain the contractual reasons for placing someone on an EP and performing at least a modicum of an investigation.

Regardless of the intent, this statement even if explained, is at best a very poor choice of words. At worst, it could result in numerous employees being placed off the clock on an EP for the wrong reason. We would then file a grievance and if there was not just or at least reasonable cause to place the employee off the clock, then the employee would be returned to work and often with full back pay. The problem here is that the innocent employee sits at home, with no pay while their issue is sorted out. Over the past several years I have witnessed this situation play itself out on numerous occasions.

Some of those EPs have been justified. Many, however, have not. So, I decided to look back at some of these and began with 2012 and 2013 where there were 19 EPs in each of those years. A high number, but an average amount considering previous year’s numbers. Then I looked at 2014 and we shot up to 36. And then 2015 at 24 and last year, 2016, up to 29. So far in 2017 we have had eight, which would place us somewhere around 24 for this year. Why the increase? Have our employees become that much worse than past years, that they must be placed off the clock on EP? Then I thought, just how many have been put back to work and how many received back pay. That may tell us, so let’s look.

Out of the 19 EPs in 2013 there were 11 sustained and nine of those with pay in the amount of about $95,000 and eight denied. With a total of 36 EPs in 2014, there were 26 sustained with 13 of those for over $100,00, in back pay and 10 denied. In 2015, the total went down to 24 with 13 of 14 being sustained for a total of $65,000 in back pay and 10 denied. The total went back up in 2016 to 29 with 13 of 21 being sustained for a total of over $100,000 in back pay, one still open and seven denied. As for 2017, we have already had eight EPs of which five are open and two sustained with back pay for over $6,000 and one denied. That leaves the total win/loss ratio since 2013 and thru this date, at 74 wins, 36 losses with five open and for a total of well over $350,000 that management has
spent (in back pay) on these EPs. That amount does not include all steward time, arbitration and management hours spent developing and processing these issues, which could be a significant amount.

If the OIG wants to investigate wasteful spending in the USPS, then perhaps they should look no further than labor in this district. When you pursue 74 EPs that you can’t win over a four-year period, then you are either very bad at what you do or you should change the way you are doing things. Answers such as, “When in doubt, put em out,” are obviously the root of the problem and must be addressed before anything will ever change. That change, however, will never come until the near-sided, inept, and foolish people responsible for standing behind this ridiculous policy are moved to positions where they can do no harm or they’re held responsible for their actions. Rather, they should be training their supervisors and managers on how to manage and deal with situations that arise on the workroom floor instead of developing a policy that is nothing more than a knee-jerk reaction. The simple act of immediately speaking to an employee would be a good start. If that were the advice given by labor the past four years, then many of these issues would not have been EPs at all. More? Later!

May 11      Regular Branch Meeting
May 13      NALC Food Drive
May 28      Br. 343 Basketball Challenge for MDA (see ad)
May 29      Memorial Day Holiday Observed
June 1      Shop Stewards’ Meeting
June 7      Retirees’ Meeting
June 8      Regular Branch Meeting
June 25     Run Ride & Roll for MDA (see ad)

Happy Mother’s Day

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Retired letter carriers of Br. 343 and Br. 5050
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It does matter!
By the time that you receive this publication and read this article, our 25th annual Food Drive will be right upon us or would have just been completed. Let us all pray that we have a pleasant — weather-wise — day with lots of participation. Let us be there for those less fortunate as we should be very grateful for what we have. As far as the delivery of bags are concerned, I hope that by visiting the many stations on my own time, that more carriers took it upon themselves to deliver bags that were attached with the reminder postcards. The basic fact is that with the bags, we collect two to three times as much food. I am very optimistic that this year more stations will participate in taking up station collections for the St. Louis Area Foodbank; a charity with an unheard of 3 percent administrative cost. I have agreed to make a $20 donation to each station that collects as least $100. Our branch also receives credit for these donations. Next month, I will list those stations that have participated.

Last month, I mentioned that I would update you on the situation regarding CCA’s test scores and their rankings. I went downtown and viewed nearly all the test scores and we found only one other mistake; the good news is that 10-31-15 seems to be the only problem date. We even verified test scores for some regulars that were previously CCAs and found no mistakes. HRSSC has agreed to review all current CCAs and their test scores to make sure that the relative standing is correct. We are very satisfied with the cooperation from management as we feel that the problem is not as big as it could have been and that they want to do right in this case.

GRIEVANCES

Recently, there have been a couple of grievances that continue to be an issue with this branch. In the past three or four months, there have been more than enough grievance settlements where management has not made timely pay adjustments in accordance with their settlements or Step B decisions. We have filed a city-wide grievance regarding these delays and are very optimistic that we can show a past pattern of management neglect, and not abiding by settlements to make pay adjustments in a timely manner. The other big issue has been regular carriers who become eligible for uniform allowance cards not receiving their uniform card allowance. We have received awards for those delays, but that is not really the objective. Most of the time, it has been the same managers who refuse to do the job that is expected of them and what is even sadder is that once again, no one is held accountable. It is quite ironic that management wants carriers to be in uniform, but does not want to uphold their end by making sure that a simple request for a uniform worksheet gets processed. Do not get me wrong, as I do feel that those carriers who do receive an allowance should be professionally dressed as we are the face of the USPS. Hopefully, these two issues will become a subject of the past; it is highly unlikely unless our postmaster starts holding her own managers accountable for their actions or lack of actions.

UNION

It was with much sadness that one of my coworkers at Clayton, Steven Buckingham, recently passed away. Steve was an individual who always had a smile and was a pleasure to speak with. Sometimes, Steve was maybe a little too outspoken in his reaction to situations at the wrong time, but then none of us are perfect. My condolences go out to his family and the carriers at Clayton. I, personally, wanted to thank supervisor Betty Schumacher for her handling of the entire situation with his family and for calling EAP out to the station after his death.

Our recent poker tournament raised over $600 for the St. Louis Area Foodbank and MDA. We distributed MDA’s share to other MDA events such as bowling, barbecue, bass tournament, walk ride and roll and basketball. I wanted to thank everyone who played, Tom Schreiber for getting many donations, Kurt Ecker and his daughter Carly for volunteering that night, Tom Schultz for taking some pictures and Diane Carter for making some chili.
First place winner (C) Marco Valentino, second place (L) Shawn Simpson and third place winner Paul Simpson (R).
May 2017 greetings to all of the brothers and sisters of NALC Branch 343. Still no new contract as of this writing and I’m starting to wonder if it’s ever going to happen? With negotiations dragging on for almost a year now, it’s hard to gauge our odds of a negotiated agreement. I am still holding out hope, because there were a lot of things in the last Das arbitration award that I did not like and I believe a negotiated agreement will be better.

USE PS FORM 3971 — REQUEST FOR LEAVE

I keep talking about this issue, but it continues to be a problem. When you leave work or call in for unscheduled leave, make sure you fulfill your obligation to fill out a Form 3971 upon returning to work. No, you are not obligated to sign the 3971 that your supervisor pre-printed for you. The supervisor has the capability to make changes to the information that you provided in your call to ERMS on the pre-printed 3971 and they do so quite often. I strongly advise you to fill out your own 3971, get it signed/dated by a supervisor as received, and then keep a copy. If your supervisor refuses to provide you a 3971 or insists you sign their pre-printed 3971, request a steward immediately to enforce your rights. If you work with a CCA or a newly converted regular, please tell them how to do this because many of them are just unaware of the proper leave procedures.

Too many times carriers are not filing out a 3971 and supervisors are charging them with LWOP or AWOL instead of their requested leave. Your steward needs a copy of your 3971 as documentation if a grievance needs to be filed. Your supervisor is required by postal handbooks and manuals to either approve or disapprove your 3971. Further, if the 3971 request for leave is disapproved, the supervisor must give the reason and then return a copy to you.

Normally, for sick leave requests of three days or less, documentation is not required. If your supervisor is requiring documentation, ask them what is their basis for their request? They need to have a legitimate business reason, not just the catch-all phrase “needs of service.” If documentation is required, you should contact your physician and make an appointment as soon as possible. You then fill out another 3971 to request sick leave for the appointment, this time scheduled in advance, and get the documentation from your physician. Again, get the second 3971 signed/dated as received by your supervisor and keep a copy. If you feel the request for documentation is unwarranted, request your steward file a grievance to reimburse you for your costs in leave/mileage/co-pay to get the needed documentation.

POSTAL REFORM BILLS – H RES 28

Finally, some good news for a change! Thru the efforts of many NALC activists, there is now a bipartisan majority of 218 cosponsors on H Res 28. It asks that “The USPS should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of door delivery for all business and residential customers.” I reported last month the need for action when the bill was at 187 cosponsors.

Lacy Clay, Mo.-1, was the only local congressman who signed on as a cosponsor and we thank him for stepping up again for letter carriers. Sam Graves, Mo.-6, and Emmanuel Cleaver, Mo.-5, both cosigned on March 21, 2017. Jason Smith, Mo.-8, cosigned on April 5, 2017. Thanks to everyone who contacted their congressmen and requested that they sign on.

REMAINING BRANCH CARDINAL TICKETS FOR SALE AT HALL

We sold Cardinal tickets after the April 13 branch meeting and still have many games available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact me at the hall for a list of remaining games. Price is $120 per game for two tickets in the Home Redbird Club, section 249, row 6, seats 5 and 6. As always, we will continue to give away games as attendance prizes at the monthly branch meetings. Attend your monthly union meeting and you could be a winner!
Postal Logic 101: If your manager/supervisor doesn’t like you, they do not have to follow their own handbooks and manuals or contract. This seems to be the norm more and more lately. If they don’t like you, they deny you pay, a steward, postal forms, or the ability to speak. A carrier is only afforded the luxury of contractual protections if they kiss the gluteus maximus of their immediate superior. Unfortunately, carriers will unwittingly be lured into thinking that they will be assured preferential treatment if you kowtow to management’s every direction. While carriers may benefit from being the supervisor’s pet, this courtesy never lasts. When push comes to shove, management will always cover their ass at your expense. They will be doing the pushing and shoving.

A fine example of this is when management allows a carrier to case a door-to-door ad while not allowing other carriers to do the same. Of course, every carrier would like to make their job easier. But, if you think that for one minute that supervisor will not promptly throw you under the bus the minute one of their superiors catches wind of your little arrangement, then you are delusional. The few times I’ve been approached with management willing to turn a blind eye to something, I ask them if policy has changed or for them to put it in writing. Believe me, the conversation will end abruptly. A person is only as good as their word … in writing.

Performance Enhancement Tool (PET) will be the next replacement for DOIS. St. Louis has not yet adopted this program. It is my understanding that the PET will entail the following:

- Percent-to-standard is going away (how fast you throw mail)
- Every carrier will be put in at 18 and 8 (18 letters per minute and 8 flats per minute.)
- Your fixed office time will disappear (legitimate work you perform in the office that does not entail throwing mail.)
- They will input your volumes in for the day.
- Finally, each day after your volume is put in the program it will spit out the average time it took you on that day for the past six weeks

In other words, this will soon be the latest tool of choice to brow beat carriers to help management “make their numbers.” Meet the new boss … same as the old boss.

Until next month, do your job safely and accurately. Show up to your union meeting. You might learn something. We don’t write the rules; we just have to play the game. Sláinte.
Every job-related injury should be reported as soon as possible to your supervisor. Injury also means any illness or disease that is caused or aggravated by the employment as well as damage to medical braces, artificial limbs, and other prosthetic devices. Injuries that occur from an extended duration of work activity or continual exposure to hazardous conditions should be filed as an occupational disease claim on form CA-2.

For traumatic injuries, injuries that occur as a particular one-time event before you obtain medical treatment, ask your supervisor to authorize medical treatment by use of form CA-16. You may initially select the physician to provide necessary treatment. This may be a private physician or at a hospital ER within a 25-mile radius from where you live. A good choice is to be treated at a hospital were your personal doctor is on staff. Keep in mind, however, that not all physicians will accept an OWCP claim. It’s imperative that you discuss this with your doctor in advance in order that you have a contingency plan worked out should you experience an injury on duty.

Be sure that your supervisor gives you a form CA-16 to take to the medical provider with you on the initial medical treatment. If this is not done, the supervisor should call the medical provider and give verbal authorization for your medical care and then furnish the CA-16 for medical authorization within four hours. Be sure that the doctor fills out the attending physician’s report, the second part of the CA-16. This is crucial because this section contains the diagnosis of injury and establishes the fact of injury related to your claim.

If you receive initial medical treatment from an ER, make sure they write you a referral to your physician of choice for follow-up treatment. Any medical treatment you receive within 60 days of the date of injury is covered by the CA-16 based on referral. If you make multiple visits to a medical provider related to your injury claim, you will have to write to OWCP to request a change of physicians.

If you experience a traumatic injury, complete the employee’s portion of form CA-1. Obtain the form from your supervisor, complete it and turn it in as soon as possible. A “receipt” of Notice of Injury is attached to each form CA-1. Your supervisor should complete the receipt and return it to you for your personal records.

If it is not returned to you, ask your supervisor for it. After the supervisor has submitted all the information on the CA-1 (electronically in most cases) ask for a copy of the completed CA-1. The CA-1 must be submitted within 30 days of the date of injury to claim continuation of pay (COP). Also, medical documentation to support your injury claim must be provided within 10 days from the time you file it.

You do not have to accept treatment from a medical provider chosen by your supervisor. You do have the right to select your physician of choice. Management can request for you to go to a physician for examination in non-emergency situations, but you are not required to accept treatment from that doctor and the examination can in no way interfere with your right of choice of physicians.

If you have any problems with management assisting you in filing an injury claim, inform your shop steward or contact Br. 343 for some assistance.

God bless all and peace!
In the March issue of the Postal Record, a list of the 10 most trusted companies was published based on the results of an annual survey taken by the Ponemon Institute based in Michigan. The results revealed that with over 100,000 adults surveyed over a 12-month period, respondents were asked to name the top five companies or federal agencies that they believe to be the most trusted for protecting the privacy of their personal information. Not surprisingly, the United States Postal Service was in the top 10.

The 10 most trusted companies for 2017 were: Apple, Amazon, American Express, IBM, LinkedIn, Facebook, HP Inc., Intuit, PayPal and the U.S. Postal Service. It’s a remarkable accomplishment that of the 10 companies listed, one is actually an arm of the federal government — the United States Postal Service. What’s not surprising is that it is consistently ranked, year after year, as the most trusted agency of the federal government. In fact, the USPS has held the title as the most trusted federal agency for the last 10 years in a row.

Dr. Larry Ponemon, chairman and founder of the Ponemon Institute stated, “We believe this survey validates the Postal Service’s commitment to privacy and excellent customer service which are both key to building trusted customer relationships. We are pleased to recognize the U.S. Postal Service as one of the most trusted organizations overall and among government agencies.”

What accounts for the public’s trust? It’s the letter carrier. Customer satisfaction is directly attributed to the one-on-one contact the letter carrier shares with their customers each and every day. Very few businesses or agencies share that direct contact on such a broad scale. The U.S. Postal Service processes over 40 percent of the world’s mail to more addresses over the largest geographic area on a daily basis. Customers expect us to protect their privacy and our customer satisfaction rankings prove that we are doing just that.

What’s even more surprising is the fact that letter carriers are performing their tasks daily, despite the deplorable lack of respect they receive from postal supervisors and managers. One would assume that employee morale would drop along with performance standards, but what is astounding is that carriers know their jobs. For the most part they can ignore the harassment and negative vibes they encounter in the office. They reserve their professionalism for the street and the customers they are charged to satisfy. Years ago, we tried self-managed stations. No supervisors, letter carriers handled the day-to-day operations. Carriers were in charge of covering the routes, doling out the overtime and covering the holiday schedule. It worked so well that management pulled the plug on it. How great to have that opportunity again. One could only imagine how high our national customer trust ranking could be.

I’ve always held letter carriers in high regard, just as public trust surveys will attest. There is no greater satisfaction than to have pride in what you do. The public’s trust should always guide us to that end.

Participants at this year’s MDA Bowl-a-thon at Olivette Lanes on March 19, 2017.
We are pleased to announce the four 2017-2018 John H. Haake, Branch 343, NALC Scholarship Award recipients. They are:

**Allison Rose Weller**  
**Tyler Andre Wilder**  
**Shannon Margaret Morrissey**  
**Amber Hodge**

This is the 27th year the John H. Haake Scholarships have been awarded to deserving sons and daughters of letter carriers from Branch 343, St. Louis, Mo. And, as in previous years, teachers from the National Education Association-St. Louis, under the direction of NEA President ex officio Barbara Anderson met to select our four new recipients.

Shortly following our March 1 deadline, we assemble all the related scholarship packets from each of our applicants. We then forwarded those packets to the teachers union who meet in March to evaluate the scholarship materials and select our four award recipients. This year we received 18 applications from qualified students from high schools throughout the St. Louis area. Of those 18 students who applied for the scholarships, 12 submitted all necessary materials by our March 1 deadline.

Mrs. Anderson notified the branch on March 22 that the scholarship awardees had been selected. The four winners, along with their parents, were invited to the regular branch meeting, April 13, where they were introduced to the membership and presented with certificates commemorating their achievement.

In addition, letters were sent to the students’ respective high schools notifying them of the scholarship presentations so that mention of their accomplishments could be included in their respective high school graduation booklets.

Two years ago, the scholarship committee made revisions to the format of the John Haake Scholarships. Aware of the high cost of sending a child to college, we decide to increase the stipend awarded to the winners from $1000 to $1,500, but in so doing we reduced the number of winners from five to four. We hope that in future years the increase in the stipend will encourage greater participation in the John H. Haake Scholarship program.

As always, each stipend will be deposited with the admissions office of the college where the student is enrolled for the fall semester 2017. The money can then be used in accordance with the scholarship policy to offset the cost of the student’s tuition, room and board, books, meals and other school related fees.

The scholarship committee was very impressed with the academic credentials of our applicants, as well as the leadership qualities exhibited in their extracurricular activities and the hopeful tone and insightful...
nature of their essays. Although only four of the students have been awarded scholarships, all the applicants are clearly winners. Regarding the actual selection of our scholarship winners, (as noted in our accompanying brochure), the decision of the judges is final.

This is the 27th year of the John H. Haake Scholarship program. We are pleased to be a part of such a worthwhile endeavor and hope that everyone who is eligible for the 2018-2019 awards will apply. Please spread the word if you know of a letter carrier whose son or daughter will benefit from participation in this program. The application for the 2018-2019 scholarships will appear in the September issue of the Mound City Carrier.

We would like to thank the evaluation team from the NEA-St. Louis and in particular Mrs. Barbara Anderson for once again agreeing to select our four scholarship winners. One of the first decisions we made with regard to the structure of our program was that no Branch 343 union official or any member of the branch would be involved in the process of determining the scholarship recipients. The need for an independent group to handle this aspect of the program was essential. We are especially pleased to have a panel of teachers review the scholarship materials, not to mention the fact that they represent a sister union. They bring a level of objectivity and professionalism to the task that is beyond reproach.

Given the fact that our scholarship is not based solely on academic achievement (the criteria is outlined in our brochure), but on a well-rounded community service oriented candidate. We were pleased to see the diversity of interests each of our applicants chose to participate in. Their willingness to take the time to help others appeared to serve as a guide as to why they chose to lend their expertise in their respective extracurricular activities.

Finally, we would like to thank John Haake for his leadership and vision in establishing this program 27 years ago. The scholarship program had been a dream of John’s for many years and we cannot think of a more fitting recognition of his efforts to bring his dream to fruition than the fact that it bears his name.

Thanks also to Br. 343 President Bill Lister and Exec. VP/Treasurer Barry Linan and VP Robert Rapisardo for their ongoing support and guidance in continuing the scholarship program. On a personal note I would like to thank the dedication and commitment of my fellow scholarship committee members, Lawrence McHaynes, one of our original members, and to Pam Stepney who keeps the membership apprised of the applicants and all the critical deadlines our students must meet in her monthly branch reports. And finally, to Mike Weir, also one of our original scholarship committee members whose invaluable input helped shape the scholarship criteria.

To this year’s applicants, we would like to extend our best wishes for their academic careers and beyond. Judging from the excellence of our candidates each and every applicant was certainly deserving of an award and we would like to wish them success in their academic endeavors.

In the September issue of this year’s Mound City Carrier we will publish the application for the 2018-2019 John H. Haake Scholarships. For now, please spread the word to any Branch 343 union member who will have a son or daughter who is entering their senior year of high school in the fall. The deadline to apply is December 31, 2017.
ALLISON ROSE WEILER is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jason Weiler of Ste. Genevieve, Mo. Her mother, Rachel, is a letter carrier at the Ste. Genevieve Post Office. Allison is a senior at Valle Catholic High School. Allison has a cumulative advanced placement grade point average of 3.79.

Mrs. Carrie Gegg, Valle Catholic guidance counselor, speaks highly of Allison. “I have had the privilege of watching Allison mature into a young adult. I have known her and her family for the past nine years. I have been working with Allison as her Valle Catholic School guidance counselor since the summer of 2015.”

“Allison is a very dedicated student and has achieved high honors throughout her high school years. She is a great student in and out of the classroom and a very strong leader. She is a member of the National Honor Society, SADD, and Student Council where she currently serves as the treasurer. Aside from her academic accomplishments, Allison has been involved in sports at Valle. She has played volleyball for four years and served as the captain of the team this year. Allison also played softball and was a member of the track team as well as serving as the manager of the baseball team.”

“Allison has logged many community service hours and is actively involved in volunteering with tutoring activities around school and her school parish, all while holding a part-time job. Allison is a joy to be around. A dedicated student with a very outgoing personality. I have every confidence that she will succeed in whatever field she wishes to pursue.”

In the fall, Allison will be attending Southeast Missouri State University.

“My career goal is to obtain a bachelor’s degree in engineering management with a minor in either chemical or mechanical engineering. This scholarship is important to me because it would help alleviate the financial burden on me and help me focus my attention on achieving my academic goals.

“I would like nothing better that to secure internships during the summers while studying throughout the year. I believe internships are extremely important to a student’s resume as well as opening the door to future job placements in my field of study.

“While selecting a career in engineering, I plan on looking for a job that offers stability and advancement with the changing world. Continuing education would not only be beneficial to me, but to the company as well. Engineering is guaranteed to continue to change and evolve and it is the constant change that is so appealing to me.

“Finally, my community service has been a very rewarding part of my high school education. I hope to continue that service throughout my college experience.”

TYLER ANDRE WILDER is the son of Eddardo Wilder and Gwendolyn Moore of Florissant, Mo. Gwendolyn is a letter carrier at the Kirkwood Post Office. Tyler is a senior at McClure High School where his cumulative advanced placement grade point average is 3.75.

“Tyler is a bit of a mystery at first, says Denaya Brown, McClure High School FACS teacher. He is very polite, always on time to class, and always completes his assignments on time. I say he is a bit of a mystery at first because he is a person who will keep to himself until he gets to know you a little better. He is mature beyond his years. Any work completed by Tyler has always been exemplary. His grades attest to the fact that he is an intelligent, hard-working individual.”

“Outside of the classroom setting Tyler exhibits these characteristics through the work he does in the Key Club after school. Tyler helped organize and volunteer for various events and services for our school. He helped organize the school-wide blood drive. He showed his commitment to helping others by volunteering for our school Food for Thought program that is a food pantry for less fortunate peers. Tyler also displayed his compassion for disadvantaged animals by volunteering at a local animal shelter.

“Tyler is a strong-willed, determined young man who will succeed at anything he puts his mind to. He would be a very worthy candidate to receive your scholarship.”

Tyler’s goals began at a very early age. “As a child, I used to write down my dreams and share them with my parents, I would tell them that I wanted to be in a position to help people in need. My parents were always proud of my drive and encouraged me.

“As a young African American male, I have high ambitions for myself and for my future. One of which is becoming the first in my family to graduate from a four-year university. I’ve always wanted to be a teacher in order to help prepare the next generation of children to achieve their goals. I also envision myself as a successful businessman so that I am able to give back to my community through programs such as UMSL Bridge and Kiwanis; both of which invested priceless opportunities into my own life. I’m very honored that I will be attending the University of Missouri-St. Louis collegiate program in the fall.

“As a teacher, my job will be to prepare the children of the future, to be a role model and give them a positive message to make sure my students realize their dreams and help guide them in the right direction to achieve their ambitions.”
Shannon Margaret Morrissey is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Morrissey of Manchester, Mo. Dan is a letter carrier at the West County Post Office. Shannon is a senior at Parkway South High School where she carries a cumulative advanced placement grade-point average of 4.13.

Ms. Anne Erehart, math teacher at Parkway South High School, expressed her thoughts of Shannon in her letter of recommendation. "Shannon is an extraordinarily talented and impressive young lady who excels in her role as a student. Shannon is an extremely adept problem-solver and critical thinker. As an officer in the National Honor Society who maintains a 4.1 GPA, she takes her course work seriously.

"Shannon is also a valued member of the Parkway South High School and Manchester communities. Her extracurricular activities include two mentor groups for younger teens, Peer Teaching and Link Crew. She represents the school as a board member for Teen Voice for Change and received the Outstanding Student Award for field hockey. Shannon has done considerable volunteer work for her church and models a lifestyle of integrity, strong morals, and outstanding work ethic.

"Shannon has been a valued member of the Parkway South field hockey team serving as the goalie on district and state championship teams. Her peers selected her as “Rookie of the Year.” Shannon even helped with the field hockey’s “giving back” program and helped lead the team in raising over $15,000 in donations for the American Cancer Society’s Hope Lodge here in St. Louis. She is a hard working, respectful and respected individual.”

Shannon’s plans for the future are still evolving. "Like so many people my age, I still do not know exactly what I want to do; maybe the first female president or finding a way to end world hunger. If I am able to find something I enjoy and make a living with, I will consider myself lucky.

"One thing I have decided for certain is to bring joy to the people around me and aid them in any way I can. I strongly believe that one does not need a specific career to help others. Rather, they need the mindset geared towards the greater good and the willingness to listen and learn from those around them.

"I do have tentative plans to major in marketing. Marketing manifests itself in almost every area of our lives. Every website, billboard, advertisement, brochure, etc. is a product of someone who works in marketing. One thing that has struck a note with me personally is the use of marketing in nonprofit organizations. If I am able to use my degree to achieve my primary goal of helping others, I could not imagine a better situation.”

Shannon will be attending Truman State University in the fall.

Amber Hodge is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Warner III of Arnold, Mo. John is a letter carrier at the South County Post Office. Amber is a senior at Gateway Science Academy-St. Louis where she ranks first in her senior class with an accumulated advanced placement grade-point average of 4.42.

Dennis Flaherty, head of the mathematics department, said this of Amber. "Throughout her career at Gateway Science Academy, Amber has held herself to a higher standard than other students. Her class rank is not an accident. On the contrary, it is a testament to her work ethic and intelligence. She has consistently asked questions in class to gain a deeper understanding of the material, come to extra tutoring sessions, and even goes outside the classroom to find more resources.

"In addition to her academic excellence, Amber has maintained her athletic career as well. Her leadership skills have earned her the captain’s position in soccer, basketball and softball while here at Gateway Science Academy. As if that weren’t enough, Amber has been a member of the yearbook club and served on the prom committee. She has received numerous science fair awards at both Gateway Science and the City of St. Louis. Amber has also received many outstanding player and MVP awards for her athletic endeavors. Finally, I would like to say that Amber’s work ethic and maturity is among the highest I have come across in my tenure as a teacher.”

For as long as she can remember, Amber has always been a motivated individual. "I recall as far back as second grade when we advanced to getting letter grades from gold stars, the pride I took in seeing the letter “A” on my report cards. Seeing those “A’s” gave me a deep sense of accomplishment. My interests are rich and diverse as evident by my high school curriculum. I’ve managed to maintain “A’s” in all my AP classes including English, algebra, biology, geometry, U.S. history, chemistry and physics.

"I’m very proud to announce that I will be attending St. Louis College of Pharmacy in the fall. I am very excited and blessed to continue my academic journey in one of the most prestigious schools in the country. Realizing the tremendous cost of attending SLU, I would be very grateful to receive this scholarship to offset some of those expenses.

"My academic focus is in the medical profession, ultimately in psychiatry or somewhere in the psychiatric field. By joining this field, I hope to benefit society by providing medical assistance to those who require psychiatric attention. It would give me great pleasure to be able to help others.”
MOUND CITY CARRIER

In Memoriam

Branch 343 regrets to announce the passing of 50-year Gold Card member and long time Mound City Carrier Business Manager Harry Blecha on April 10, 2017, following a brief illness. Harry Blecha joined the Mound City Carrier staff as an associate editor in January 1975 under Managing Editor Anthony Kosciulek. In February of 1978 he assumed the position of business manager of the Mound City Carrier with the retirement of James Remmler, a position he held until his passing.

Harry worked as a letter carrier out of Brentwood and Wheeler Stations and at the end of his career he had a VIM room at the Laclede Gas building downtown. Harry was a member of the M-41 training team along with Vince Badgley back in 1975. He served as a delegate to the 1992 NALC Convention and also served as one of the sergeant-at-arms on the convention floor. He was a member of the 1992 Branch 343 Centennial Celebration Committee and a long time writer under the title Bits ‘n Pieces in the Mound City Carrier.

Harry was a 20-year member of the United States Navy, both active and reserve. He was an avid long-distance runner who enjoyed running marathons and could frequently be seen training by running around the perimeter of Forest Park. He enjoyed the old timers softball leagues for over 30 years and continued to play up until two years ago when he became the manager.

Harry could be a curmudgeon and loved a spirited debate on politics. A life-long Republican, he often clashed with the opinions of his “bleeding heart liberal” Mound City Carrier staff members, but was able to laugh and even enjoy expressing his alternative opinions. He was also a loyal union brother.

On behalf of the officers of Branch 343 and especially the editorial staff of the Mound City Carrier, we wish to express our sincere condolences to his brother Robert and the entire Blecha family.

COME TO OUR SIDE OF THE FENCE

We started in 1928 as the credit union for postal workers. Today, we’ve opened our doors to everyone in our surrounding communities, but our roots remain. We can save you money on:

- Checking accounts with online banking, mobile banking, mobile deposit and more¹
- Auto loans with low rates and no payments for 90 days² (even on refinances!)
- Home equity loans with low rates and no closing costs³
- Mortgage loans with competitive rates
- Savings, CDs, money markets and IRAs
- Club accounts for youth, teens and seniors
- And more!

Start saving money and open your accounts and loans online today!

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³Interest will continue to accrue during deferral period. ¹If loan is paid off and closed within 24 months of opening of loan, member must reimburse the credit union for fees paid.

Membership eligibility required on all offers. Restrictions apply on all offers. See Neighbors Credit Union for complete details on all offers.
NEW CONTRACT

I’m hoping by the time you read this article, there will be a tentative agreement on a new contract being sent to all of you for your vote to ratify or turn down. As I write this article, however, we are still waiting while President Rolando negotiates the last few items where we are still not in agreement. I know that he will not ask you to ratify an agreement that he doesn’t believe is better than we can get from a neutral arbitrator. Please remember, if a tentative agreement is reached, you will ultimately decide by casting your vote yea or nay.

ROUTE INSPECTIONS

I received numerous calls this spring concerning route inspections and the co-leader process. I heard that I had agreed to co-leaders; that I had refused to allow co-leaders; that the NALC had agreed to do away with “line items” and that we agreed that there was no need for carriers to count their mail during the inspection process. Let’s set the record straight. I have not received any calls from management concerning route inspections, other than notification of where and when they were conducted. In fact, most of that information was received in the mail. This office did not agree to a co-leader process, however, if management wanted to have a process where the NALC and management co-leaders were truly equals and with a defined resolution process, we might have been interested. There were no agreements that carriers could not count their mail or would not be allowed to complete their own 1838Cs. Once again, if the story or rumor doesn’t sound right, investigate, give us a call … see fake news item below.

FOOD DRIVE - 25 YEARS.

That’s a huge milestone and letter carriers all across the country and our region should give themselves a pat on the back and celebrate this year. Even though it makes the load heavier and the day seem longer, the good feelings and knowledge of how you are helping your communities will outweigh those things at the end of the day. We have a few more branches registered this year than last and always have room for more. If you’re not yet registered and want to take part in helping your community, there is still time. Contact our office immediately. Iowa also has another reason to celebrate this year, HyVee has committed to a statewide sponsorship for food drive bags! Having food drive bags will typically double the amount of food collected and the number of families that we help to feed. Our goal is to have a sponsor for every state and branch in our region. We have many other branches with individual bag sponsors so this puts us well on our way. Great job everyone and have fun May 13.

FAKE NEWS

I have to admit I was truly amazed at a recent “60 Minutes” piece on fake news and how it is spread across the internet, Facebook and Twitter through the use of “bots.” Millions of these “bots” are being used by some unscrupulous characters to make a few dollars and in the worst case to scandalize politicians who don’t agree with their points of view. This is believed to be one of the ways the Russians became involved during the last presidential campaign. I have to admit, I prefer reading stories that coincide with my political and moral beliefs, as we all do. However, when you read an internet story that Clinton was running a child sex slave business out of a pizza shop, or see a photo of Trump with cocaine up his nose and a pile of it on the desk in front of him … it’s probably bull shit. The same holds true for some of the articles about the NALC. Since many of us are users of social media, I’m asking you all to think a minute before you share these articles that are pretending to be real news. If you want to spread these stories, spread them in your garden where it may do some good.

REGION 5 FACTS

We currently average nearly 9,200 active letter carriers within the region and about 13,500 members counting retirees. There are currently 221 active branches which range from one to 2,625 members. Members by state (approx.): Missouri - 6,000; Iowa - 3,000; Kansas - 2,800; Nebraska - 1,750. There are 4,616 E-activists (highest percentage in the country) and 1,103 or 8.13 percent who contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (terrible).
Meeting called to order by Chairman Schulte at 12:46 p.m. Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance offered by Chaplain Gus Frank. Tom thanked Brother Geno Iberg for the delicious lunch and the homemade desserts provided by his wife, Glenda.

Volunteers: Brother Roy Hatcher volunteered to provide lunch for the November retiree meeting and Chairman Schulte volunteered for the October meeting. This rounds out the lunch volunteers for 2017.

Sick call: A card was signed and sent to Brother Harry Blecha, convalescing in St. Mary's Hospital.

New members: The retirees welcomed brothers George Kenzy and Marvin Raines, both from Fenton Post Office.

Minutes from the last meeting: Chairman Schulte read the minutes from the March meeting. They were approved as read.

Treasurer’s report: Treasurer Clif Nelson reported a current balance after expenses of $1,311.47.

Branch 343 president’s report: As promised, President Lister showed the video using the branch’s new overhead projector of the 1970 Postal Strike. The video was first presented to the delegates at the 2010 NALC National Convention in Anaheim, California. Bill reminded the retirees of the upcoming Ole Timers’ Day on May 6. Invitations are in the mail. Bill reported that the last of the air conditioning/heating units for the hall is being replaced. We are currently working out the bugs in the new phone system. May 20 will make one year since the expiration of our last contract. Bill suspects that if the contract isn’t ratified by the 20th we will likely go to arbitration.

Legislative report: Brother Mike Weir spoke on the Right-to-Work petition soon to be circulated once the Missouri attorney general approves the language. Mike reminded the retirees that you needed to be a registered voter and sign your name exactly as it appears on your voter ID card. There are two bills winding their way through the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. HR 756 and HR 760 both are postal reform bills. There are currently 209 cosponsors and we need 219 to make it a majority. While there is much we can agree on in HR 756, it will require some amending for us to fully support it.

Chairman’s report: Chairman Schulte asked for a show of hands of those in attendance who met at Kiel Auditorium in 1970 and took part in the strike vote. Approximately seven retirees raised their hands. Tom recognized them and thanked them for their courage to take a stand on behalf of all letter carriers. Tom also spoke on the Right-to-Work petition. The attorney general approved the language in the petition and Local 1 IBEW was holding training for anyone interested in being in charge of the petition drive at the Electrician’s Hall on Elizabeth Ave. on April 13 or April 18. More information will be provided at the May retiree meeting.

Recently retired members: Paul Gentile, Mindi Yawitz and John Delaney III from Town & Country; David Williams, Southwest; Harvey Ray, South County; Vernal Jackson Sr., North County; Joseph Westermayor III, Mackenzie Pointe; and Herbert Schatz, Steve White and Carol Walls from Des Peres.

Deceased members: Gerald Lesyna, a 60-year member.

50/50 won by Gus Frank who donated it back to the retirees.

Closing prayer offered by Chaplain Gus Frank

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.
On March 29, Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft approved the referendum petition for Senate Bill 19, the so-called “right to work” legislation. If 140,000 signatures are obtained on the petition by August 25, the issue will be placed on the November 2018 ballot. “Right to work” will not be enacted until after the November 2018 election if the petition drive is successful. The petition will be circulated soon, but first it is essential to train union members and volunteers on how to collect the signatures. If you wish to receive the training, sign up to “Count Me In!” at the following website. You can also send your name, address, cell phone number and email address to the email. A third option is to text “nortw” to 738-764. After the training, you will be able to go back to Branch 343 and train other branch members to collect signatures and help by serving as a point person for collected signature pages.

http://moaflcio.org/count-me-in
nortw@ufcw655.org
text nortw to 738-764

The Republican-controlled legislature wasted no time in trying to stifle this effort. Senate Bill 389 was introduced into the regular Senate session on April 18. House bill HB 1043 was introduced on Feb. 27. Both propose to change the law on initiative petitions.

- **Restrict the time allowed to collect signatures.** Initiative petitions shall be filled “no later than nine months prior to the election at which the proposed measure is to be submitted for a vote.”
- **Require signature collectors to reside in Mo. and be a registered Mo. voter.**
- **Require collectors to display a badge.** “Each petition circulator who is not paid for the purpose of circulating a petition shall display an identification badge while circulating petitions. Such badge shall include the words “VOLUNTEER CIRCULATOR” in boldfaced type that is clearly legible and the name and state of residence of the volunteer circulator. Each petition circulator who is paid for the purpose of circulating a petition shall display an identification badge while circulating petitions. Such badge shall include the words “PAID CIRCULATOR” in boldfaced type that is clearly legible, the name and state of residence of the paid circulator, and the name and telephone number of the individual employing the paid circulator.
- **Restrict how collectors are paid.** “It shall be unlawful for any individual, campaign committee, as that term is defined in section 130.011, or other organization to pay or offer to pay any petition circulator on a basis related to the number of signatures obtained for circulating a petition.”
- **Require a $500 filing fee.** “The secretary of state shall collect a filing fee of $500 for each initiative petition filed.”
- **Require a specific font and type size.** “Initiative and referendum petitions filed ... shall be no larger than 8½-by-14 inches and the font shall be at least 14 point and in Times New Roman.”

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Customer Service 800-527-0606
M-F 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. cst
Saturday 8 a.m. - Noon
Greetings sisters and brothers of Branch 343.

How's everyone doing? Fine, I hope. The letter carriers Food Drive is here, ready or not. All hands on deck! Please, please, please don't take off. We need your help. This is the time of year to help the needy. You never know who's in need and not talking about it. It may be their time this time, and your's next time. You never know. Picking up food is the hard part, but it's only one day a year. The need goes on 365 days a year. The kids will go on summer break soon and that means three meals per day prepared at home. The struggle for some is real. We are blessed to have what we have and I'm sure we never take it for granted. So do the right thing. Bring your family members to help out and we will be out of there before you know it.

April 5, 2017, was National Women’s Day; some companies offered 20 percent off on purchases on that day. Women earn less than men on most jobs. Hispanic women will earn $1 million less than a man over her lifetime. Black women will earn $800,000 less and white women will earn $400,000 less. Our union negotiates contracts for everyone, both union and nonunion members, women and men. If you feel as though you are being held back in pay because the supervisors are skipping over you or are playing a game with you, take the time to document each and every day they play the game, and I will contact you. We are working women in 2017 not 1950.

Right to work petitions are outside of grocery stores, libraries, post offices, etc. Make sure you and your family members sign it exactly like it is on your voter’s card. Anybody not registered, fill the card out today and mail it. We need 180,000 signatures without fail. Let’s make it happen!

This year Branch 343 is celebrating its 125th Anniversary.

If there are letter carriers with special talents such as being clowns, disc jockeys, balloon artists, magicians, or even character actors such as Batman, Superman, Spiderman, etc. Please contact me at 314-993-8245 or 314 241-4297.

Please save the date, September 4, 2017, (Labor Day) to come out, have fun and celebrate with your letter carrier sisters and brothers/ family reunion/ block party. There is fun, fun, fun to be had by everyone. I’m sure you will bring all of your family to march in the parade because we are going to lead it. Woo hoo!

There are two letter carriers working in West County, fighting the good fight. Most of the time the Postal Service sends a notice out to each station requesting you to donate leave to help employees through their hard time. Anna McClure worked as a letter carrier in Creve Coeur, Kirkwood, Sappington and West County. Brittney Townsend is a CCA who worked all over, if you have extra leave, please consider donating to these union sisters.

Shout out to Maxine Henry, Richard Davidson, Sharon Thrash, Johnny Meyers, Darren and Bob Trupiano. Happy Mother’s Day to all of the mothers and fathers who take care of the kids each and every day. Remember to do your best, leave the rest, don’t stress, God bless and thank you for coming.

ATTENTION
ACTIVE AND RETIRED MILITARY VETERANS

Branch 343 retired letter carrier and current veteran’s consultant Mike David is offering free tai chi classes to all active or retired military veterans.

The classes will be held on Wednesdays at 11 am at the Veterans Hospital at Jefferson Barracks in the gymnasium building which is located at the Southwestern part of the campus (Building 63)

The class will consist of warm-ups, tai chi movements and 5-10 minutes of mindful meditation. No experience is necessary.

For further information, you can contact Mike at: 314-308-3295

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(St. Anthony’s Medical Offices)
I t’s here! Saturday, May 13, is the Letter Carrier Annual Food Drive. Management usually moves out of the way and lets the carriers run the show, providing we get the mail out. Hopefully, this year is no different. If you have any problems, contact someone at the Union Hall immediately.

I want to say thank you in advance to everyone who goes above and beyond to make this day a success. Thank you to those who make sure there is enough food for everyone. Thank you, the volunteers and family members who are with us until the end. And thank you to every carrier who chooses to work and not take off.

The area food banks rely on the hard work of every letter carrier and all the volunteers to pick up canned goods so they may continue to provide food for those who are in need. This is the time of year that we can truly help others. Throughout the year, we have been able to provide for ourselves and our families, being a postal employee sometimes we forget that having a job that we can go to everyday is a blessing others wish for.

For one day, let’s put our work problems on the back burner so we can do what makes us special, serving our community. Bring your party hats, music, and take a lot of pictures. Everyone be safe and have a great Food Drive!

As a retiree see’s it … By C Jameson Crew to Solidify

T hanks to all the attendees at this month’s meeting and luncheon. Thanks also to the chef in charge and to his wife for the desert. Do you really understand the term “Right to Work”? There is a grass-roots effort to repeal this job killing, union busting legislation. We need 140,000 names so this can be put on the ballot to vote on. Petitions are being circulated so that your union voice can be heard. Beware, your signature must be from the voter card district you reside in. This keeps people from running through the state and signing every petition known to mankind. Very important for every good union, dues-paying member to voice your right.

The strike video from 1970, Br. 36 in New York was the effort of Vince Sombrotto and crew to solidify your future. Through their illegal effort, collective bargaining grabbed a foothold. You owe your job to these brave carriers who risked their jobs and future for your job. The roof over your head, cars in the drive and food on the table started there. Unionism! The screwpublicans want to take that all away. If you voted Republican, I’m sure there is a therapy class where you can get professional care, maybe E.A.P. Because you’re young, it doesn’t mean you don’t have a dog in this fight. You are that dog! Get involved! Now the White House, oops, I mean the D.C. Bed ’n Breakfast where the entire family has moved in — Ivanka, Jared and kids. Bannon and Priebus fighting over the director of security, budget and climate. Bannon was demoted and called Trump’s kid a Democrat. Finally figured it out; Health care and budget cuts to Meals on Wheels, medical research, after school program. With this administration, if you are poor, you are going to stay that way. Ivanka claims to be a working mother. She works? She and Jared are worth $700 million. Severe cuts to libraries and education. Pres. Tweet bombed Syria. What did it prove? In his campaign he stated, “No president should take it upon himself to use military force without the approval of Congress.” Did he? Nope. Another broken promise, failed leadership and chaos. Better get a king size bed, that way you can fit the director of Intell, Putin, Donnie, Bannon, Gary Cohen, Dennis Powell (Sachs executives) being investigated by FBI, NSA, CIA, also a part of the Trump family, in one bed.

Mid-term elections are coming. It’s time to take back what has been taken away from us all. The voice of the people! I believe that President Donnie John Trump should recuse himself from the presidency. He has put this country in a death spiral. Hear the voice of the working men and women of this union. Fight Right to Work and stand with other unions. Be heard! Power goes to the organized. Fight for your rights, Have a nice day.
Summary of Branch Action

MSC: To pay the branch bills.
MSC: That the branch reimburse each of the hub-sites for this year’s Food Drive up to $100 for food and nonalcoholic beverages, upon submission of an itemized receipt from any store except Wal-Mart or Sam’s.
MSC: That Branch 343 purchase a gift certificate at a nice restaurant, not to exceed $100, for the work performed by the installers of the new branch projector and sound system.
MSC: That Branch 343 sponsor a hole for $100 at this year’s Mo. State Association MDA Golf Tournament to be held on June 2, 2017.
MSC: That Branch 343 donate a pair of Cardinal baseball tickets to the silent auction at the Mo. state training on June 3-4, 2017.
MSC: That Branch 343 host a John H. Haake Scholarship dinner for Scholarship Committee and the National Education Board representative, Barbara Anderson, who worked on the 2017 scholarship awards.
MSC: That Branch 343 donate a set of Cardinal baseball tickets to the 2017 Run, Ride, and Roll for MDA to be held on Sunday, June 25, 2017.

Deceased Members

Robert J. Laske........................ Gold Card.................. 03-12-17
Benedetto J. Traina ............... Gold Card............ 02-28-17
Robert F. Stritzel..................... 60 Year ................... 10-31-16
Gerard G. Lesyna ................... 60 Year ................... 07-27-16
Leroy E. Noah....................... Retired .................... June 2015
Calvin F. Dryer..................... Retired ..................... Sept. 2016

Recently Retired Members

Paul L. Gentile .................. Town & Country... 02-17-17
Mindi L. Yawitz.................. Town & Country... 03-31-17
John B. Dulaney III .......... Town & Country... 03-31-17
David F. Williams ........... Southwest ............. 02-28-17
Harvey K. Ray .................. South County....... 03-31-17
Vernell J. Jackson Sr. ....... North County ....... 03-31-17
Joseph C. Westermayer III. Mackenzie Pointe.. 03-31-17
Herbert E. Schatz Jr.......... Des Peres ............. 03-31-17
Carol A. Walls ................. Des Peres ............. 03-31-17
Steven White ..................... Des Peres ............. 03-31-17

Highlights

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. The invocation and pledge of allegiance were led by Chet Drain and the minutes were read and accepted. NBA Mike Birkett reminded the membership about the 25th anniversary of the Food Drive on Saturday, May 13. It is the single largest one-day collection of food. No news on the contract and the USPS is rolling out a program called PET which is similar to DOI.

The meeting broke from its regular agenda to present our John Haake Scholarship winners: Shannon Morrissey, Alisson Weiler, Tyler Wilder and Amber Hodge. Tom Schulte announced the passing away of MCC Business Manager Harry Blecha. Mike Chenot informed us Schnuck’s approved, by 80 percent approval, a contract and the boycott is over. He also reminded us to sign the Right to Work petition exactly as it appears on your voter registration card or it will not be counted. Mike Weir informed us that we now have a majority of votes for HR 28 to keep delivery door-to-door. He also reported Branch 343 was third in MDA fundraising. Exec. VP Barry Linan reported 30 people showed for the MDA bowling. Pres. Bill Lister informed us that he would be attending a Right to Work petition training. The deadline for the signatures is August 28. Out of town money pushed the Right to Work through the Missouri legislature.
New Members

Mohammad A. Abdel-Samed ........................ Clayton ............ 04-06-17
Craig R. Barbian .................................. Gravois .................. 03-23-17
Natalynn T. Beard ............................... West County .............. 03-28-17
Bonnie M. Blume .................................. Southwest .......... 03-28-17
Jackson T. Brook .................................. Olivette ................. 03-23-17
Leonard J. Brooks .................................. South County .... 02-10-17
Renaudo N. Brown ................................. Gravois .................. 02-10-17
Andrea M. Campbell ......................... Weathers ..................... 03-18-17
Joshua L. Dalton ............................... Warrenton .................. 03-23-17
Ashley S. Davis .................................. Weathers .................. 04-06-17
Latoca L. Davis .................................. Affton ...................... 02-10-17
Briancia F. Deal .................................. Mackenzie Pointe .... 04-06-17
Jaeashi L. Edmond ......................... Gaffney ......................... 03-23-17
Brooklyn K. Gifford ................. Coyle ......................... 03-23-17
Dominique N. Hamilton ................ Gravois ......................... 02-10-17
Jessica Hamilton ......................... Carrier Square .............. 03-23-17
Kimberly A. Harley .................... Chouteau ......................... 03-28-17
Antonio L. Harvey ..................... Normandy ......................... 03-23-17
Jerry A. Hill .................................. North County .............. 03-10-17
Nequia N. Hill .................................. West County ........... 03-23-17
Daron C. Holland ....................... Clayton ......................... 03-28-17
Annie M. Husband ....................... South County .............. 02-10-17
John R. Jinkins .............................. North County .............. 03-23-17
Kyle L. Jones .................................. Maryville Gardens .... 02-10-17
Tiffany A. Kaiser ......................... Harriet Woods .............. 03-10-17
Donnie V. Kelley ......................... Clayton ......................... 03-23-17
Teeara P. Kerney ....................... Gravois ......................... 03-28-17
Christine R. King ....................... Weathers ......................... 02-10-17
Janette G. LaValle ..................... Harriet Woods .............. 03-23-17
Daniel M. Lemons .................. St. Ann ......................... 02-10-17
Hannah M. Lockette .................. Olivette ......................... 04-06-17
Jessica B. Loving ...................... Kirkwood ......................... 03-28-17
Lindsay M. Macklin .................... South County .............. 03-23-17
Ashley M. Manasco ................. Town & Country ............ 02-10-17
Shawn B. McDaniel .................. Maryville Gardens ............. 03-23-17
Billy A. McDowell ..................... Rolla ......................... 02-10-17
Taylor L. McGaughy ................. Weathers ......................... 03-23-17
Desheon D. McNary ................ Town & Country ............ 02-10-17
Geoffrey M. Minter .................. Park Hills ......................... 01-26-17
Skyler M. Mitchell ..................... Sappington .............. 03-23-17
James D. Myers ......................... Coyle ......................... 04-06-17
Christopher Nash .................. Gravois ......................... 04-06-17
Juanita N. Nelson ................. Maryville Gardens ............. 03-28-17
De’Quan M. Nolen ................ Maryville Gardens ............. 03-10-17
Justin M. Ohmes ..................... Warrenton ..................... 03-23-17
Greg A. Okapal ......................... Sappington .............. 04-06-17
Shaun Pollard ..................... Normandy ......................... 04-06-17
Raffeal M. Porter .................... Carrier Square .............. 03-23-17
Vonzavious D. Redd ................ Carrier Square .............. 03-23-17
Abreya C. Reese ..................... Clayton ......................... 03-10-17
Darriell C. Rhodes ................. Gaffney ......................... 02-10-17
Darrel M. Rose ..................... Chouteau ......................... 03-23-17
Damon L. Shepard .................. Gaffney ......................... 04-06-17
Christy L. Southward ............ Weathers ......................... 03-23-17
Aleka Stephens ..................... Carrier Square .............. 02-10-17
Jeremy Stewart ..................... Carrier Square .............. 04-06-17
Charlie S. Swopshire Jr ........ Maryville Gardens ............. 03-28-17
Tiffany S. Thompson ............ Gaffney ......................... 03-28-17
Dennis B. Thorpe ..................... Kirkwood ......................... 03-23-17
Darion J. Tolbert ..................... Coyle ......................... 02-10-17
Michael D. Tonksley ............. Normandy ......................... 03-28-17
Brenda S. Wickliffe ............. South County .............. 03-23-17
Jason R. Wilbum ..................... Rolla ......................... 03-09-17
LaShara D. Williams ............. West County .............. 03-10-17
Chasity T. Wood ..................... North County .............. 02-10-17

May 2017/MCC 21

Branch Meeting Attendance Prizes

1. Cards vs. Pirates Monday 4/17 @ 6:05 p.m. Brian Littekten, West County
2. Cards vs. Pirates Tuesday 4/18 @ 7:15 p.m. Mary Haynes, Sappington
3. Cards vs. Pirates Wednesday 4/19 @ 12:45 p.m. Carl Brown, Sappington
4. Cards vs. Blue Jays Tuesday 4/25 @ 7:15 p.m. Stephen Conway, Coyle
5. 50/50 Winner Eboney Rice, CCA Maryville Gardens
Run!  Ride!  Roll!  For MDA

June 25, 2017
10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

Grant's Trail

Location!!!
We will meet at the trail head parking lot that is shared by Grants Log Cabin and Orlando's Garden.
The easiest way of getting there is to take Reavis Barracks to Union North to Leeshore
and follow the road to the big parking lot.

Any questions, call Mike David 314-308-3295
Or Mike Weir 314-348-8722

Refreshments for all and attendance prizes.
This is a family affair so bring the kids!

To register or make a donation towards this worthy cause, fill out the bottom portion of this flyer and mail to Michael David at:
NalC/MDA
1600 South Broadway,
St. Louis, MO 63104

Three ways to donate:
1) Register to participate and collect money with a pledge sheet, this method usually raises the most money.

2) Register to participate and make a personal donation, suggested donation - $20 or whatever you can afford.

3) Make a pledge or send donation directly to the Union Hall.

Name: ________________________________
Phone: ______________________________

Circle choice below:
  Register Me  Donate Only

If you pay by check, please make payable to NalC/MDA.
## Political Action Honor Roll

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Honor Roll</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joe Fitzjarrell</td>
<td>★★</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Weir</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Schulte</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicki L. Prado</td>
<td>★★</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Birkett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony Jasper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Harmon</td>
<td>★★</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marion Harris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Scanlon</td>
<td>★★</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barry Linan</td>
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<td>Geno Iberg</td>
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<td>Tom DeGeare</td>
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<td>Henry Deibel</td>
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The above honor roll gives special recognition to those members who give $50 or more. Each star represents $100.

Don Chartrand: Michael Jennings
Bob Ruster: Frank Enlow
Derrick Williams: Kevin Welby

*Donations are not tax deductible*

**IS YOUR NAME LISTED? WHY NOT?**

Send your contributions payable to Branch 343, P.A.C.

Mike Weir, 612 Charleston Oaks Dr., Ballwin, MO 63021-7387

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Letter Carrier Elaine Horbelt bids farewell on her last day at Town & Country Post Office.

Letter carriers Mindy Yawitz (second from left) and Paul Gentile (R) receive congratulations on their last day at Town & Country Post Office from shop stewards Dan Hruby and Kevin Welby along with Br. 343 Exec. VP Barry Linan (C).

North County letter carrier Vernall J. Jackson Sr. receives congratulations on his retirement from shop steward Lamont Broomfield.

Des Peres letter carrier Herbert “Skip” Schatz Jr. (R) is congratulated on his last day from shop steward George Walker.

Des Peres shop steward George Walker congratulates retiring letter carrier Carol Wall on her last day.
Dan J. Gould
BRANCH 343
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Barry Linan  ........... Executive Vice President/
Treasurer
Robert Rapisardo  ................... Vice President/
Financial Secretary
John McLaughlin............. Recording Secretary
Derrick Williams............. Sergeant-at-Arms
Saronda Sutherland ...............Collector, MBA
Chet Drain ...... Health Benefits Representative

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Phone: (314) 241-4297

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to 250 words and must be signed.

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Deadline for articles for
the JUNE issue is
MAY 15, 2017

REGULAR BRANCH MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2017
7:30 pm

SHOP STEWARDS MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2017
The Letter Carriers Building
1600 S Broadway