

MOUND CITY CARRIER

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2020 General Excellence
Award Winning Publication



St. Louis, Missouri
Chartered 1892

Volume 76, No. 6

"Diversity is our Strength and Unity is our Power"

June 2025

96th Ole Timers Day Honorees



Front Row (L-R) 40-Year Pins Mike Chenot and Frankie Bonuso, 60-Year Pin Daniel Gangloff, 70-Year Plaque Wilbert Hubbard, 40-Year pins Warren Glaze and Richard Boien, 55-Year Pin Richard Rhyner.

Second Row (L-R) NALC Director of Health Benefits Stephanie Stewart, 50-Year Gold Card William Osia, 60-Year Pin Joseph Shadduck Jr., 40-Year Pin Chetney Drain, Executive Vice President /Treasurer Brian Litteken, 45-Year Pin Geno Iberg, 65-year Pin John Haaake, 45-Year Pin Tom Schulte, Branch 343 President John McLaughlin, 40-Year Pin Vanita Isaiah, Region 5 NBA David Teegarden and Vice President/Financial Secretary Marvin Booker

President's Article ... *By John McLaughlin*

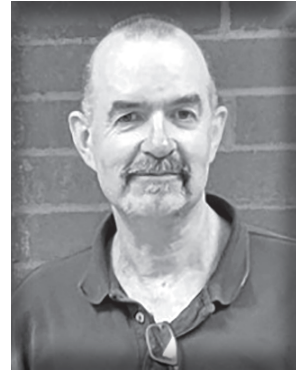
BULLETIN: NO SET TIMES FOR CARRIERS TO RETURN FROM THE STREET!

On a daily basis, I know that carriers hear their supervisors and managers holler out that they must be back at the station or off the clock at a certain time. In many stations, they repeat this countless times every morning. There must be some misconnection or miscommunication because according to both the district manager and postmaster, carriers do not have to be back off the street at a specific time. Help management with this message by sharing this article with your supervisors and manager.

What they mean to say is this: Carriers are being instructed to be back by their estimated time based on their route and mail volume. This is quite a bit different. They are trying to inform you that based on an estimate, from who knows where, they want you back by some magically predetermined time. The most interesting thing about this estimate is that it is precisely the same time every single day. Apparently, the route you work has the exact amount of mail every day. If you think this is amazing, wait till you hear this. Not only does your route have the exact amount of mail every day, but so do all the other routes in the station. I am sure they have already built in all the other factors that affect your workday, like weather and late-arriving packages.

The source of this magical number remains a mystery. Management has their best people on it. I am certain that management, who honors and follows the contract and handbooks & manuals dutifully, would not utilize a tool for estimating a carrier's daily workload like Delivery Operations Information System (DOIS) to try and arrive at a set time every day for every route in the station. Surely, they know that the use of DOIS does not change the letter carrier's reporting requirements as outlined in the M-41 Handbook or change the supervisor's scheduling responsibilities as found in the M-39 Handbook. In fact, DOIS projections are not the sole determinant of a carrier's leaving or return time, or daily workload. If they wish to dispute this, they can simply ask acting Postmaster General Doug Tulino who signed a document stating just this on July 30, 2007 (M-01664). If this

is not convincing enough, the exact language was agreed to again on September 16, 2011 (M-01769), by Alan Moore, manager of labor relations.



Maybe it is a simple case that this issue has never come up in St. Louis, so how would they know? It occurred in Jennings and Creve Coeur in 2010 with settlements telling management to stop. Then it happened again at Creve Coeur later in 2010. This time it went to arbitration. At Creve Coeur, management was placing a sheet of paper with a route's leaving and return times on each case. Carriers felt coerced under the threat of disciplinary action. It adversely affected the morale of letter carriers. Sound familiar?

The arbitrator ruled the service could not base a letter carrier's leave and return times solely upon the DOIS information and that other factors affect these times. The arbitrator said projected leave and return times should be established in consultation with the individual carriers and should take into consideration these other factors, as well as the DOIS information.

So, the local St. Louis management contingent would have to ignore two management handbooks, two memorandums — one from the acting PMG and one from labor relations, two locally settled grievances, and an arbitration award instructing them **not** to do what they are doing. Numbers over morale. And they wonder why carriers don't want to come to work.

As if things couldn't get worse, President Trump's selection to go before the board of governors to become the next postmaster general is David Steiner. It is very likely, in my opinion, that he will be selected. He is on the board of FedEx and is a former CEO of Waste Management. As a CEO, he proudly states that the union membership has gone from 32% down to 20% in 10 years. In the next breath, he claims to have a great relationship with the union. He smugly states that he has been able to make union employees understand that being non-union can actually be better

for them, health care and retirement in particular. He arrogantly states that he makes sure he treats his non-union members as good or better than he treats his union members. What could go wrong? He is on the board of one of our fiercest competitors, which coincidentally is non-union and strangely enough, hates unions. Buckle up, I sense some turbulence ahead.

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.

100% Union Honor Roll

AFFTON	PIEDMONT
CHOUTEAU	SALEM
CUBA	SOUTH COUNTY
DES PERES	ST. CLAIR
FREDRICKTOWN	WARRENTON
GAFFNEY	WASHINGTON
JENNINGS	WENTZVILLE
MAPLEWOOD	WEST COUNTY
OLDHAM	

**Armed, off-duty police security
provided at every meeting at the
Union Hall**



MOVING? WE NEED YOUR NEW ADDRESS!

If you have moved, please notify the branch office directly. Personnel does not notify us of your change of address.

Name _____
Address _____
City/State _____
Zip _____

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Send change of address to:
Branch 343
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St. Louis, MO 63104

The following stations
were represented at the
May 2025
Shop Stewards Meeting

Carrier Square	Marian Oldham
Clayton	Mackenzie Pointe
Creve Coeur	Normandy
Gaffney	Sappington
Gravois	South County
Harriet Woods	Southwest
Jennings	Weathers
Kirkwood	West County
Maryville Gardens	



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DON'T SIT ON THE SIDELINES ... GET INVOLVED!

June 12	Regular Branch Meeting
June 19	Juneteenth National Holiday Observed
July 2	Retirees Meeting
July 3	Shop Stewards Meeting
July 4	Independence Day Holiday
July 10	Regular Branch Meeting
July 13	CSRS/FERS Retirement Seminar (see ad)

Executive Vice President ... *By Brian Litteken*

POSTMASTER GENERAL DAVID STEINER



David Steiner was selected by the Postal Service Board of Governors to be the next postmaster general. If Steiner successfully completes the ethics and security clearance vetting process, he will join the organization in July.

After being selected as the postmaster general, Steiner stated, "I believe strongly in maintaining its (USPS) role as an independent establishment of the executive branch." "As the entity with the largest union membership in the United States, I look forward to engaging the unions and management associations to ensure that together we create a world-class employment experience."

This statement is at odds with a statement he made as the president and chief executive officer of Waste Management. Steiner worked for Waste Management for 12 years. Steiner stated that Waste Management had about 20,000 trash routes with about 22,000 drivers. He bragged about "helping our union employees understand that being non-union could be better for you in virtually every circumstance." During the 12 years that Steiner worked for Waste Management, union membership dropped from 32% to 20%.

President Renfro stated, "He built his brand on union-busting, slashing jobs, and replacing workers with machines. He has publicly bragged about shrinking the union footprint."

Steiner is currently on the board of directors at FedEx. President Renfro stated that, "His selection isn't just a conflict of interest, it's an aggressive step toward handing America's mail system over to corporate interests." Mark Dimondstein, president of the American Postal Workers Union, said, "FedEx has a very different agenda than the public Postal Service, and they're a major competitor of the United States Postal Service." Dimondstein went on to say, "I'm not talking about any attributes of an individual, but to me, that's the last type of person you will put in charge of the public institution as the anchor of the mailing package industry in the country."

The Postal Board of Governors elects the postmaster general, but Dimondstein, with good reason, questions President Trump's influence on the board's decision to appoint Steiner. Dimondstein said the board may have "shamelessly and outrageously abdicated their independent responsibility in selecting a new PMG."

The Postal Board of Governors advanced three finalists to the White House.

- David Steiner
- William Zollars – former postal governor
- James Cochrane – CEO for Package Shippers Association (a lobby group for UPS, FedEx Ground, DHL eCommerce, and Amazon)

Trump's team narrowed the field to Steiner and Cochrane. Cochrane met with Trump at Trump International Golf Club but Trump decided to offer the job to Steiner. Why was Trump getting a list of finalists and interviewing the candidates if the Postal Board of Governors elects the postmaster general?



Vice President Financial Secretary

... By Marvin Booker

CAN WE DO BETTER?



First, I would like to thank all the members, stewards, station coordinators, volunteers, and customers who help make the 33rd Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive a great day of giving.

The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is one of the largest single-day food drives in the United States. Organized by the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), the event encourages people to leave non-perishable food items by their mailboxes on the second Saturday in May. Letter carriers collect the donations which are then picked up by local food banks and pantries. While the goal of helping families in need is admirable, it appears that not all letter carriers supported the food drive.

In far too many cases letter carriers failed to deliver postcards notifying their customers of the food drive. This clearly impacted the amount of food that was collected. While participation in the food drive is technically voluntary, delivering the postcards was not. The postcards had postage on them and should have been treated the same way as every other piece of mail with paid postage.

In other cases, letter carriers just neglected to pick up the food left by the mailboxes. In those cases, we were blessed to have volunteers and carriers willing to pick up the food left by others. The food drive was meant to be a team effort, not a burden to anyone. Of

course, it's true that on a typical day delivery of a mail route is already physically demanding, but one day a year on food drive day, you are asked to put others ahead of yourself and pick up additional bags and boxes of canned goods. This one day a year provides benefits to hungry families that last far longer.

Some carriers may feel that the union should focus more on work conditions and less on charitable efforts. But supporting the food drive does not mean ignoring other struggles. In fact, showing leadership in community service can strengthen the union's voice. When the public sees letter carriers fighting for others — not just themselves, it builds trust and respect. That can only help when it comes to our continued fight with the current administration to maintain our way of life.

The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is more than just a charity event. It's a tradition of compassion, unity, and public service. By participating, we not only help feed the hungry — we also build stronger communities, improve public support for the Postal Service, and remind people that letter carriers are heroes in more ways than one. Even with all the challenges we face, letter carriers should take pride in leading this important effort year after year.

Until next time,



BRANCH LEGAL PLAN

Advice and Consultation on
General Practice and Civil Actions.



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Recording Secretary ... *By Richard Brown*



I hope everyone had a wonderful Memorial holiday. While the holiday started as a day to decorate after the Civil War, this evolved into a national holiday to remember those men and women who sacrificed everything while serving the Armed Forces. Most families celebrate nowadays by decorating and having a cookout as they have the day off. While we are enjoying the holiday festivities, let's remember the people who made it possible for us to have some of the freedom we currently have. Thank you all for your service.

I wrote a couple of months ago about route inspections and their general purpose. The city stations that were scheduled for inspection so far have been completed. While the service can't conduct inspections in the months of June, July, August, and December, they still have the fall season. What we know is that the Postal Service's team responsible for this process has been less than forthcoming with information about the mail counts as well as the 3999s performed.

There is also the 1838, 1840, 1840-B and the 1840 reverse. These forms are the results of your times for the week of inspection, the time (seven months) of your route prior to inspection, and the changes made after the inspection, respectively. This will be helpful especially if they are attempting to deduct time from your day.

Management is required to provide you with forms 1838, 1840 and the 1840-B prior to the first consultation with you. This allows you to look at the times before speaking with them, better enabling you to defend your route. There should also be an audit trail report made available for any deductions they are attempting to make. This should explain why the deduction(s) are occurring. Management is required to also explain why the deduction(s) are being made.

The purpose of writing about this again is because routes at West County and Maryville Gardens have been examined and will be adjusted and/or eliminated in the coming weeks or months.

Management is required to complete certain tasks before an actual adjustment takes place.

There is a route inspection guide on the NALC website which details the things I have described above and more. Please be diligent in educating yourself by reviewing the guide at your earliest convenience, to aid in your ability to speak in defense of your assignment.

Well, we have a new postmaster general (David Steiner), who was selected by the board of governors. He is or was the CEO of Waste Management Inc and he takes pride in union busting and eliminating jobs. This has clearly become the normal action of our current administration, so buckle your seat belts.

Who is Responsible!

CSRS/FERS RETIREMENT SEMINAR

SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2025

10 A.M. TILL 2:30 P.M.

LETTER CARRIERS' HALL

1600 S. BROADWAY

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63104

ALL MEMBERS AND SPOUSES WELCOME

Training will be conducted by
former National Business Agent Mike Weir

**Please RSVP to Mike Weir
at 314-348-8722**

Lunch will be provided

Health Benefits Plan/OWCP ... *By Barry Linan*



June greetings to all of the brothers and sisters of NALC Branch 343. With the resignation of PMG DeJoy, the USPS is entering a period of unknown changes. PMG DeJoy did not renew an air transportation contract with FedEx that expired in September 2024. FedEx is estimated to see up to a 50% drop in airborne parcels with the expiration of the USPS contract. PMG DeJoy also did not renew a contract with UPS for delivery of SurePost small parcels that expired in January 2025. UPS drivers will be delivering millions more SurePost parcels and UPS promptly added a 10% surcharge to ship SurePost. UPS also cancelled SurePost delivery to PO boxes, Military APO/FPO, US territories, Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. UPS also tacked on a 60% surcharge for SurePost deliveries to rural and low-density areas. Apparently, those SurePost deliveries are just no longer profitable for UPS without the USPS last mile of delivery.

One of the names being proposed to replace DeJoy is a Mr. David Steiner, **who coincidentally just happens to be on the board of FedEx!** That would seem to be colossal conflict of interest, but conflicts of interest are a common theme with officials in the Trump administration. I wouldn't be at all surprised if Mr. Steiner is named PMG, that we suddenly see the USPS prioritize renegotiating the air transportation contract with FedEx. If so, the fix was in!

HBP NEWS

Another **no cost** program offered by the NALC HBP is the **"Hello Heart"** program. In order to qualify for the program, you or your adult dependents (18+) would have had blood pressure readings of 130/80 mmHg or above or be taking prescribed blood pressure medication. If you sign up for Hello Heart, you will receive a free blood pressure monitor that connects to an app on your smartphone. When you use the monitor, your readings will be sent to the app and stored there. That information is 100% private inside the app and is controlled by you. For more information you can contact Hello Heart by calling 800-767-3471 Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. EST or email them at support@helloheart.com.

OWCP NEWS

One of the most important forms that needs to be filled out when you report an on-job-injury is the **CA-16**

Authorization for Treatment.

Unfortunately, you can't fill out the CA-16 yourself. It must be completed and signed/dated by a supervisor or manager. **Per ELM 544.112 and 545.21, your supervisor/manager is required to advise you of "your right to select a physician of choice."** You can choose to be treated by your family physician, local hospital ER, or Urgent Care. **It is your choice, not your supervisor's choice.** If you choose your family physician and have not been treated for an on-job-injury there before, a phone call should be made to determine availability and if they accept OWCP payment for treatment. Unfortunately, lots of family physicians do not accept OWCP payment. If your physician is not immediately available (after 5 p.m.), you can choose another facility or wait until the next day to see your physician. Depending on the severity of your injury, you may want to just choose immediate treatment at your local hospital ER and the CA-16 is filled out accordingly.

Your chosen physician or treatment facility's name and address are written by your supervisor at the top of Form CA-16. You then take that filled CA-16 with you to the medical facility and give it to them to show treatment has been authorized by your supervisor. Request and keep a copy for your records! **The signed CA-16 authorizes payment by OWCP for whatever treatment you need for up to 60 days.** You are not required to and should not provide your health insurance card to the facility. Some supervisors, through a lack of training or just laziness, have been providing the Form CA-16 without the attached instructions and *Attending Physician's Report*. **Make sure you get the Attending Physician's Report filled out by the physician who provides treatment at your chosen facility and keep a copy.** The report asks for pertinent information (History of Injury, Findings, Diagnosis, etc.) that OWCP will need in order to accept your injury claim. Many claims will be accepted by OWCP based on the Attending Physician's Report alone, if it is correctly filled out by an MD. If you are treated by a nurse practitioner (NP) or physician's assistant (PA), you will need to get your medical documentation countersigned by a doctor (MD or DO) as OWCP will not accept a diagnosis provided by an NP or PA. Again, **keep copies!**

Region 5 NBA Report ... *By David A. Teegarden*



HEAT SAFETY

Summer is right around the corner, but we have already had days that surpass heat safety temperature and humidity that could affect letter carriers' health. Do not let any supervisor talk you into continuing your duties if you have symptoms of heat illness like dizziness, dehydration, cramping, nausea or not sweating. Hydrate, cool off and call medical personnel to get checked out if you are experiencing any of these symptoms. Way too often letter carriers decide to try and push through to the end of the route thinking they can get home and cool off. Heat illness can sneak up on you and you might cross that line that you can't see until it's too late. **Do not** become a statistic! Protect yourself and get medical assistance when needed.

POLITICAL NEWS

A lot has happened in the last month. As I write this article there is news that the USPS board of governors has selected a new PMG. If the initial reports are correct the BOG has selected FedEx board member David Steiner, former CEO of Waste Management. The NALC has issued a statement concerning Steiner. "Steiner comes directly from service on FedEx's board of directors, presenting a clear conflict of interest. His selection isn't just a conflict of interest, it's an aggressive step toward handing America's mail system over to corporate interests. During his tenure as Waste Management Inc's CEO, Steiner took a stand against unions. He built his brand on union-busting, slashing jobs and replacing workers with machines. He has publicly bragged about shrinking the union footprint.

Reconciliation efforts on the federal budget have now passed the committee and include a raise to 4.4% in all federal employees' contributions to FERS, change from high three to a high five calculation, stripping the Social Security supplement essentially requiring all federal employees to work until they are at least 62 instead of their minimum retirement age and an at-will designation that will allow higher pay. If you don't accept the at-will designation they will increase your FERS required contributions by another 5% to 9.4%, all while giving you less in the end.

These are outright attacks on not only our collective

bargaining rights but our promise of FERS retirement benefits. Keep informed, reach out to your Senators and Congressmen and women and ask them to vote those provisions down in the reconciliation bill and make our collective voices heard. These issues must be our first priority!

REGION 5 LMOU TRAINING

We just returned from Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa spring conventions. Congratulations to all the elected officers! Thanks for stepping up to the plate and helping your state associations. The one common theme seems to be that lots of younger or newer letter carriers are getting involved with the NALC and that is exactly what the union needs.

At each convention the NBA office was able to conduct training, and we managed to complete LMOU training in each state.

Currently my office is gearing up for LMOUs on two fronts. First we are doing a two-week blitz across Region 5 and offering LMOU training in multiple geographic locations and second, we are preparing to negotiate LMOUs for dozens of local branches that are non-functioning or do not have officers to negotiate with them. Beginning Monday, May 12, we will be on the road conducting LMOU training through May 25. We are also developing a list of branches that do not have an LMOU or that receive a letter from the Postal Service and do not have officers to negotiate an LMOU.

If you want training or you need assistance with negotiating an LMOU at the Postal Service's insistence or the carriers desire to create or change the LMOU, please reach out to us ASAP. This message has also been sent to all branch presidents.

Last, if you just want advice from us during the local negotiation period, please call us at the NBA office at 314-985-8040 and we will be more than happy to assist you to achieve the best possible outcome for your members' LMOU.

Until next time stay safe out there,

Notes from the Managing Editor ... By Tom Schulte

BRANCH 343 WELCOMES HONOREES TO THE 96TH OLE TIMERS DAY CELEBRATION

It's been my honor since I became the chairman of the retirees to serve as the host for our annual Ole Timers Day celebration. The archival minutes from branch history recorded that the event was conceived in September of 1930. It was referred to as a "home-coming gathering" for retired letter carriers, with a dinner to be served following the regular branch meeting.

Since Branch 343 was chartered in 1892, this celebratory gathering would have involved the first generation of carriers who may have recently retired. By all accounts the recording secretary's minutes showed that it was such a well-attended event, that it became an annual affair.

Sometime post World War II, this annual gathering took on the moniker "Ole Timers Day." Archival photos use this name from the mid to late 1950s. Call it what you will, this fraternal gathering would present itself as the perfect opportunity to issue 50-Year Gold Cards and decades long service pins to our retirees for their unwavering loyalty to remaining union members far past their active careers.

Invitations were extended to 87 union members who were eligible to receive their respective awards, but because of age related issues or logistical issues, (some members now live out of state), many were unable to attend.

This year we were happy to welcome 16 union members who received either their 40-, 45-year union pins, 50-year Gold Card, 55-, 60-, and 65-year pins and even one member who received his 70-year plaque.

Festivities began at 11 a.m. with a meet and greet happy hour with hors d'oeuvres and liquid refreshments with an opportunity to welcome our honorees and guests and swap old yarns from times gone by. We were pleased to have about 75 guests join us for this year's celebration. A delicious luncheon was served at 12:30 p.m. following a benediction offered by Chaplain Chetney Drain.

As chairman of the retirees, I had the pleasure of offering opening remarks and introducing our various office holders and dignitaries. Following a few brief remarks, Branch 343 President John McLaughlin introduced our guest speakers, Region 5 National Business Agent

David Teegarden and NALC Director of Health Benefits Stephanie Stewart.



Stephanie spoke about the turmoil going on in Washington, D.C. and its effects on the operations of the U.S. Postal Service. She spoke about the upheaval in the Board of Governor's office and the controversy of the President naming a new Postmaster General. She expressed her gratitude to all the retirees who fought for, and secured our benefits through the years and reminded everyone of the challenges still to be faced.

We then proceeded to the awarding of our honored members. Those members in attendance receiving their 40-year pins were Richard Boien, Mike Chenot, Warren Glaze, Chetney Drain, Frankie Bonuso and Vanita Isaiah. Receiving 45-year pins were Geno Iberg and Tom Schulte. William Osia received his 50-year Gold Card. 55-year pins were issued to Richard Rhyner and Donald McQuiston. 60-year pins were presented to Daniel Gangeloff, John Rickhoff Jr., Joseph Shadduck Jr. and Anthony Toney. A 65-year pin was presented to John Haake, and brother Wilbert Hubbard received his 70-year plaque.

Following our awards program, I had the distinct honor to present two special awards. The first was to region 5 NBA David Teegarden in recognition for his generous contributions to the Branch 343 retirees.

Our newly established Thomas Harman Retiree of the Year Award was presented to former Branch 343 President John Haake for his continued contributions to the retired members of Branch 343.

Our program concluded with the awarding of attendance prizes provided by Geno and Glenda Iberg, which were greatly appreciated. Geno also provided NALC veterans baseball caps to all our military veterans.

To all our honorees who were unable to attend and receive their much deserved awards, rest assured that they will be mailed out shortly.

We hope to see everyone next year when we celebrate the 97th Ole Timers Day.

2025 RETIREE AWARDEES OLE TIMERS DAY CELEBRATION

MAY 3, 2025

75-YEAR PLAQUE

Roosevelt Harris Jr.

70-YEAR PLAQUES

Robert Avery
Robert Flaherty

Percy Cox
Wilbert Hubbard

Charles Dalton

65-YEAR UNION PINS

Richard Allison
James Goheen
Anthony Jakuboski
Howard Neels
Bobby Whitaker

Wade Cross
John Haake
Ronald Johnson
Richard Preusser

Robert Ecker
Thomas Howery
Lonnie Jones
Walter Schriber

60-YEAR UNION PINS

Joseph Badalamenti
Raymond Breakfield
Robert Gerdes
John Rickhoff Jr.
Leonard Turner

George Bauer
Ronald Fromm
Thomas Glass
Joseph Shadduck Jr.
Harold White Jr.

Charles Brabec
Daniel Gangloff
Vernon Isenman
Anthony Toney

55-YEAR UNION PINS

Clarence Bartoszkiewicz
Vincent Galli
James Harnden
Frederick Keys
Robert Miller Jr.
Glennon Parks
Richard Rhyner

Ruth Eidson
George Garger
Winston Hodges
Aron Leach
Max Morrissey
Roy Poddig
Roscoe Roberts

Leroy Foster
Thomas Grafton
Alan Kalil
Donald McQuiston
Herman Ottens III
Arvell Reynolds
Charles Touzinsky Jr.

50-YEAR "GOLD CARDS"

William J. Osia

Kenneth L Rose

45-YEAR UNION PINS

Bradley Diener
Richard Ellington
Gary Guseman
Thomas Schulte

Norman Driskell
Dennis Flanagan
David Holdmeyer

Carole Eddleman
Steven Groll
Carl Iberg

40-YEAR UNION PINS

Terri Ashmore
Richard Boien
Gene Bradford
John Christman
Chetney Drain
Delores Harris

Mark Badgett
Frankie Bonuso
Linda Brahm
Jerry Clark
Paul Gentile
Brian Higgins

Mark Beck
Donald Boyer
Michael Chenot
Floyd Davis Jr.
Warren Glaze
Vanita Isaiah

**2025 THOMAS HARMAN
RETIREE OF THE YEAR**



John Haake

**2025 SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD
FROM THE RETIREES**



Region 5 National Business Agent, David Teegarden



2025 BRANCH 343 RETIREES

96th Ole Timers Day Awardees

Pictured with honorees is Region 5 National Business Agent David Teegarden, Branch 343 President John McLaughlin, NALC Director of Health Benefits Stephanie Stewart, and Retiree Chairman Tom Schulte



40-Year Pin - Richard Boien



40-Year Pin - Mike Chenot



40-Year Pin - Warren Glaze



40-Year Pin - Chetney Drain



40-Year Pin - Frankie Bonuso



40-Year Pin - Vanita Isaiah



45-Year Pin - Geno Iberg and Tom Schulte



50-Year Gold Card - William Osia

96th Ole Timers Day Awardees



55-Year Pin – Richard Rhyne



55-Year Pin – Donald McQuiston



60-Year Pin – Daniel Gangloff



60-Year Pin - John Rickhoff Jr.



60-Year Pin – Joseph Shadduck Jr.



60-Year Pin – Arthur Toney



65-Year Pin – John Haake



70-Year Plaque – Wilbert Hubbard

Scenes from the 96th Ole Timers Day Celebration



Friends and Family Enjoying the Celebration



West County Retiree ... By Pam Stepney

BRANCH 343, YOU SHOWED UP AND SHOWED OUT!



Hey there, sisters and brothers of Branch 343! How's everybody doing? Hopefully still recovering from the mountain of canned goods and good vibes from this year's *Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive* — because let me tell you, we crushed it. Seriously, y'all delivered those bags and cards like pros, and the community responded like champs. I'm proud. Like, chest-out, stand-tall kind of proud.

This year, everything ran smoother than a greased mail cart — bags and cards got out on time, pickups were solid, and the response from the public reminded us why we do this. It's not just about mail — we're out here making sure families don't go hungry, especially when the fridge is looking scarce. It's a tough world out there, and your hard work made a real dent in someone's struggle. That's powerful stuff.

And to think — 33 years ago, this started as one simple idea. Now look at us. A coast-to-coast operation powered by union muscle and community heart. So go ahead, stop what you're doing and give yourself a good old-fashioned round of applause. *Bravo, letter carriers, bravo!*

Big shoutout to the folks who thanked me while I visited your stations. That kind of positive energy goes a long way. But if you skipped out on delivering the

bags and cards this year, let me just say, count your blessings that you're not the one in line at the food bank. We've got jobs, health-care, and a union that fights for us. It's our duty to lift others when we can. And those thank-you cards? Gold. A chance for your customers to learn your name just in time for the holiday season. Personal touch goes a long way in this job.

Now let's talk teamwork. I saw clerks, carriers, supervisors, truck drivers, even retirees (yeah, me!) working together to get it done. I was riding around picking up food to take the load off active carriers — and I'm planning to bring my 13-year-old grandson and his crew next year. Let's raise the next generation right.

Hats off to Alexis Allen and Lakeesha Hayes, with backup from Shonda Brand (from the back end, no less!). Big thanks to Priscilla Bailey, Monica Jeanis, Kelvin Ward, Ben Chandler, Dallas Mitchell, Richard Brown, Kenny Gordon, and the legend Rance Hope — 43 years and 11 months of union grit. And let's not forget Garland Mitchell for driving that 2-ton beast to Creve Coeur. The last load rolled out at 5:30 p.m., and with it our impact doubled.

And a standing ovation for Marvin Booker for pulling this food drive together and making sure we all looked good in those shirts. Seriously, hit the pause button and clap it up for Marvin. *Bravo again!*

On Food Drive day, I hit Des Peres, Olivette, Creve Coeur, and Kirkwood. Some stations had food, others had supervisors flipping burgers — it was a beautiful sight. Union members from every craft side-by-side, proving we do more than sort and deliver mail. We serve the people. That's the union way. As a retired NALC member, it makes me wanna holler from the mountaintop: *I'm proud to be one of you!*

Now, while we're basking in the afterglow, let's not forget: Union meetings are held every **second Thursday at 7:30 p.m.** Got something to say? Step up to the mic and say it. Union strong means every voice matters — even when it's a gripe.

NOW FOR THE NOT-SO-FUNNY PART: ROUTE INSPECTIONS.

What in the actual mailbag happened? No DPS some days. You're leaving the station just to come back an hour later for parcels. Unsafe delivery instructions. Told to use annual leave because "you finished too early" (because management played hide-and-seek with the mail).

Let's be real. Management couldn't do one route in eight hours if it came with GPS, wings, and a rocket booster. These inspections were a joke, and we're not laughing. Our job is hard enough without bad-faith oversight.

And speaking of things that make you want to shout — meet your new postmaster general, **David Steiner**, fresh from the FedEx boardroom. Yeah, *FedEx*. The non-union poster child. They handed him the keys to USPS like we wouldn't notice. Privatization? It's knocking on the door, and we better be ready to answer with locked arms and a loud NO.

TIME TO PUT OUR MONEY WHERE OUR MOUTH IS

Want to fight back? Support the union's Political Action Fund — just **\$5 per pay**

period via payroll deduction. Questions? Richard Brown's your guy at the hall. Want to keep it local? Reach out to retiree Mike Weir. This next chapter? It's gonna be a wild one. Spoiler alert: The union *will* fight back, tooth and nail. So, stay tuned for the drama. (And bring popcorn.)

IN OTHER NEWS

Congrats to the three **John Haake Scholarship winners!** Go make us proud, then come back and lift your communities. And fingers crossed, we see some trade school applicants next year

— those programs are finally gaining traction.

Happy Father's Day to all the dads holding it down. And **Happy Juneteenth** to everyone — we celebrate our strength, our resilience, and our history.

FINAL WORDS:

Do your best. Leave the rest. Don't stress. GOD BLESS. Register to vote. Exercise your rights. And THANK YOU for showing up, standing strong, and keeping the spirit of Branch 343 alive.

See you at the next meeting

Thoughts from Gravois ... *By Andy Garces*

A HOUSE DIVIDED

We are one post office with one goal. That should be the end of the story, but it's not. We work to deliver the mail. We work to be a self-sustaining agency. These two goals should be aligned. Safety and efficiency and that's all there is. What about a career? What about a standard for living? What about retiring with benefits and having yourself, the agency, and the customers to thank for it? It gets more complicated the more you zoom in. Cause what's good for the gander isn't always good for the goose.

We are one craft and one union. That should be the end of the story, but it's not. Some of us have paid dues for 50 years. Some of us just started paying them last week. It's tough to remember what it was like being a CCA six years ago. Can you remember your manager from 25 years ago?

The point is that we are all different. You do not know me from the carrier to your left. I don't know you from dirt. I still care what happens to you. We may be on different pay tables, but I don't want you to be lost and hungry and covered in rain with only a handful of mail to show for it.

A house divided cannot stand, and it's not hard to see the divide lately. The CCA fresh out of the academy will never know what it was like to strap out their mail and spend the morning blocking without a tray of DPS.

We have got to stop picking out the differences and we have got to start extending hands. Nobody is gonna help us but each other. There is no post office without the letter carrier. But we are now in a moment where we must decide what being a letter carrier means. It means what it used to mean, but it also means more. It's time to lean on each other and help each other stand.

South County ... *By Matt Gleiforst*

Hello from South County. At a certain point in the career of a letter carrier we must come to the realization that nothing will ever be enough for management of the Postal Service. This month I want to dive into so-called "undertime." "Undertime" is work that is assigned to a letter carrier to give them an 8-hour day, assuming that their route does not have 8 hours' worth of work. The undertime is to make up for that lack of work. But who decides that a letter carrier has undertime? Is it the supervisor? Nope! According to the M-41 it is the letter carrier's reporting requirement to ask for either overtime assistance, or to let management know they need more work to give them an 8-hour day. It is not the supervisor's role to do this. In fact, it is quite inappropriate for them to do so. Now if you truly feel that you do not have enough work for the day and you can help out elsewhere, go for it. This happened to me just the other day. My route's DPS did not show up, so I only had packages and a few flats to deliver. This was a day where I had justifiable undertime, so I helped out on another route to give me an 8-hour day. The next day, however, I had justifiable overtime because of the extra DPS.

The problem is that management will assign undertime when it does not exist. Just because mail volume is "light" does not necessarily mean that you can do time on another route. On these light days it is a great time to do route maintenance. For instance, if you have apartments that need the

names updated, you should do so on these days. This is also a great time to go through mailboxes that are full and try and investigate whether or not the home may be vacant. You should also be sure to work safely and follow all the regulations of the M-41 and not rush to try and give management the "undertime."

It is also obvious that in many cases supervisors lie about undertime because their bosses are telling them to assign it no matter the mail volume. A couple of months ago a carrier overheard a higher up boss on a telecom instructing management to give undertime every Saturday, no matter the volume of mail, to prevent overtime and fifth day overtime. This higher up is a known bully who will lie all the time to advance their career. This instruction goes against the actual rules and policies of the Postal Service. Upper management will often lie and give improper instructions in an effort to make their reports look better so they can get a bonus. This is why it is so important to fight back and stand up for ourselves, and for our fellow carriers.

And as I said, it will **never** be enough. At a station that was just inspected and had several routes taken out unjustly, management was assigning undertime on a Monday where the mail volume was heavy, and the routes were already overburdened. How many new carriers do you think will skip their breaks and their lunches because they believe what they are being told by these lying bosses?

On that note, do not skip your breaks to make these unrealistic expectations a reality. And more importantly, **do not work off the clock!** I have heard of and seen carriers throwing mail into their case before they clock in or after they have clocked out. You are not helping anyone by doing this, especially yourself. If you think it's going to make your day easier, you are sorely mistaken in the long run. Southwest Station and Ballwin both just lost 13 routes each. For anyone throwing mail off the clock, this same thing will probably happen to your station and your route. USPS does not care that you worked for free. They will take your route away anyway. And at this point, even if you work off the clock you still won't be able to complete your newly adjusted routes in 8 hours and you will have to fight daily with management to explain this.

We are in rough times with management. They seem to think that abusing us will help them to advance in their careers. We need to prove them wrong in this. Until next time keep your head held high and keep surviving!



The "U" ... By Frank Enlow

Brothers and sisters, we gotta do better when it comes to the Food Drive. There were way too many of you entitled carriers that believed picking up can goods is beneath you and chose not to deliver the food drive cards. And a lot of you just called off that day.

How soon we forget that there was over 80,000 federal workers fired recently and there is continuing talk of privatizing the post office. And the one thing you are asked to do for someone other than yourself is to fully participate in the Food Drive.

Remember, we may be just a stoke of the pen away from being privatized and needing the food bank to feed our families as well.

Now let's talk about the route adjustments. In the past, management had always agreed to a joint route inspection process which included someone from management and a union representative who basically looked out for the best interest of the carrier based on the information provided by the carrier.

In most cases, management wasn't very successful using whatever route inspection process they came up with because it just didn't work or make much sense. In some cases, routes were added.

But this time around, management chose to do route inspections and not give the union a voice in the matter.

Carriers, we work for the Postal Service and the union has a joint

contract with them which states that they should negotiate in good faith with the union when it comes to using any tools that will make changes in how we do our job.

You have always been told to work your route each day as if you were being inspected. But a lot of us have gotten way too comfortable and given management the ammunition to attack our routes.

Carriers, delivering all of your mail, regardless of what it is, would decrease any stationary or overtime management assumes you have on the street. And they wouldn't be able to use that time against us. These are some of the things we continue to do that hurt us as carriers.

We want to come in early and case mail off the clock or do mark-ups so that we can get a jump start on our day. But by doing this, you are only showing you don't need that much office time.

We will clock over to street time after an hour, because management says you only have an hour of office time. Your office time is based on the volume of mail each day and if you need more time, fill out a Form 3996.

Once we get to the street, why are we in such a hurry to get done?

We are taking way too many short cuts when it comes to delivering mail. Fasten your seatbelt in front of you every time your vehicle is in motion. Shut your vehicle off and lock the doors every time you

exit your vehicle. And you should be fingering each piece of mail at every address to ensure correct mail delivery.

Brothers and sisters, a lot of you may not care about the job you have until it is gone. But for those of you that appreciate the lifestyle this job has provided for you and your family, you need to know more than when your payday is.

If you can't make it to the union meeting on the second Thursday of every month to be informed on how to protect your job, open up your NALC app and read the M-41 (City Delivery Carriers Duties and responsibilities), or you can open up your union branch publication the Mound City Carrier, where your leadership gives detailed information on what's happening and what you can do to protect yourself.

We all are adults that collect a paycheck to do a job, which means that it is also our obligation to learn our duties and responsibilities to protect our jobs.

UNTIL NEXT TIME FROM THE "U"



FIGHT LIKE HELL!
SUPPORT YOUR LETTER CARRIER

MAKE THE CALL
TELL SPEAKER JOHNSON TO PUT A STOP TO THIS.

HELL NO! TO DISMANTLING THE POSTAL SERVICE

202 224-3121

BRANCH MEETING

BRANCH 343, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

MAY 8, 2025

Summary of Branch Action

MSC To pay the branch bills.

New Members

Andrew Alexander.....Sikeston4/12/2025
Kelvin Brown.....Southwest.....4/12/2025
Zachary Henderson.....Town & Country4/12/2025
Arthur RuloSt. Clair.....4/12/2025
Nanette SproapsSouthwest.....4/12/2025
Tyler StarkSt. Clair.....4/12/2025
Samuel Steinmetz-Crouse..Southwest.....4/12/2025

Recently Retired Members

Sharon BurrPark Hills.....04/30/2025
Jerry Collier.....Sikeston04/18/2025
Louella Downen.....O'Fallon04/30/2025
Suzette ProctorSouth County04/30/2025
Darlene TateClayton04/30/2025

Deceased Member

Jimmie Russell.....Gold Card10/01/2023

Highlights

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Pam Stepney and the minutes were read by Recording Secretary Richard Brown and accepted.

NBA's Report, Pat Baker: The NBA office has been out training across the region in preparation for the LMOU opening. There will be an LMOU training on May 13 at 6 p.m. put on by the NBA office at Branch 343 Union Hall. The new postmaster general (PMG) is coming from one of our competitors (FedEx board member) and he brags about how he treats union members vs. non-members. Pat spoke on Congress' reconciliation process (having all employees now pay 4.4% toward retirement) and their goal to increase the high-3 to high-5, which means you may have to work longer. Pat wants everyone to reach out to your congressman to express your concern for the changes and to contribute to LCPF.

Retirees Report, Tom Schulte: Ole Timers Day had about 75 in attendance. Tom thanked all who assisted in putting it together. He also thanked NALC Director of Health Benefits Stephanie Stewart for attending.

Labor Council Report, Frank Enlow: The council swore in three of the officers, John McLaughlin was

sworn in to the executive board. They are planning to hire a full-time political consultant. They are also looking to pressure Josh Hawley and Ann Wagner as they have done nothing to help labor unions. Mid-term elections are coming. Get out and vote.

Health Benefit Report, Barry Linan: There is a program called *Virtual Muscular Skeletal* through Hinge Health for those in the NALC Health Plan, designed to help with back and joint pain and it is at no cost to members of the health plan and your family may be eligible. Flyers are on the back table.

Mound City Carrier Report, Tom Schulte: Tom reminded us of the importance of the information in the MCC. We must be politically engaged and let our senators and congressman know what issues are important to you. There is an app you can download (5-Calls) to have access to your senators, see the instructions in this month's MCC. If called to march again, please be ready to participate. Kenny Young raised about \$233,000 over the years with his Bass Tournament.

Haake Scholarship Report, Pam Stepney: Next month, the three winners will be selected and presented at the next meeting.

OWCP Report, Barry Linan: You must file/complete a CA-1 to get continuation of pay (COP). Management must complete the entirety of the CA-16 in order to have the bill paid and to have your claim accepted, specifically the attending physician's report.

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

Political Action Committee Report, Mike Weir: Mike read names of contributors and encouraged everyone to give to LCPF and the PAC fund.

Legislative Report, Mike Weir: The projected COLA is still 1.5%. Mike spoke on some house resolutions and their purposes. Fact sheets of the resolutions are on the back table and Mike encouraged everyone to look at them on the way out. We must show up to support the marches that occur, which support the opposition of the attacks on the Postal Service.

Executive Vice President/Treasurer Report, Brian Litteken: The board of governors has 11 members, but five of the positions are vacant. The board members are nominated by the president. The board in turn, elects the postmaster general. They had three candidates, and they were sent to the White House to meet the president. Two of the original three were not invited, but two others were. Trump selected Steiner, but the board of governors is supposed to make this call. The database is being tested and SWIP is working out the kinks. Brian explained the chart which shows all who qualify or may qualify for the State Convention this year.

Vice President/Financial Secretary Report, Marvin Booker: Marvin read his financial report. He spoke on the food drive cards and T-shirts. He thanked Pam for helping to educate the station on the food drive and he named her as food drive ambassador. Booker thanked all in advance for the work they will put in on Saturday, May 10.

President's Comments, John McLaughlin: John spoke on Ole Timers Day and how nice it was. He spoke with the postmaster about the last labor/management meeting and the things happening at certain stations. The postmaster said that there was **no** set time for carriers to be back at the end of the day, although MCSO Lavato said during a telecon that there was. John spoke on the route adjustments and how they are deducting time from the routes. LMOU will be opening soon and training will be given at the Union Hall on Tuesday, May 13.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard Brown, Recording Secretary



BRANCH MEETING ATTENDANCE PRIZES

1. Cardinals vs Detroit Tigers	May 20	Barry Linan, Retired
2. Cards vs Arizona Diamondbacks	May 25	Dana Rakers, Gaffney
3. Cardinals vs Kansas City Royals	June 4	Andre Hayes, Retired
4. Cardinals vs Toronto Blue Jays	June 9	Pamela Stepney, Retired
5. Cardinals vs Toronto Blue Jays	June 10	Sarah McIntosh, So. County
	\$57	Richard Brown, West County



Spring Into Action ... *By Retired Letter Carrier Mike Laury*

I was walking my 12.2-mile route one day back in the spring of 1993 (stationed out of Mackenzie Pointe) when suddenly, I was struck by something on my safari helmet with tree-top velocity. Turns out, it was a UFO (unidentified fruit-like object.) These spectacular Webster Grove trees which could shade an entire cul-de-sac were home to at least five families of squirrels and had root systems that traveled deep and far along the properties which they stood on. The bright side that day was I didn't have to traverse past coconut trees, which my Hawaiian brethren had to deliver on a daily basis.

Later that same day, a large black Doberman was doing reconnaissance and canine patrol as it sprung from behind a large hedge to ruin my day. Had the heavy chain been a couple feet longer, the big old boy could have added another notch to its collar. I quickly fired a dog biscuit at the big brute and hit him in the

snout. No reaction. And "lucky" for me, I passed up that delivery (per instruction of safety) and the owner would have to wait one more day for his Sports Illustrated (SI) swimsuit edition, which I was able to critique later that day during my lunch break.

I used to yearn for that magic word called retirement, even back in 1993 when a beauty named Vendela graced the cover of SI. (Go ahead, look it up.) Fast-forward 32 years to now, May of 2025. No one told me that when I retired, grunts and groans would become a regular part of my vocabulary each time I got up from a chair or my recliner. Smooth bodily functions would become more valuable than physical intimacy and doctor's visits would often outnumber my gym workouts for the week.

But imagine this, you who yearn for those retirement days. It's Monday morning or the day after a holiday

and you are sitting there with your cup of coffee, and as it begins to rain, a devilish smile comes from thoughts of those delivering Advos that day. Amused, and only a tiny bit sorry, I reach for the coffee pot to enjoy my second or maybe third cup. I get to bitch about world politics, the weather, and seem genuinely surprised from hearing about an actor's death, who I could have sworn died years before that. I also get to bellyache about our team trying to "jack" a home run because they don't know how to lay down a sacrifice bunt. Yesterday, I used a hole-puncher to add another inch to my belt and suddenly realized that I had dress shoes older than the new carrier delivering my route. As the great Harry Chapin once sang, "All my life's a circle." I never, or at least until recently, realized that song might be referring to me.

Here's to all active and retired letter carriers, be careful and remember, safety is no accident.



Br. 343 Ladies' night out at the IBEW's Women's Committee Variety Night, Friendly Feud Trivia Night



Br 343 PAC Fund Treasurer Mike Weir with Senator Chris Murphy (CT) at the Missouri 2nd District Town Hall Meeting which he hosted on April 25

Political Action Honor Roll

RICHARD RHYNER★★★★★
JOE FITZJARRELL★★★★★
ART BUCK★★★
TONY JASPER★★★
LYNN RAY PRATT★★★
IN MEMORY OF JIM ROBERTS★★★
MIKE WEIR★★★
CATHERINE CIARAMITARO★★

LAWRENCE McHAYNES JR.★★
KEN MEYER★★
JOE POLITTE★★
MARVIN BOOKER★
DAN BRAUCHLE★
JIM BRUGGEMAN★
JOHN BUCHHEIT★
JOE CANMAN★

BEVE CREELY★
ROBERT EVERS★
SAMUEL GOODMAN★
JOHN HAAKE★
GENO IBERG★
LAURA KEIM★
MEAGHAN LAKEY★
BILL LISTER★

JOHN McLAUGHLIN★
IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH P. REGAN★
MICHAEL RHODES SR.★
TOM SCHULTE★
PAMELA STEPNEY★
NBA DAVID TEEGARDEN★
DEAN WERNER★

DAN BRAUCHLE
DON CHARTRAND
ROBERT ECKER

FRANK ENLOW
ROBERT EVERS
JOHN HAAKE

ROY HATCHARD JR.
LAWRENCE McHAYNES JR.
SHONNA RANDLE

GARY ROBERTSON
DENNIS STEGMANN
SARONDA SUTHERLAND

The above honor roll gives special recognition to those members who give \$50 or more. Each star represents \$100

(Donations are not tax deductible)

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SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS PAYABLE TO BRANCH 343, P.A.C.
MIKE WEIR, 612 CHARLESTON OAKS DR., BALLWIN, MO 63021-7387

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By making a contribution to the Letter Carrier Fund or our local Political Action Fund, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your contribution is not a condition of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers or of employment by the Postal Service, nor is it part of union dues. You have a right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal. The Letter Carrier Political Fund and Branch 343 Political Action Fund will use money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office and undertake other political spending as permitted by law. Your selection shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled. Contributions to the Letter Carrier Political Fund are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the Letter Carrier Political Fund and Branch 343 Political Action Fund from soliciting contributions from individuals who are not NALC members, executive and administrative staff or their families. Any contribution received from such an individual will be refunded to that contributor.



O'Fallon letter carrier Louella Downen joins the "Last Punch Bunch" after 25 years.



Clayton letter carrier Darlene Tate calls it a career receiving best wishes from Pam Stepney, Br. 343 VP Marvin Booker, Darlene, Saronda Sutherland and Frank Enlow



South County letter carrier Suzette Proctor receives congratulations on her retirement from Br. 343 VP Marvin Booker

John H. Haake BRANCH 343

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MOUND CITY CARRIER

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RETIRED MEMBERS MEETING

LETTER CARRIERS BUILDING
 1600 S Broadway

1st Wednesday of the month.
 Lunch at noon, meeting at 12:45 pm

Tom Schulte, Chairman636-255-3057
 Ray Breakfield, Vice Chairman.....573-358-5266
 Mike Chenot/Kevin Welby, Treasurers..314-779-3356
 Tom Schulte, Recording Secretary636-255-3057

Deadline for articles for the JULY issue is JUNE 16, 2025

★ ★ ★

REGULAR BRANCH MEETING THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025 7:30 pm

★ ★ ★

SHOP STEWARDS MEETING THURSDAY, JULY 3, 2025 7:30 PM

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