

BRANCH MEETING

BRANCH 343, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

AUGUST 20, 2026

Summary of Branch Action

- MSC To pay the branch bills.
- MSC That the branch purchases a pair of Blues tickets for 10 games during the 2026-2027 season at a cost of no more than \$1,500. These tickets will then be given away as attendance prizes at the upcoming October thru March branch meetings.

New Members

Jason Smith.....Rolla7/13/2026
Thalia Taylor.....Rolla7/8/2026
Zeinab ZoghiRolla7/11/2026

Recently Retired Member

David SnappMackenzie Pointe7/31/2026

Branch Meeting Attendance Prizes

1. Cardinals vs Baltimore Orioles	Aug 25	Charlie Kell, Des Peres
2. Cardinals vs Baltimore Orioles	Aug 26	Matt Gleiforst, South County
3. Cardinals vs Baltimore Orioles	Aug 27	Quinton Jones, Jennings
4. Cardinals vs Pittsburg Pirates	Aug 30	John Thomas, Affton
		Kelly Steinbecker, Kirkwood
\$62		

A Call to the Disenfranchised Letter Carrier ... *By Andrew Garces*

Here we are in 2026. We just had an epic NALC National Convention. There were more resolutions, suggestions, and arguments brought forth by this delegation than almost any before it. Why? Because just as one of our officers at the Union Hall said to me the other day, "People want to be heard."

In St. Louis alone there is a huge gap between age, pay tables, and union participation. Some of us have been on our own for four years, trying to get by and somehow disappearing behind the curtain of the toxic work environment we all live in fear of. We barely make enough money to live, we barely see our families, and if you ask the right person, they'll tell you it's only getting worse. If you ask the wrong person, they'll tell you it's always been this way.

Both things can be true. We crave the black and white resolutions to our problems when in reality the butterfly effect might as well have started with one letter in a tub that left 1720 Market St. at 4 a.m. 8/21/26.

It's time to demystify the post office and the union. These problems are fixable. These problems can be faced. It's time to come back to the union meetings. It's time to argue and contend and learn Robert's Rules. It's time to ask for things that are hard to ask for. Our elders, our old timers, our OJI trainers have done what they can. We are here now. There are 1,119 regulars and 159 PTFs on the branch seniority list. Only 695 of those carriers have been here, in the service for 6-years or more.

If you don't show up for the union meetings, no one can hear you. If no one hears you, no one can understand. The doors to the Union Hall are open. Leaders are welcome.

Highlights

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Chet Drain and the minutes were read and accepted.

NBA Report, Larissa Pardee: Year 1 Steward College was held in Rolla, Missouri. Year 3 was completed in Wichita, Kansas, and year 2 was done in Lincoln, Nebraska, and Des Moines, Iowa. Leadership Academy applications are open and will be accepted until August 28. You can send your application to the NBA office, and they will send it in for you. Working on a non-compliance program which has been developed in Shantee Mission, Kansas, and they are looking to expand it. Lots of democracy was displayed at the National Convention this year.

Retirees Report, Tom Schulte: There were 30 in attendance. Thanked Sandy Theismann and Kevin Welby for lunch. Gave report on behalf of Mike Weir. Mike thanked everyone for the floral arrangement for his sister that passed away. Read names of PAC contributors.

Labor Council Report, Frank Enlow: Starbucks has 600 stores unionized but they have not gotten a contract. Amendment 3 is attacking women's rights, vote no. Vote no on Amendment 7 (tax dollars usage). Every candidate the council supported won their perspective seats. They want to donate \$10K to the Democratic Party. There will be no Labor Day parade. Nominations for St. Louis Labor Council president will be taken in October.

MBA Report, Saronda Sutherland: Spoke on disability policy insurance (age 18-59 qualify). Policy is good for six months or 12 months and they come in increments of \$650, \$1,350 or \$2,000 and it is payroll deductible. You have to be off for at least 14 days prior to making a claim.

Health Benefit Report, Barry Linan: Open season coming up in November, look at the NALC plan. Free programs available to members (i.e.; Hello Heart) which help with various illnesses.

OWCP Report, Barry Linan: Carriers still not receiving proper paperwork, and COP still not being processed timely or properly. PTFs get the average number of hours worked for COP, not just the four-hour minimum. If you have grievances about COP, contact Barry.

Mound City Carrier Report, Tom Schulte: Please read the profiles of our scholarship winners in the MCC. Nominations for branch officers will be on September 10. The centerfold of the September issue of the MCC will be the 2027 rotating day calendar. We won two awards at the National Convention for the MCC (general excellence and best photo or cartoon). Tom thanked the MCC staff for their work.

Haake Scholarship Report, Pam Stepney: Pam advised all who have seniors this year to look in the September issue of the MCC for the Charles Coyle and John Hakke scholarship applications. Grandchildren are also eligible to apply.

Safety and Health Report, Richard Thurman: People are still doing things unsafely while on the street. Management has been told to controvert every claim possible, so safe-guard yourself. Some routes have grown considerably; be safe while delivering and driving. The truck you are driving does not belong to YOU; it belongs to the route it has been assigned to.

Trustees Report, La'Tecse Litteken: The books were audited for July and are in good standing.

Executive Vice President/Treasurer Report, Brian Litteken: The Annual Golf Tournament is October 11 at Rolling Hills Golf Course. It starts at 8 am. Brian asked if more stations could participate in sponsoring a hole. If anyone wants to volunteer, see La'Tecse. During the National Convention a lot of time was spent unnecessarily establishing the rules of the convention. So much so that we were unable to get through all of the amendments and resolutions, and a lot of the classes were canceled. Brian referenced some of the amendments and resolutions.

Vice President/Financial Secretary Report, Marvin Booker: Read his report for July. Nothing that happened during the convention will change anything regarding hours, wages or working conditions. National elections are coming up; make sure your mailing address is up to date, otherwise you will not receive a ballot. Contact NALC membership at 202-393-4695 to correct your address. Local elections are coming up also, and the same thing holds true.

President's Comments, John McLaughlin: President Renfroe announced at 1 hour and 10 minutes into the convention that he was not seeking another term. There were 165 resolutions at this convention, and for comparison there were only 41 at the last convention. There is a debate on the YouTube channel of Branch 1100; you should look at it. Spoke to the district manager about the negative things happening in St. Louis, and he claims change is coming. Inspections are coming up at Kirkwood and Des Peres; the team is already planning to take five to eight routes from each. Route inspection training is supposed to take place and will be conducted by the NBA office. Management is telling carriers that they must get FMLA to avoid overtime when they have an eight-hour restriction; otherwise, they will be charged AWOL for overtime.

Respectfully Submitted, Richard Brown, Recording Secretary