

MOUND CITY CARRIER

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"Diversity is our Strength and Unity is our Power"

September 2025

If You Don't See the Mail, It's Not Delayed: USPS Logic 101

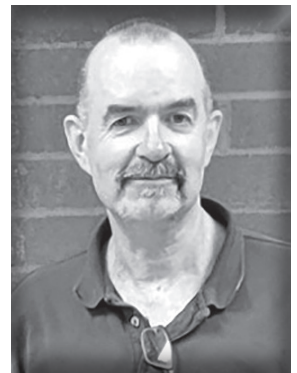
President's Article ... *By John McLaughlin*

During the week of June 2, the office of inspector general performed a self-initiated audit on the plant downtown, the plant in Hazelwood and seven other stations in St. Louis. In particular, they audited the Southwest, Creve Coeur, Clayton, and Maryville Gardens (MVG) stations. The St. Louis area was selected based on a congressional inquiry issued April 1. They were looking at delayed mail, package scanning, arrow keys, property conditions, and package separations. To no carrier's surprise, all seven stations and the two plants failed miserably on nearly every criterion tested.

The OIG found systemic issues with each of the items they audited. This means it is pervasive, and it can be found throughout the entire process. No quick fix. Most significantly, they found the largest delayed mail volume since their field operations reviews began in 2021 – over 2.5 million mail pieces at both processing centers. Two stations, Southwest and MVG, had route

inspections in March and April respectively. These problems were present while they were inspected. On the very first day of inspection at the Southwest Station, they received four sets of DPS. The mail volume was erratic throughout all the inspections. This in and of itself, should have been grounds to cancel the inspections. As it turns out, MVG station lost 14 routes while Southwest station lost 13 routes. Now, both are in complete chaos and it is the carriers' fault, of course.

While city letter carriers are used to being blamed for anything that goes wrong in the post office, the OIG seemed to focus more on what management did not do. They noticed how management did not have replacements for carriers who called in sick. I guess the OIG didn't get the new SOP, mail is not delivered on routes



NOTICE: NOMINATIONS

NOMINATIONS FOR DELEGATES FOR STATE AND NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

NOMINATIONS FOR DELEGATES TO THE 2026 NALC CONVENTION AND THE 2027 MISSOURI STATE CONVENTION SHALL TAKE PLACE AT THE REGULAR BRANCH MEETING, THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 11. NALC NATIONAL AND MISSOURI STATE CONVENTION DELEGATES SHALL SERVE FOR TWO YEARS.

with no carrier assigned to them. Management did not conduct a walkthrough of the workroom floor. They noted that, "Managers are required to report all mail in the delivery unit after the carriers have left for the street." I don't think the OIG quite gets it. If management does not do a walkthrough, then they just don't see any delayed mail and hence no delayed mail reports.

The OIG did point out one thing carriers were deficient at, filling out PS Form 1571s Undelivered Mail Report slips. If they looked a little deeper, they would have discovered why often carriers do not fill them out. Many times, management does not have the slips. When they are filled out, they often go unsigned. Also, management often discourages carriers from filling them out. If these forms were dutifully filled out, it would only indicate carriers have too much work for the allotted time.

The OIG astutely points out the effect these deficiencies have on customer satisfaction and the adverse effect it has on the Postal Service brand. One effect they overlooked is the effect it has on the letter carrier. Years ago, the carrier could honestly tell a patron that the package or letter they were waiting for was not a result of leaving mail at the station. It was always delayed at the plant. Now, carriers who are honest must tell our patrons, "Your letter may be back at the station." How do we explain that?

The problem the OIG exposed in St. Louis is not limited to here. An associate office belonging to our

branch had a visit from the OIG as well. Someone dropped a dime on local management. It seems management had been instructing carriers to stash mail in the station. This comes as no surprise to me since their station was decimated by a brutal route inspection. All the routes are over eight hours, and mail is being left behind on most days. Rural carriers do city letter carrier work every day. Contractors do city letter carrier work as well. So, let's just hide the evidence. You might think that the OIG gave an award to the postal employee who called to alert them and all the routes will immediately be adjusted to eight hours. But, no and no. In fact, they are questioning the number of carriers who have scheduled AL on the same week. Again, they are treating the symptoms and not the root cause. If the routes were correctly adjusted to eight hours, there would be more routes and more carriers. With more carriers, there would be more carriers to cover routes open because of scheduled AL.

And one last kicker, the OIG agent who investigated the hidden mail asked one question of the carriers. She asked why the carriers followed management's instruction of hiding the mail. We're damned if we do and damned if we don't.

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.

**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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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Sept 11	Regular Branch Meeting
Sept 27-28	Missouri State Convention
Oct 1	Retiree Picnic at Creve Coeur Memorial Park Tremayne Pavilion by the Lake (see ad)
Oct 2	Shop Stewards Meeting
Oct 9	Regular Branch Meeting
Oct 11	Shop Stewards Banquet Letter Carriers Hall (see ad)
Oct 12	Br. 343 MDA Golf Tournament Rolling Hills Golf Course (see ad)
Oct 13	Columbus Day Holiday



**2026 ROTATING DAY CALENDAR
IN THIS ISSUE**

Executive Vice President ... *By Brian Litteken*

OIG AUDIT



The Office of Inspector General (OIG) performed an audit of the following locations during June based on congressional inquiries issued April 1 from U.S. senators and representatives from Missouri and Illinois:

- St. Louis Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC)
- Network Distribution Center (NDC) in Hazelwood
- Clayton Station
- Creve Coeur Station
- Maryville Gardens Station
- O'Fallon Main Post Office,
- Southwest Station,
- Ballwin Main Post Office, and
- St. Charles Main Post Office.

ST. LOUIS P&DC AND NDC

The OIG identified deficiencies with all areas they reviewed that affected the efficiency of operations at the St. Louis P&DC and NDC.

Audit Area	Issues Identified	
	P&DC	NDC
Clearance Times	x	x
Delayed Mail	x	x
Late, Canceled, and Extra Outbound		
Trips	x	x
Scan Compliance	x	x
Security of Registry Items	x	
Safety and Security		x

BRANCH 343 STATIONS AND POST OFFICE

The OIG identified issues affecting delivery operations at St. Louis stations and O'Fallon.

Audit Area	Deficiencies Identified				
	Clayton	Creve Coeur	Maryville Gardens	O'Fallon	Southwest
Delayed Mail	x	x	x	x	x
Package Scanning	x	x	x	x	x
Arrow Keys	x	x	x	x	x
Package separations			x	x	x

Clayton

- On June 3 the OIG identified 9,262 delayed mail pieces at 32 carrier cases, the hot case, and on

the workroom floor. Management did not report this mail as undelivered.

- Unit management did not verify that the carriers completed PS Form 1571 or conduct an adequate walkthrough to check delayed mail.
- The station manager did not make sure replacements were available for unscheduled absences.
- Employees scanned packages improperly at the delivery unit and scanned packages away from the intended delivery points. One package was scanned 1.5 miles away from the delivery point.
- Management did not provide sufficient oversight to properly safeguard arrow keys and did not properly update the arrow key inventory log. A safe containing retail floor stamp stock and arrow keys had a broken lock and was accessible. The station manager believed the arrow keys were safeguarded because there was a camera viewing the unsecured safe.

Creve Coeur

- On June 3 the OIG identified 1,297 delayed mail pieces at 25 carrier cases. Management did not report this mail as undelivered. Management incorrectly thought that mail brought back by carriers was not considered delayed mail.
- When carriers returned from their assigned routes, the evening supervisor did not require the carriers to complete a PS Form 1571. Management also did not conduct a walkthrough to verify that all mail was cleared from the unit.
- The OIG selected 30 packages from the carrier cases to review and analyze scanning and tracking history. Thirteen of these 30 packages were scanned between 1.4 and 2.6 miles away from the delivery point as "Delivery Attempted – No Access to Delivery Location."
- A supervisor or clerk must supervise employees signing out keys on the inventory log. In the morning, carriers took their own keys, unsupervised.
- Arrow keys were often left open and unattended outside the supervisor's office.
- Upon a carrier's return to the office, arrow keys

should be deposited in a secure location, and a supervisor or clerk must verify all keys have been returned and accounted for daily. On June 5, three carriers possessed arrow keys that were not returned the previous night.

Maryville Gardens

- On June 3 the OIG identified 9,602 delayed mail pieces at 52 of the 56 carrier cases, the hot case, and on the workroom floor. Management reported 1,401 delayed mail pieces. This only represented about 15% of the delayed mail.
- The reason for the delayed mail was due to insufficient staffing. Postal Service policy states that managers must review the day's workload and be sure that replacements are available for unscheduled absences. District management should have provided the unit with enough resources to deliver all the mail each day.
- Management did not place mail brought back from carrier routes into the appropriate area or complete a PS Form 1571 to document the reason why mail could not be delivered.
- A 3M case was not provided for carriers to use upon return from street delivery; therefore, carriers were putting some mail back in the route case upon returning from their duties.
- The OIG selected 30 packages from the carrier cases to review and analyze scanning and tracking history.
 - Six packages were scanned between 0.5 and 2.4 miles away from the delivery point as "Delivery Attempted – No Access to Delivery Location."
 - Five packages were scanned "Held at Post Office at the Customer's Request," but the customer did not have a hold request.
 - A carrier delivered a package on April 21 and brought it back because it had been sitting by the customer's door for an extended time. However, the package was not placed in the "Return to Sender" area.
 - One package was scanned "No Such Number" but was not placed in the "Return to Sender" area.
 - One package was scanned "Available for Pickup-PO Box," but the package was addressed for street delivery.

O'Fallon

- On June 3 the OIG identified 26,461 delayed

mail pieces at 47 carrier cases and the hot case. Management reported 9,705 delayed mail pieces, this only represented 37% of the delayed mail. This occurred because 30 of the 65 rural routes were overburdened and employee availability was strained.

- The PM supervisor did not require carriers to fill out PS Form 1571 because the postmaster wanted carriers to spend their time delivering the mail.
- Employees improperly scanned 1,350 packages at the delivery unit between February and April. Eighty seven percent of these improperly scanned packages were scanned delivered. Management was unaware that most of the delivered scans at the unit were due to a carrier scanning packages at the unit instead of creating a firm sheet.

Southwest

- On June 3 the OIG identified 15,597 delayed mail pieces at 34 carrier cases, the hot case, the workroom floor, and in collections. Management reported 1,365 delayed mail pieces, this only represented 8.8% of the delayed mail.
- On June 2 the clerks did not complete sorting packages until 1 p.m. Management instructed carriers to return to the unit to retrieve the packages and prioritize package delivery, which resulted in undelivered letters and flats.
- Effective May 17, 2025, all the city routes were adjusted due to a decrease in mail volume. The route adjustments reduced the number of city routes from 59 to 46. Due to route changes, mail received from the plant was often improperly sorted.
- On June 2 unit management did not deliver the collection mail to the plant.
- The OIG selected 30 packages from the carrier cases to review and analyze scanning and tracking history. Five (17%) of these 30 packages had improper scans or handling issues.
 - Three packages were scanned "Delivery Attempted – No Access Location" between 0.2 and 0.5 miles away from the delivery point.
 - One package arrived at the unit in February but was missing an "Arrival-at-Unit" and Stop the Clock (STC) scan.
- Unit management reported 79 arrow keys as "In-Use," "Damaged," or "In-Vault." The OIG's physical review revealed that 41 of the 79 keys were missing.
- The PM supervisor did not verify that all arrow

MOUND CITY CARRIER

keys were returned to the accountable cart when carriers returned from their routes. A supervisor or clerk must supervise employees signing out arrow keys on the inventory log. Upon return, arrow keys should be deposited in a secure location and a supervisor or clerk must verify all keys have been returned and accounted for daily.

- Employees did not properly separate packages destined for the processing facility. Priority Mail and non-Priority Mail packages were commingled in the same containers.

Warning to Carriers

You know how management will correct the deficiencies identified by the OIG. Carriers will be issued discipline. So here is how to prevent the discipline.

Delayed Mail

Fill out a PS Form 1571. If you are instructed to curtail mail, complete a PS Form 1571. If you are instructed to prioritize package delivery, complete a PS Form 1571 for the letters and flats you were not able to complete delivery. If you are instructed to be back at the station at 7:00 or any other time and you are not able to complete all your deliveries, complete a

PS Form 1571 for the letters, flats, and packages that were not delivered. If the supervisor does not want to provide you with a PS Form 1571, ask for a shop steward.

Package Scanning

Only scan packages delivered or delivery attempted at the address on the package. Do not allow a supervisor to intimidate you into scanning a package at the station after you have completed your deliveries as delivery attempted, animal interference or any other Stop the Clock (STC) scan. This would not show integrity. If the supervisor wants you to make a scan of the package, offer to go back to the delivery address and attempt delivery. If the supervisor does not want you to go back to the delivery address and is trying to prevent a delivery failure, let the supervisor scan the package.

Arrow Keys

The carrier should have a clerk or supervisor clear them of their arrow keys on the accountable log at the end of the day. Do not just drop off the arrow key on an unsecured accountable cart. If no one is available to clear you of the arrow key, drop it in a blue collection box.

Delivery Units – Summary of Results

Controls Reviewed	Deficiencies Identified – Yes or No						
	Ballwin MPO	O'Fallon MPO	St. Charles MPO	Maryville Gardens Station	Southwest Station	Clayton Branch	Creve Coeur Branch
Delayed Mail	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Package Scanning	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arrow Keys	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Carrier Separations and Transfers	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Property Conditions	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Package Separations	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A

We identified deficiencies in all of the areas we reviewed that affected the efficiency of operations at the St. Louis P&DC and NDC. We also identified other issues related to the security of registry items at the P&DC and safety and security at the NDC.

Vice President Financial Secretary

... By Marvin Booker

IS EXCELLENT SERVICE THE PRIORITY?

On October 18, 2024, the St. Louis Postal Service celebrated its first African American female postmaster when Medora Walker was installed as the 41st postmaster of St. Louis.

During her installation Walker said, "I'm ready to come in, roll up my sleeves, get to it and provide excellent services to our community." Further she stated that she had a plan to improve mail service. "Excellent service is my priority to make sure we are getting all mail to everyone on time daily."

Notably absent from her comments was any mention of any intention working with the unions and employees of the St. Louis Post Office to improve service in the St. Louis Area.

Fast-forward to the week of June 2, eight months into Postmaster Walker's plan to improve service in St. Louis. The U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General began conducting audits in post offices and distribution centers in the St. Louis metro area based on congressional inquiries from U.S. senators and representatives from Missouri and Illinois.

On August 11 the U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General released findings of the wide-ranging audit. Here is a brief summary of the findings in the St. Louis area offices.

St. Louis Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC): The audit found major deficiencies in every area examined. The facility frequently missed clearance deadlines, leading to over **2.5 million delayed mail pieces** in just two observed days. Staffing shortages, poor supervision, inadequate machine maintenance, and inefficient coordination among facilities contributed to the problem.

Scanning compliance for mail tracking fell below national goals, driven by technical issues and weak oversight. Registry mail security was also compromised, with employees bypassing required hand-to-hand transfer procedures, increasing the risk of theft or loss.

Maryville Gardens Station: The audit uncovered significant deficiencies in five key areas.

First, delayed mail was a recurring issue: on June 3 over 9,600 mail pieces remained undelivered, far more than management reported. Staffing shortages, vacant routes, and inadequate supervisory oversight contributed to the delays.

Second, package scanning errors were widespread — two-thirds of sampled packages were scanned improperly, creating inaccurate tracking data and confusing customers.

Third, arrow keys, which secure access to mailboxes, were poorly managed: Dozens were missing or not recorded, and security procedures were not followed, raising risks of theft.

Fourth, safety and accessibility problems existed at the facility, including a missing electrical cover, blocked inspection gallery door, and a ramp lacking required accessibility features. Finally, employees failed to properly separate priority and non-priority packages for dispatch, creating inefficiencies and the potential for delays.

Southwest Station: The audit identified serious deficiencies in four areas: delayed mail, package scanning, arrow key accountability, and package separation for dispatch. On June 3 auditors found 15,597 delayed mail pieces, though management reported only 1,365 — an underreporting of over 90 percent. Staffing absences, poor route adjustments, late plant deliveries, and weak system reporting contributed to delays.

Package scanning problems were also common: 17 percent of sampled packages were improperly scanned, including false "delivery attempted" entries away from actual addresses. In addition, arrow key security was severely compromised. Of 79 keys recorded in USPS systems, 41 were missing and four were untracked, with many not properly secured or reported to postal inspectors, creating risks of theft.



Clayton Branch: The audit revealed serious problems in four of five key areas: delayed mail, package scanning, arrow key security, and property conditions. On June 3 auditors found 9,262 delayed mail pieces, none of which were properly reported in USPS systems. Carriers also failed to complete required forms for undelivered mail, and management did not enforce the Redline process to verify delays.

Package scanning was another weakness. Between February and April, 840 packages were improperly scanned at the unit — nearly all marked “delivered” even when not delivered. In a smaller sample, 40% of packages had incorrect scans or handling errors, some made more than a mile away from the delivery point.

Arrow key accountability was also poor. Three keys were missing, 11 were unrecorded, and many were stored in an unsecured safe. Property safety and security issues included blocked fire equipment, **unsecured doors, and a broken safe lock.**

Creve Coeur Branch: Auditors found 1,297 delayed mail pieces during their June 2025 visit. None were reported in USPS systems, and carriers did not complete the required PS Form 1571 for undelivered mail. Management misrepresented reporting rules and failed to enforce the “Redline” process to clear all mail daily. Package scanning was another major issue. Nearly half of the 30 sampled parcels had improper scans, including “delivery attempted” entries logged miles away from the intended address. This misled customers and eroded trust in USPS tracking.

Arrow key accountability was also deficient. Of 37 keys listed in USPS systems, three were missing, six were unrecorded, and several were stored unsecured. Weak oversight and poor training of supervisors increased the risk of theft.

Finally, property conditions raised safety and security concerns. Fire extinguishers were not inspected; dock lights were out and required parking lot signage was absent. USPS management agreed with all findings and committed to corrective action to strengthen accountability, security, and customer service.

Management will surely claim that carriers failed to scan packages at the delivery point, resulting in

inaccurate tracking, or neglected to return arrow keys, compromising security. Similarly, delayed mail will be pinned on carriers for not working “efficiently” enough on routes that had recently been adjusted, despite the unrealistic workload.

Even improper dispatch preparation will probably be shifted onto carriers, as they are the last to handle mail before it leaves the station. In reality, the audit shows systemic problems in supervision, reporting, and accountability. Still, USPS has a pattern of redirecting blame toward front-line carriers rather than addressing the deeper organizational and management issues at fault.

Local politicians are calling for “immediate firings” and multiple meetings with postal leadership to address these issues. “The utter mismanagement of St. Louis area postal facilities has been a stain on our region that has severely impacted Missourians for too long. It’s clear the problem is worse than we ever thought.”

“This goes beyond mere incompetence. Bad leadership and completely ineffective management have stopped Missourians from getting vital medications and legal documents and robbed citizens seeking to vote by mail of the opportunity to have their vote counted. Our community deserves a Postal Service that fulfills its core responsibility — delivering mail — instead of abandoning basic job responsibilities like showing up and answering the phone.”

I guess if local politicians have their way, the 42nd postmaster of St. Louis is on deck.

Until next time, be safe and look out for each other.

BRANCH LEGAL PLAN

Advice and Consultation on
General Practice and Civil Actions.



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Recording Secretary ... *By Richard Brown*



NALC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY APPLICATIONS OPEN

Since 2005, the NALC Headquarters has hosted training for active letter carriers, most often stewards, to help them develop their skills and grow into effective leaders. This year brings another exciting opportunity for those ready to bring their hidden talents to the forefront.

The NALC Leadership Academy will return in **2026**, taking place in **Linthicum Heights, Maryland** (just outside Baltimore). Applications are now open and will be accepted through **Friday, September 26, 2025**.

The application requires:

- A **300–500 word essay** explaining your interest in the academy and your qualifications.
- A **mentor's section**, to be completed by the mentor you select.

The training program consists of **three intensive weeks**, spread out over several months, plus a **fourth week of field experience** at your **national business agent's office (NBA)**. The curriculum is fast-paced, like a crash course, covering a wide range of subjects, with homework assignments between weeks 1 and 2. The program concludes with **graduation in week 3**, celebrating all your hard work and accomplishments.

I am proud to be a graduate of **Class 24 — the best class to ever do it!** If I can make it through, so can you.

Our very own **Dave Teegarden** and **Larrissa Parde** (both 2011 graduates) continue to play key roles in the academy, and I know they will be proud to see members from our region step up and succeed.

If you're interested, recruit your mentor now and complete your application without delay. For more details, visit **NALC.org** and search "**Leadership Academy**."

PAY

By now, you should have received your long-awaited back pay from the Postal Service. While it may not change our lives overnight, it is a victory, a reminder that progress is never given, it's fought for.

Think back: In 1775, carriers earned just two cents per letter. By 1889, our union was born, and the battles for fair wages and dignity truly began. Many of those who came before us worked multiple jobs and still struggled to survive.

In 1970, letter carriers had enough. They stood shoulder to shoulder in strike lines against unsafe conditions and poor pay. Out of that fight came the Postal Reorganization Act, paving the way for the wages and rights we now enjoy.

We still have more to win, but let's not forget how far we've come. Today, full-time regular carriers just received a \$790 cost-of-living increase, with another 1.5% raise coming this November. Every gain is the direct result of collective bargaining, solidarity, and the sacrifices of those who came before.

Stay united. Stay strong. The fight for fairness continues.

AUDIT

Some of you may have already heard about the recent OIG audits conducted across multiple offices and plants. These reviews are very real and may pose serious problems for postal managers overseeing the St. Louis area. As expected, investigators uncovered delayed mail at both stations and the plant, along with missing or improperly secured arrow keys. They also cited concerns about the condition of several facilities.

These problems are not new. They've been festering for quite some time, and the OIG clearly recognized that. What prompted them to launch simultaneous audits? Those facts will come to light in due time.

As usual, management tried to shift blame onto letter carriers. But let's be clear, we don't control arrow keys, nor do we oversee the state of our buildings. That responsibility lies squarely with management, and their failures are now drawing the attention of Missouri political leaders, some of whom are calling for changes in St. Louis leadership. Whether those calls result in action remains to be seen.

Until then, remain vigilant and continue performing your duties to the best of your ability.

Notes from the Managing Editor

... By Tom Schulte



WHO'S AT FAULT?

Last month, the Office of Inspector General released the audit report on the efficiency of operations of the St. Louis processing and distribution center. The results were not flattering.

St. Louis was targeted for the audit based on congressional inquiries from U.S. senators and representatives from Missouri and Illinois to conduct an audit of post offices and distribution centers in the St. Louis metro area because of the complaints from the general public regarding mail delivery or the lack thereof.

The audit report presents the results of the efficiency of operations at the St. Louis Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC) in St. Louis, which processes letters, flats, priority mail, express, and registered mail. The St. Louis Network Distribution Center (NDC), St. Louis Metro Annex, and the St. Louis Package Support Annex (PSA) that processes bundled and flat mail.

Regarding the St. Louis P&DC, the review identified five audit areas: mail clearance times; delayed mail; late, canceled, and extra outbound trips; dock scanning; and security of registry items. Results found inefficiencies of operations on all areas.

What they found: From February 1 to April 30 letter processing went past the clearance time target 39 out of 75 days (52%) while flats processing went past the target 27 out of 82 days (33%). During their observations at the P&DC on June 3 and 4 they identified 2,227,085 delayed letters, 335,259 delayed flats, and 1,223 delayed packages. Delayed mail was found in the manual letter and flat operations, the postal automated redirection system (PARS) and throughout the workroom floor. Management reported 187,189 delayed mail pieces in the mail condition visualization (MCV) system; however, it only reported delayed mail pieces on June 3.

The audit concluded that the unreported delayed mail identified on June 3 was due to a lack of management oversight. The in-plant support specialist said she was instructed to report only that the facility had delayed PARS mail in the MCV instead of reporting the actual numbers. Furthermore,

upper management did not verify the accuracy of the delayed mail reported in MCV.

Why Did It Occur? The audit identified multiple factors that contributed to the delayed mail and inconsistent clearance times, including employee availability, insufficient management oversight, and processing inefficiencies. During the week of May 14 the P&DC had 145 vacancies in the clerk, mail handler and maintenance crafts. Management recently reported that they received authorization to hire 100 mail handlers and clerks and was in the process of posting and hiring these positions during the audit.

What Should Have Happened? Postal Service policy states the "management" should align staffing to the workload and work with local human resources and labor relations leadership to identify necessary complement changes.

Postal Service policy also states the "management" should coordinate mail processing in receipt and distribution to ensure optimal service and efficiencies. Management should also verify the mail is processed timely to meet clearance times and the established service standards.

Conclusion: Missed clearance times and delayed mail could increase the risk that the mail will not be delivered on time, which can adversely affect Postal Service customers, harm the brand, send mailers to competitors, increase operating costs, and cause the Postal Service to lose revenue.

Epilogue: These inefficiencies didn't just happen within the above time frames. This district has created a toxic environment for postal employees for the last several years. Management/union interaction is non-existent. Programs like the "new" mentor program, a joint venture created by management and the unions to help assimilate new hires into the system is unsupported by management, directly contributing to the attrition rate of new hires. So ... who's to blame? We can only hope that the audit will result in heads rolling. For the full report of the audit Google: Office of Inspector General St. Louis Audit.

Health Benefits Plan/OWCP ... By Barry Linan



September greetings to all of the brothers and sisters of NALC Branch 343. Here's hoping that September brings us some cooler weather because July and August have been hot. Please stay safe out there so you don't have to call me for information about filing an OWCP claim!

HBP NEWS: If you are not already a member of our NALC HBP, please consider enrolling during the upcoming **Open Season that runs November 10 thru December 8**. Our NALC HBP is the only plan union-owned, union-run, and has 100% union employees working for you! Most of our retirees are NALC HBP members, but the plan also offers many services for younger carriers who are still building a family. Our plan offers services with **Maven**, the leading women's and family health platform, that provides 24/7 unlimited access to dedicated care navigation and advocacy. The Maven platform offers virtual provider appointments for fertility and family building, maternity and newborn care, parenting and pediatrics, and also menopause and midlife help. You can register to join Maven online at www.mavenclinic.com/join/NALCHBP.

Under "Preventative Care," our plan provides for well-child visits, examinations, and other preventative services as described in the Bright Future Guidelines provided by the American Academy of Pediatrics. This includes initial examination of a newborn covered under family enrollment, well-child care-routine examinations through age 2, and routine physical exam – one annually age 3 through 21. Children's immunizations endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). These include DTap/Tdap, Polio, Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR), and Varicella. All of these services are no cost to you if provided by an "In Network" physician. Our PPO provider network is Cigna and you can search for participating network physicians in your area or verify your current physician's participation on our website at www.nalchbp.org.

OWCP News: Once your OWCP claim is filed, if you have not already established an ECOMP account with the DOL, you should do so to monitor your

claim status. Go to ecomp.dol.gov.

and create your account with a user name and password. Once you are on ECOMP, you can check your claim status and view all the documents in your file under the "Case Imaging" button. You can also upload documents directly to the DOL and into your case file thru ECOMP. Beware that uploading pictures taken by your phone can be blurry.

In the beginning, you will need to provide medical documentation diagnosing your injury and the work conditions that caused the injury. If you have not provided this critical medical documentation to the DOL, they will send you a development letter requesting it. If medical documentation has been provided, frequently the DOL will issue you a letter acknowledging your claim and authorizing payment of medical expenses up to \$1,500. This is called a **Short Form Closure (SFC)** letter and is often misinterpreted as the claim being "closed," when actually it is not. Although the DOL may refer to the claim as being "administratively closed" by the SFC, your claim continues to be "open" for medical care up to 60 days, if your supervisor/manager correctly issued Form CA-16 Authorization for Treatment to your chosen medical provider. If Form CA-16 was not issued, you should contact your DOL claims examiner (CE) immediately and let them know you will need further medical care. The DOL will often issue a Short Form Closure to save time on simple claims that don't involve serious injury and are not controverted by the USPS. The SFC informs you that *"If you believe that your case will exceed \$1,500 in medical and/or pharmacy bills or that you will be disabled more than 45 days, or otherwise wish to have your claim formally adjudicated, please submit your request to our office and we will make a determination on your claim."* Your first 45 calendar days of disability (full or partial) should be paid by the USPS as Continuation of Pay (COP) pay code 071. If your disability continues past 45 calendar days, you will need to then file for wage loss compensation from the DOL by filing a Form CA-7 and your claim will be formally adjudicated.

(THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXAMPLE OF A SHORT FORM CLOSURE)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

File Number: XXXXXXXXXX

DFELHWC-FECA, PO Box 8311

CCL-SFC-O-OT

Phone: (202) 513-6860

Want Faster Service?

Upload a document at ecomp.dol.gov

Employee _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Date of Injury: 12/26/2023

Dear _____

We have received your claim and assigned the case number above. Please review the information below about your case. Based on the circumstances regarding your claim, we are authorizing the following benefits, not to exceed \$1,500.

- You are authorized to obtain medical care for your work-related injury, and we, will pay up to \$1,500 in medical bills for that injury.
- Prescriptions related to your injury are also covered. Use the pharmacy card that was sent to you in the mail. You may also use the link that was sent to you by email if your claim was filed electronically via ECOMP. The card will expire within 180 days from the date of your injury or when benefits paid (combined medical and pharmacy) surpass \$1,500 – whichever comes first.

No additional information from you is needed at this time; if you believe that your case will exceed \$1,500 in medical and/or pharmacy bills or that you will be disabled more than 45 days, or otherwise wish to have your claim formally adjudicated, please submit your request to our office and we will make a determination on your claim.

If you do not request a formal adjudication of your claim at this time, but your medical and pharmacy bills jointly exceed \$1,500 or you remain out of work for an extended period, we will automatically formally adjudicate your case. If this occurs, you will need to submit a report from a medical doctor containing 1) a description of your work injury, 2) a medical diagnosis, and 3) an explanation of how your medical condition was caused by the claimed work event(s). Other information may also be required, as determined by your claim's examiner. However, at this time, no further information is necessary.

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



Heat Illness: Reported heat illnesses in the region have decreased over the last year. That fact does not mean that heat related illnesses are down, and we certainly have problems with management not abiding by their own HIPPA standards. We still have two or three months of summer heat to get through before the possibility of heat injury or illness wanes. Please look out for each other and speak up if you see a fellow carrier in trouble. Please notify the NBA office when management fails to adhere to the HIPPA standards. This office will aggressively pursue any necessary action when management fails to protect the health and safety of letter carriers.

NLRB Charges: It has come to our attention in Region 5 that the National Labor Relations Board is changing the procedures for how they handle labor charges when the case has been deferred to the grievance/arbitration process. The following is language directly from the NLRB:

"Please note the Agency has changed the manner in which it handles cases that have been deferred to the grievance/arbitration process."

"Going forward, you are obligated to e-file a status report twice a year — March 15 and September 15 — advising the Region regarding the status of the grievance. If you fail to timely provide these status reports beginning September 15, 2025, your case may be dismissed due to lack of cooperation."

If you or your branch file labor charges and receive a letter from the NLRB advising you of this status report, you will need to reply with the attached status report on the letter or risk having your claim waived. Do not take the chance, make sure we meet the deadlines. The region referred to in the bold language is the NLRB region and not the NALC region. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at the NBA office.

Region 5 Training: It has been a busy month since my last article. We have completed steward college training in St. Louis, Kansas City, Wichita, and Lincoln. By the time most of you read this we will also have completed training in Des Moines, Iowa. A big thanks to Branches 343, 30, 201, 8 and 352 for hosting the training courses, it is much appreciated! We will now shift to additional arbitration advocate training, state training in Nebraska and Iowa, route adjustment grievance training and OWCP training. Thanks to all of you that

have attended the training and committed to additional learning opportunities to better protect and serve the members of Region 5.

Advanced OWCP Training: OWCP Advanced Training will take place in KCMO September 7-9. Branch 30 will host this training, and they have also invited all attendees to attend the branch picnic on Sunday, September 7. This two and a half day training will be facilitated by RWCA Samantha Hartwig. Please call the NBA office or send me an email at Teegarden.nalc.org to register.

NERMP Training and MOU: The New Employee Retention and Mentoring Program training is being conducted across the country. All NALC stewards and officers along with their management counterparts should have been trained in the application of this new process. In most districts this did not go as planned. Some installations have had trouble with management letting the union representatives attend the training. If you read this article and have not been trained, please contact the NBA office and speak to RAA Larrissa Parde who monitors this process so that the training can be scheduled.

The NERMP is designed to educate and retain newly hired PTF and CCA employees. Some of the highlights of the process are: work hour restrictions; access to mentors; additional training if necessary; a guaranteed day off with the schedule posted the Wednesday prior to the service week; restrictions that only allow the employee to work in their office for the first eight weeks; progress reviews at 30, 60 and 80 days; route maps; reflective vests and a postal hat. All these changes are designed to make acclimation to work as a letter carrier easier for the new hire and increase retention rates. Hopefully this helps alleviate some of the staffing shortage where carriers will not be required to work mandatory overtime.

Region 5 Rap Session 2026: We are in the final stages of signing a contract with the KC Downtown Marriott for the 2026 Region 5 Rap Session scheduled for February 27 through March 2, 2026. I will update you as soon as the agreement is signed so that you can plan for the event as far out as possible. The training will be held Saturday and Sunday all day, and a Rap Session with a national president/officer will be held on Monday, March 2.

Retiree Report

... By Recording Secretary Nicki L. Prado



Chairman Tom Schulte called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m. Chaplain Lawrence McHaynes led us in the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance. Tom thanked Mike and Jeanette Weir for providing the delicious meatball sub sandwiches and desserts. Tom welcomed back our recording secretary, Nicki L. Prado, following a brief illness.

Volunteers: Brother Tom Grafton will be providing lunch for the September meeting.

Introduction of New Members: The retirees welcomed Tom Plazmeier.

Minutes from the last meeting: Minutes from the previous meeting were read by Nicki L. Prado.

Treasurers Report: Co-treasurer Kevin Welby reported a checking balance after expenses of \$1,055.30 and cash on hand of \$436.

Presidents Report: Vice President Brian Litteken reported that we are waiting for the decision on the disastrous route adjustments from the B-Team. The "new" mentoring program created by management and the union as a joint effort to train and retain new hires appears, as expected, to be a one-way commitment with no effort being offered by management. Brian made a motion for the retirees to sponsor a hole for the upcoming Br. 343 MDA Golf Tournament in October for \$100. Motion seconded and carried.

Legislative Report: Mike spoke briefly. Or so he said. The 2026 COLA currently stands at 2.3% for CSRS and 2.0% for FERs members. There are several pieces of legislation directly affecting letter carrier. Please go to the NALC.org website and follow the Legislation link to track the progress and send an email to your respective legislator to support those bills. Mike urged everyone to read the letter in the August MCC from the new postmaster general, but beware, the new head of the Postal Service has conflicts of interest being on the board of directors at FedEx and the former CEO of Waste Management where he was notorious for his union busting tactics.

Health Benefits Report: Barry Linan reported that if you have NALC Health Benefits or NALC Aetna High Option you are entitled to receive a free blood pressure heart monitor. You need to download the HelloHeart App on your cellphone to order the monitor. Data can be collected and stored on you cell phone app and that information can be shared with your physician. Information was also shared about the new TASC cards distributed to all members, there are credits on the card to cover health shots and even smoking suppression coverage.

Chairmans Report: Tom reported that the annual retiree picnic will be held October 1 at Creve Coeur Memorial Park at the Tremayne pavilion. Tom said the Greensfelder shelter was already booked so he secured Tremayne which is on the lake by the boathouse off Maryland Heights Expressway (Hwy. 141) and Marine Ave. Map and information are in the August MCC. Tom asked for volunteers to sponsor a hole for the upcoming Golf Tournament and requests for volunteers to help on October 12. Tom shared remembrances about Brother Ray Breakfield who passed away on July 20. Tom thanked everyone who was able to attend the services.

New Business: Sister Pamela Stepney reminded everyone to attend the Labor Celebration Day festivities on August 24 and bring the family. Parade begins at the Eagen Center (Parker Rd. and Waterford Dr.) in Florissant, Mo. at 7 a.m.

A motion was made and seconded to donate \$100 from the retiree fund to the Jefferson Barracks Patriot Pantry to supply food and household items for current and former military families.

Deceased Members: A moment of silence was observed for 60-year member Ray Breakfield and 50-year Gold Card Samuel R. Cox.

50/50 Winner: \$16 won by Richard Brown who donated it back to the retirees.

Closing Prayer: Offered by Chaplain Lawrence McHaynes

Meeting Adjourned: 1:25 P.M.

John H. Haake

Branch No. 343

National Association of Letter Carriers

2026

JOHN McLAUGHLIN, President

Calendar prepared by:

Brian Litteken Marvin Booker
 Richard Brown Jerry Cantrell
 Tom Schulte Matt Gleiforst

JANUARY						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
PP02				1	2	3
				C ■	D \$	D
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 PP03
	E	F	A ☆	B ◆	C	C
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	D	E	F	A ●	B \$	B
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 PP04
	C ■	D	E	F	A	A
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	B	C	D	E	F \$	F

FEBRUARY						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 PP05
	A	B	C ☆	D ◆	E	E
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	F	A	B	C ●	D \$	D
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 PP06
	E ■	F	A	B	C	C
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	D	E	F	A	B \$	B
						REGION 5 RAP SESSION

MARCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 PP07
	REGIONAL RAP SESSION	D	E ☆	F ◆	A	A
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	B	C	D	E ●	F \$	F
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 PP08
	A	B	C	D	E	E
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	F	A	B	C	D \$	D
29	30	31				
	E	F				

APRIL						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 PP09
			A ☆	B ◆	C	C
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	D	E	F	A ●	B \$	B
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 PP10
	C	D	E	F	A	A
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	B	C	D	E	F \$	F
26	27	28	29	30		
	A	B	C	D		

MAY						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 PP11
					E	E
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	F	A	B ☆	C ◆	D \$	D
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 PP12
	E	F	A	B ●	C	C
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	D	E	F	A	B \$	B
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 PP13
	C ■	D	E	F	A	A
31						

JUNE						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	B	C	D ☆	E ◆	F \$	F
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 PP14
	A	B	C	D ●	E	E
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	F	A	B	C ●	D \$	D
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 PP15
	E	F	A	B	C	C
28	29	30				
	D	E				

JULY						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			F ☆	A ♦	B \$	■
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 pp16
	C	D	E	F ●	A	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	B	C	D	E	F \$	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 pp17
	A	B	C	D	E	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	F	A	B	C	D \$	

AUGUST						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						D
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 pp18
	E	F	A	B	C	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	D	E	F ☆	A ♦	B \$	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 pp19
	C	D	E	F ●	A	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	B	C	D	E	F \$	
30	31	A				

SEPTEMBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 pp20
		B	C ☆	D ♦	E	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	F ■	A	B	C ●	D \$	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 pp21
	E	F	A	B	C	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 NO STATE CONVENTION
	D	E	F	A	B \$	
27	28	29	30			
	MISSOURI STATE CONVENTION	C	D	E		

OCTOBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 pp22
				F ♦	A	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	B	C	D ☆	E ●	F \$	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 pp23
	A ■	B	C	D	E	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	F	A	B	C	D \$	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 pp24
	E	F	A	B	C	

NOVEMBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	D	E	F ☆	A ♦	B \$	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 pp25
	C	D	E ■	F ●	A	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	B	C	D	E	F \$	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 pp26
	A	B	C	D ■	E	
29	30					
	F					

DECEMBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		A	B ☆	C ♦	D \$	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 pp01
	E	F	A	B ●	C	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	D	E	F	A	B \$	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 pp02
	C	D	E	F	A ■	
27	28	29	30	31		
	B	C	D	E		

NATIONAL CONVENTION AUGUST 3-7

MISSOURI STATE CONVENTION SEPTEMBER 26-27

■ HOLIDAYS ♦ STEWARDS MEETINGS ● BRANCH MEETINGS ☆ RETIREES MEETINGS

\$ PAYDAY PP01-26 PAY PERIODS

ABCDEF - DESIGNATED DAYS OFF ON A ROTATING SCHEDULE



FEHBP OPEN SEASON NOV. 9 - DEC. 14

FIRST PHASE VACATION SELECTION DUE NOV. 28 SECOND PHASE VACATION SELECTION DUE DEC. 25

DECEMBER EXCLUSIONARY PERIOD NOV. 28 - DEC. 25

South County ... *By Matt Gleiforst*

Hello from South County. We are now a few months into the application of the new contract between NALC and USPS. Although I must admit that I am not the biggest fan of this contract, one thing that is good about it is that it has addressed the **need** to retain new employees. There are rules set in place for CCAs and PTFs which limits their work hours and work locations for the first few months. To me, this is a positive change because it will allow new employees to ease into some of the stresses that come along with being a new letter carrier. The new contract has also created a mentorship program for veteran carriers to mentor a new hire. While this does sound like a nice thing, and I do encourage anyone interested to contact the Union Hall to sign up, I do have some thoughts about it that are not the most positive.

Firstly, the fact that we need a mentorship program to get new employees to stay on is pretty sad to me. USPS is basically saying that working here is so miserable that we need to have someone help you get through it. The need for this program is because we have been having such a high turnover rate for a job that was once coveted. It used to be that getting hired on at USPS meant a brighter future for you. That sentiment has been lost, and it is not difficult to see why. The starting wage for a letter carrier has not kept up with inflation. It is very difficult to support a family with the money new hires make and, let's face it,

money is the number one way to keep a person on at a job.

Secondly, it is not the letter carrier's job to ensure that new hires stay on at work. It is very plainly management's job. Article 3 of the JCAM is management's article. Article 3b states "The Employer shall have the exclusive right to hire, promote, transfer, assign, and **retain** employees..." That's right, it is 100% management's duty to retain employees, but this agreement passes that responsibility in part to the letter carrier mentor. And how much is management's salary being cut and transferred to the mentor that is taking on this responsibility? That's right, 0%. There will be no pay increase for taking on this role. Management has failed miserably in employee retention, so now they want us to take on that role for free. I honestly do not know what anybody outside of the craft work is being paid for.

Lastly, the main reason we have such a high turnover rate for new employees is because management treats letter carriers like trash. We are harassed daily at the instruction of higher ups in the management field creating a hostile work environment that even veteran carriers don't want to be in. We have all heard telecons with the laziest, most over-paid, ignorant, upper management people berating our supervisors and managers over reports (numbers). Numbers are all that these people care about and the well-being of their employees isn't even a distant second. Quite frankly, they don't care about us

at all. It is obvious even to the new employees just starting out. For example, I had a quarterly attendance review where I hadn't missed a single day. My supervisor even noted that my attendance was "outstanding." Then, two weeks later my son was sick, so I had to call in for two days. Of course, after that, I was given a "Welcome Back Packet" for calling in. Supervisors have been instructed to do this for **every** call in. No job discussion, just this packet to make people feel shamed for having the audacity to be sick or have a sick family member. It is nothing short of harassment and the new employees can see this just as well.

It is no wonder so many people leave this toxic environment. The pay isn't what it used to be, and the harassment is at an all-time high. The better question is, "Why would anybody stay here after being hired?" Now, that being said, choosing to be a mentor is an admirable thing and I honestly do encourage anyone wanting to make a difference with the new CCAs and PTFs to consider becoming one. But we need to also be realistic. Until management changes the way it treats its employees, I don't know how much of a difference it will make. After all, according to their favorite article of the contract, it is management's duty to **retain** employees for a reason.

Until next time, keep your head held high and keep surviving!



Join us at our "New" location

ROLLING HILLS GOLF CLUB

REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!



38th NALC Br. 343 Golf Tournament for Muscular Dystrophy **ENTER NOW!**

WHEN: 8 A.M. OCTOBER 12, 2025

WHERE: ROLLING HILLS GOLF CLUB
5801 Pierce Ln.
Godfrey, IL 62035

COST: \$85 PER PERSON (\$340 PER TEAM)
Price includes 18 holes of Golf, Electric Cart,
Prizes, Refreshments, Buffet Lunch, Burger,
Bratwurst, Baked Beans, Potato Salad

FORMAT: Best Ball Four Man Scramble
"Shot Gun Start"

HOW TO ENTER: A check or checks totaling \$320 with the
names and addresses of team members must
be received ASAP (Please list at least one
phone number and email)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
MDA Branch 343
1600 S. Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63104

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

1. Registration will start at 8 a.m.
2. Shot Gun Start – 9 a.m.
3. There will be a cutoff at 36 teams due to time restrictions. Money will be refunded to any team who enters after the cutoff.
4. Teams must arrive 30 minutes prior to tee time.

If you have any other questions about the tournament that have not been answered here, contact:

Brian Litteken
Letter Carriers Hall
314-241-4297, Ext. 2

Clip and Mail

PLEASE PRINT:

EMAIL _____

1. NAME _____

PHONE _____

2. NAME _____

PHONE _____

3. NAME _____

PHONE _____

4. NAME _____

PHONE _____

West County Retiree ... *By Pam Stepney*



Greetings sisters and brothers of Branch 343. How's everyone doing? Fine, I hope. Why are you so mad at the union? They have your back. I've said it over and over again, the scanner is the snitch. Every step you take, every move you make is recorded whether you like it or not.

Fill out the 3996 every time you feel the mail volume is too heavy after those bogus route adjustments and you can't make it you are in the office casing mail or delivering on the street. Your mail volume and parcels dictate the time needed to deliver all mail for that day within a certain time frame. If you cannot deliver all the mail within that time and you bring it back, file out a Form 1571 and get a copy from management.

I can't believe the stories I'm hearing from letter carriers with double the number of deliveries adjusted by a computer. Every day letter carriers are being instructed to bring back mail and deliver parcels only. And, they are ordered to be back in the office by 8 p.m.

People rely on the mail being delivered daily, whether it's to pay their bills or receiving payment in the mail. Management should not be making arbitrary decisions for what mail should and should not be delivered. What happened to all the mail being delivered every day?

What are businesses supposed to do when the Postal Service continuously changes the starting

times of letter carriers. How are they supposed to conduct their business if their mail isn't being delivered until after 5 p.m.? If they can't rely on us, who can they rely on?

The most recent route adjustments are a joke. Any manager who did not fight for their workers should be forced to go out and deliver these impossibly long routes.

I'm so glad to hear the OIG conducted an audit of the St. Louis Installation, and local news spread the word to show how all the managers and supervisors are incompetent and need to be removed from their positions. But you know as well as I do this is all going to fall back on the carriers.

So, what I'm trying to say is, letter carriers, don't be mad at the union. They're doing their best to protect us. Continue to do your job professionally every day. Follow the instructions of your supervisor. Continue to make an assessment of your workload every day and fill out the necessary forms to protect yourself. If you are ordered to return at a certain time and you are instructed to bring back mail, don't argue, do it. Just make sure you fill out Form 1571 and have the supervisor sign it. That protects you and puts the responsibility back on the supervisor. The audit placed the blame squarely on management. Let them suffer the consequences of their actions.

It's tough dealing with backstabbing

supervisors who try to pit one carrier against another while they sit back behind their computer screen only because they are the mom, dad, sister, brother, aunt, or uncle of someone higher in management. And they are all incompetent.

So, stand strong with your union. Fill all necessary grievances in a timely manner. If we can't get an immediate settlement, (because management doesn't want to settle) we'll win at arbitration, and they will have to pay.

Where are the PM clearing clerks? It used to be that there was a PM clerk to take your arrow keys and accountable mail at the end of the day. Not anymore. So, what are you supposed to do when you return at 8 p.m.? Wait for someone to sign you out. Don't leave registered mail or even your arrow keys unaccounted for. The internal audit concluded that there were arrow keys unaccounted for in every station that was investigated. Being that there have been numerous stories about carriers being robbed of their arrow keys it's not too hard to assume that arrow keys are being conveniently missing from the stations. I'm not pointing any fingers but, who is responsible for those keys. Don't find yourself being falsely accused because you just threw your keys on the accountable cart because you didn't want to wait to be signed off. Don't leave the office without having someone sign you

off for returning your arrow keys.
Do your job correctly!

It was good seeing Rance Hope
at the union meeting last month.
Next time bring Kelvin, Dan,
Monica and Lakeisha with you.

Thanks to everyone who made
it out to the Labor Celebration
Parade last month. My grandson
Aiden skipped a football game to
come and hand out candy along
the parade route. It was good
to see the retirees marching in
the parade. It was a great event.

Please plan to join us next year
and bring the family.

Lord have mercy on retired
brother Ray Breakfield's family.
Ray was a great letter carrier,
union shop steward and member
of the Mound City Carrier staff.
Prayers to his beautiful wife, Char-
lotte, and his family. Rest in peace
brother. He will truly be missed.

Look for the John H. Haake Schol-
arship application in the Septem-
ber issue of the MCC. If you have
a senior in high school have them

fill out and return the applica-
tion by the December 31, 2025,
deadline.

Thank you to all the union broth-
ers and sisters who came out and
participated in the softball tour-
nament sponsored by Nate Mar-
kovich from Southwest Station. I
am rooting for Gaffney Station. ☺

Remember to do your best, leave
the rest, don't stress, GOD bless,
register to vote, exercise your
right to vote, and thank you for
coming.



MDA GOLF TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2025

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

CONTACT:
BRIAN LITTEKEN AT
314-241-4297 EXT. 2

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

Carrier Square
Clayton
Creve Coeur
Fenton
Gravois
Harriet Woods
Jennings
Kirkwood
Maplewood

Maryville Gardens
Marian Oldham
Mackenzie Pointe
North County
Sappington
South County
Southwest
Weathers
West County

Answered Prayers Part 2 ... *By Retired Letter Carrier Mike Laury*

News quickly spread throughout our parish about my dad's miraculous recovery in 1998. We brought dad to Christmas Eve Mass that year and following our church service, several parishioners congregated in the church foyer, giving mom a big hug and dad a gentle one. Two of dad's best friends huddled with him and fought back tears while carefully exclaiming that his accident on the lake was "a true miracle." These were men that usually kept their emotions tucked away. His one friend Joe said, "I've been struggling with my faith for a long time, and you are a Christmas miracle, Chuck."

My wife and I had visited the natural spring a couple of times after dad's boating accident. During one of those visits, we met a monk, or maybe he was a priest, I'm not sure. He lived in a retirement home near the miracle water spring. I explained to him how the miracle water saved my dad. (Which I discussed in my previous article.) Listening intently, this pious man slowly began to speak. He looked directly at me and said, "You do understand that it wasn't the water that saved your dad. It was all the prayers from all the people who prayed for him. The water was just a "symbol." If this water had true healing properties, there would be a line of cars a mile long trying to get into this place."

My wife, Cathie, explained to me on the way home from Eureka that she felt it was both the water and the prayers that garnered God's immediate attention. A few months later, my wife heard about

the grandbaby of one of her choir members. Testing showed that the baby was totally deaf. We gave the young mother a small vial of the water and she dabbed a drop or two on the baby's ears before their next doctor's visit. The doctor seemed confused after testing the baby again, as the baby immediately responded to a loud clap and other tests that day. "I don't know how to explain it, the doctor said, but this baby's hearing is perfectly normal."

Another friend of the family, Kelly, a mother of four, had an inoperable brain tumor. The neurologists and specialists confirmed, reconfirmed and then confirmed again that poor Kelly had only a few months to live. It took some convincing and gentle nudging to get Kelly to finally agree to use some of the miracle water. Her husband was dead set against it because he didn't appreciate us giving his wife any false hope. Kelly sipped and dabbed the water over the next few weeks and slowly, things began to change for the better. Her specialists became more confident with each test performed, as the tumor began to slowly shrink. Within a few short months, her specialists and neurologists proclaimed her cancer free! The tumor was gone. As of this writing, Kelly is still alive and enjoying life with her grandkids.

Four years ago, this past June, my younger brother Roland, after having balance and memory issues, was also diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. His wife, Ruth, texted us and told us to call

her immediately. "The doctors are only giving my Rollie a few weeks to live," as her voice quickly broke into tears. "They can't operate on it, it's embedded too deeply, with a bundle of nerves surrounding it." The next day, alone with my brother, I asked him if he would like some of the water. Roland grabbed it out of my hand and gulped down the water without any hesitation. He knew what the prayers and the water had done for our dad after the boating accident, now some 27 years ago.

My brother, after having **successful** brain surgery, found out shortly after that, he also had lung cancer. Chemo has helped and so have the onslaught of prayers over the years. Roland continues his battle with lung cancer, having frequent screenings and treatment when needed.

Over the years, I have come to discover through my journey in faith, that "miracle water," comes in many shapes and sizes. Some are medical advancements in medicine, some are unexplainable, and some are just ordinary people praying extraordinary prayers.


**Miracles
Happen**


In MEMORIAM

Raymond "Ray" Breakfield

December 16, 1947 – July 20, 2025

Branch 343 is saddened to announce the passing of 60-year union member Raymond "Ray" Breakfield. Ray was a letter carrier out of the old Lemay and South County post offices for nearly 40 years where he was also a respected shop steward.

Prior to his postal career, Ray served in the United States Army National Guard for eight years and was an active Jefferson County sheriff's reserve officer.

For nearly 35 years Ray served as an assistant editor on the staff of the Mound City Carrier, our national award-winning union branch publication. Ray was a stickler for accuracy and accountability. Nothing would raise his ire more than reporting on the mistreatment of letter carriers or the incompetence of postal management.

For almost 30 years he and I and our wives and families would attend the biennial National Conventions as delegates from Branch 343. That honor began in St. Louis in 1992 for me, followed by trips to Atlantic City, Las Vegas, Chicago, LA, Minneapolis, Anaheim, Boston, Honolulu, Detroit, Philadelphia and back again. Ray had a gregarious personality, and he loved spending time with family and friends. Many tall tales are still being told regarding some of the good-natured antics he would pull. Ray's ying and yang personality were always in conflict. He could be affable and irascible in a heartbeat, and a curmudgeon and a giant teddy bear at the same time.

Ray always greeted you extending those ginormous hands and fingers the size of sausages with a gentle, "Hi pal, how's the family?" He had a great laugh and loved playing pranks. One time he made an attempt to get a rise out of my 10-year-old daughter by stealing her seat on an evening boat cruise in Chicago at the 2000 National Convention, but it didn't end well for him. Despite my warnings not to do it, he was met with a swift kick to the shins. For over 25 years, whenever he saw my daughter, he would raise his pants leg to reveal the bone bruise she supposedly left him.

Ray was temperamental, yet jovial, he dearly loved his wife, Charlotte, his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. It seemed like every monthly retiree meeting he was reporting on a new addition to the family that made him smile from ear to ear.

Whenever Ray and I met we usually spent the first five minutes insulting one another. After a while one of us would say, "Gee's ya know, your wife's a saint!" (for putting up with us) and then the other would repeat the same thing. In the end we were both right. Our wives are saints. I'll miss you big guy. Rest easy old pal.



Charlotte and Ray Breakfield

Tom Schulte



Article 23: Rights of Union Officials to enter Postal Installations

Upon reasonable notice to the employer, duly authorized representatives of the union shall be permitted to enter installations for the purpose of performing and engaging in official union duties and business related to the Collective Bargaining Agreement. There shall be no interruption of the work of employees due to such visits and representatives shall adhere to the established security regulations.

SHOP STEWARDS

Awards Banquet

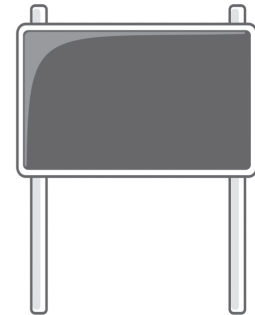
Sunday, October 11, 2025

Guest speaker to be announced

Festivities will begin at 6 p.m.

Letter Carriers Hall
1600 S. Broadway

MDA GOLF TOURNAMENT



THIS HOLE SPONSORED BY:
DON'T YOU WANT YOUR STATION'S NAME HERE?
COLLECT \$100 FOR MDA

RETIREE PICNIC AT CREVE COEUR MEMORIAL PARK

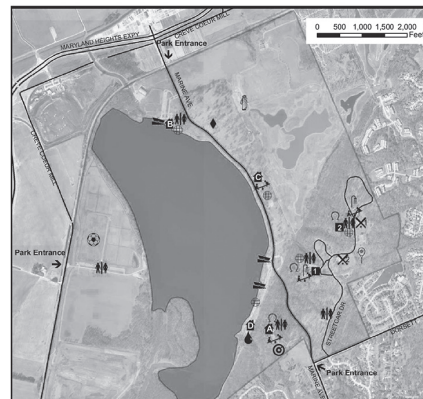
LOCATION: TREMAYNE SHELTER OFF OF HWY. 141 AND MARINE DR.
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2025

TIME: 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.
LOCATION: Creve Coeur Memorial Park
2348 Creve Coeur Mill Rd.
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Tremayne Shelter "B" off of Hwy. 141
(Maryland Heights Expressway) and
Marine Rd.

From Hwy 141 (Maryland Heights Expressway) turn on
Marine Dr. Turn right to the Tremayne Shelter by the
Boathouse.

From Hwy 270 take the Dorsett Rd exit west to the end of
Dorsett and Marine Dr. Turn right, drive to the bottom of
the hill all the way to the back of the park near the Hwy. 141
entrance. Make a left at the Boathouse.



- Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park**
2348 Creve Coeur Mill Rd
St. Louis, MO 63146
- SHELTERS**
- (A) Greenfelder
 - (B) Tremayne
 - (C) Heidman
 - (D) Taco Bell
 - Corporate Picnic Site
- Other Facilities:**
- Soccer Field
 - Tennis Courts
 - Sand Volleyball
 - Horseshoe Pit
 - Disc Golf Course
 - Crève Coeur Lake
 - Crystal Springs Golf Course
 - Restroom
 - Athletic Field
 - Spray Fountain
 - Archery Area
 - Dripping Springs
 - Boat Launch
 - Playground

WHAT'S IN BACK PAY

FOR CAREER CITY CARRIERS IN TABLES 1 AND 2, THE BACKPAY PERIODS COVERED ARE:

1. FIRST COLA - \$978 AT STEP P | 8/26/23 TO 4/18/25
2. FIRST GENERAL INCREASE - 1.3 PERCENT | 11/18/23 TO 4/18/25
3. SECOND COLA - \$353 AT STEP P | 3/9/24 TO 4/18/25
4. THIRD COLA - \$978 AT STEP P | 9/7/24 TO 4/18/25
5. SECOND GENERAL INCREASE - 1.4 PERCENT | 11/16/24 TO 4/18/25
6. FOURTH COLA - \$416 AT STEP P | 3/8/25 TO 4/18/25





Application for the John H. Haake Scholarship Award



Fill out and mail to: John H. Haake, Branch 343
Scholarship Committee
1600 S. Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63104

Date _____

(Please print clearly)

Please send instructions as to how I can compete for a scholarship award. I will be a senior in the 2024-2026 school year.

I am the (child) of (retired) (active) letter carrier _____
(grandchild) (deceased) (Name)

My name is _____ Home phone _____

My home address is _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature of NALC parent
member (or spouse if deceased)

Date

Signature of
Branch Officer

Title Date
(For Office Use Only)

THIS FORM MUST BE POSTMARKED BY DEC. 31, 2025.



NOTICE FOR THE 2026 MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS CHARLES J. COYLE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



DATE _____

I am the son/daughter of active/retired/deceased letter carrier _____
of Branch # _____, state of Missouri. I am a high school senior in this 2025-2026 school year. Please
send instructions as to how I can compete for a scholarship award.

NAME OF APPLICANT _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER (_____) _____

SIGNATURE OF NALC PARENT _____

SS# OF NALC PARENT _____

MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO: MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS
CHARLES J. COYLE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
c/o Mark Godbee, V.P.
1876 Burlewood Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63146-3616

NOTICE: MUST BE POSTMARKED BY DECEMBER 31, 2025.

BRANCH MEETING

BRANCH 343, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

AUGUST 14, 2025

Summary of Branch Action

- MSC To pay the branch bills.
-
- MSC That Branch 343 donates a set of Cardinal baseball tickets to the NALC Branch 343 Softball Tournament.
-
- MSC That the branch purchase a pair of Blues tickets for 10 games at a cost of no more than \$1,500. These tickets will be given away as attendance prizes at the October through February branch meetings.
-
- MSC That the branch purchase two seats, not to exceed \$605, for half the St. Louis Billikens men's basketball 2025-2026 season to be given away as attendance prizes at the branch general meeting.
-
- MSC That Branch 343 sponsors two holes at \$50 per hole for the Charles W. Cook Memorial Golf Tournament to benefit MDA to be held Sunday, September 21.
-
- MSC That Branch 343 purchase a printer for the recording secretary desk for scanning and printing, at a cost of no more than \$650.
-

New Members

Danitra BranscombAffton.....7/16/2025
 Kenzion BrownChouteau.....7/26/2025
 Ron Camper.....Carrier Square8/2/2025
 Keara Clinkscale.....Oldham.....7/11/2025
 Shayla EdwardsWentzville7/26/2025
 Danielle Fitzhenry Jr.....Arnold.....7/26/2025
 Kevin Jones Jr.Fenton8/2/2025
 Jeremy Kirch.....Creve Coeur7/26/2025
 Adam Knight.....Washington.....7/5/2025
 Brian Pearson.....Coyle8/2/2025
 Michael Petty.....Normandy7/11/2025
 Larissa RandleSappington8/2/2025
 Quinesha Shannon.....Kirkwood.....7/18/2025
 Aliceshia Taylor-Young...Normandy8/2/2025
 Tionne ThomasCarrier Square7/26/2025
 Quinton WinesClayton.....7/15/2025

Recently Retired Members

Sharon BentleySappington6/30/2025
 Steven Gaines.....Creve Coeur6/30/2025
 Edward Johnston Jr.....Creve Coeur8/15/2025
 Lemora McGruderMaryville Gardens ..7/31/2025

Deceased Members

Raymond E. Breakfield....60-Year Member...7/20/2025
 Samuel R. Cox.....Gold Card8/8/2025

BRANCH MEETING ATTENDANCE PRIZES

1. Cardinals vs Pittsburgh Pirates
2. Cardinals vs Pittsburgh Pirates
3. Cardinals vs Oakland Athletics
4. Cardinals vs Oakland Athletics
5. Cardinals vs San Francisco

August 26

August 27

September 2

September 3

September 7

\$63

Pamela Stepney, Retired

Jyron Johnson, Weathers

Adrenia Sargent, Maryville Gardens

Rance Hope, West County

Michael Goheen, Creve Coeur

Jyron Johnson, Weathers



Highlights

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

Retirees Report, Tom Schulte: If you know any retirees, remind them that the retiree picnic will be on Wednesday, October 1 in Creve Coeur Park, at the Tremayne Shelter. Tom also announced that we have in attendance James Goheen who is a 65-year member. He was unable to make the Ole Timer's celebration, so the branch presented him with his pin at this meeting.

Labor Council Report, Pam Stepney: Pam spoke about the Labor Celebration Parade and Festival which is Sunday, August 24 at 9 a.m. The parade starts at James Eagan Center in Florissant and ends at the Knights of Columbus Park. Pam encouraged all to attend, in clean uniforms. Boeing is on strike as the employees voted their contract offer down twice.

Health Benefit Report, Barry Linan: Barry spoke about the "Maven Network" which is part of the NALC Health Benefit Plan. It provides for expecting mothers to receive free special treatments that may be needed.

Mound City Carrier Report, Tom Schulte: Tom reminded us of nominations for 2026 National Convention and 2027 State Convention will be September 11. He also advised that in order to qualify as a paid delegate, you must have attended at least 16 meetings prior to the convention. The rotating day calendar for 2026 will be in the September issue of the MCC. The golf tournament is still in need of teams and volunteers.

Haake Scholarship Report, Pam Stepney: Applications for both the John Haake Scholarship (\$1,500) and the Charles Coyle Scholarship (\$1,000) will be in the September issue of the MCC. These are available for high school seniors only.

Safety and Health Report, Richard Thurman: The Postal Service has approved a vehicle to be issued to SD sites. They have cameras throughout and around the vehicle, in addition to sensors around the vehicle, which send notifications back to the scanner. Some of the vehicles have already been damaged and management has sent Letters of Demand to the carriers responsible for the damage. We recently had a child run over, due to a carrier backing up in the customers driveway. Finally, there will be teams on the street next week, so be safe out there.

OWCP Report, Barry Linan: Barry reminded us that those who get injured on the job must complete a CA-1, and should also create an

account on ECOMP. He advised that you are not required to file your claim on ECOMP, as management has incorrectly informed carriers.

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

Political Action Committee Report, Mike Weir: Mike read the name of the most recent contributor.

Legislative Report, Mike Weir: The projected COLA is 2.7 %. Mike spoke on the resolutions currently before Congress and asked us to contact our senators asking for their support to get the bills passed. Producer Price Index is going up, which affects the cost of goods.

Executive Vice President/Treasurer Report, Brian Litteken: The State Convention will be held September 26-28. All qualified delegates will receive a call soon, to confirm if you will be attending. The golf tournament will be at Rolling Hills again, and the food will be at the same caterer's place. We have finally been able to get Step A stewards remote access to the database. Post office back pay should be on your August 29 paycheck and the branch backpay should be on the August 20 paycheck. Audits have been carried out by the OIG at several offices and the P&DC and they found many deficiencies. If you return mail at the end of the day, complete a PS Form 1571 upon returning. Also, make sure you get cleared at the end of the day for your arrow key. Finally, scan the parcels at the address in which they belong.

Vice President/Financial Secretary Report, Marvin Booker: Marvin read his financial report for July 2025. He thanked Richard Brown for sitting in for him during his vacation period. Marvin said that if you cannot be cleared of your arrow key at the end of the day, put it in a blue collection mailbox and inform management in the morning where you put it.

President's Comments, John McLaughlin: The NALC at the national level is supposed to monitor and ensure that people who go over 12/60 work hours are paid the proper amount. We will have water and soda for our attendees of the Labor Celebration Parade. The three different offices, Southwest, West County, Maryville Gardens all filed grievances due to the inspections. The branch tried to give management an opportunity to minimize the problems that come with bidding city wide by reducing the bidding to the stations affected only, but management has not responded with any certainty. They are now planning to inspect Fenton and Kirkwood.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard Brown, Recording Secretary



Normandy letter carrier Larry Adams finishes his route for the last time as he joins the "Last Punch Bunch." Congratulations!



Creve Coeur letter carrier Ed Johnston Jr. receives congratulations on his retirement from Br. 343 Vice President Marvin Booker.



The regular branch meeting was suspended to present a 65-year union pin.

Pictured (L-R) Mike Goheen, Creve Coeur letter carrier and son of James Goheen who is receiving his pin, followed by Br. 343 President John McLaughlin along with Retiree Chairman Tom Schulte

Political Action Honor Roll

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

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

BEVE CREELY★
ROBERT EVERS★
SAMUEL GOODMAN★
ROY HATCHARD JR.★
GENO IBERG★
ED JOHNSTON★
LAURA KEIM★
MEAGHAN LAKEY★
BILL LISTER★

JOHN McLAUGHLIN★
NICKI L. PRADO★
SHONNA RANDLE★
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

LAWRENCE McHAYNES JR.
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)

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

PLEASE BE ADVISED IN REGARDS TO ANY ARTICLE SOLICITING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LETTER CARRIER FUND OR OUR OWN POLITICAL ACTION FUND

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.

THANK A UNION!

UNIONS WON US WEEKENDS.
UNIONS WON US PAID TIME OFF.
UNIONS WON US FEDERAL HOLIDAYS.
UNIONS WON US SICK LEAVE.
UNIONS WON US SOCIAL SECURITY.
UNIONS WON US THE MINIMUM WAGE.
UNIONS WON US THE EIGHT-HOUR WORKDAY.
UNIONS WON US THE 40-HOUR WORK WEEK.
UNIONS WON US EMPLOYEE PENSIONS.
UNIONS WON US OVERTIME PAY.
UNIONS WON US THE MIDDLE CLASS!

OCCUPY DEMOCRATS



John H. Haake BRANCH 343

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 Brian Litteken Executive Vice President/
 Treasurer
 Marvin Booker..... Vice President/
 Financial Secretary
 Richard BrownRecording Secretary
 Frank Enlow Sergeant-at-Arms
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 Barry Linan Health Benefits Representative

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 Barry Linan William Lister
 Marvin Booker Mike Weir
 Richard Brown

MOUND CITY CARRIER

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 Brian LittekenEditor
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Brian Litteken John McLaughlin

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 1600 S Broadway
 St. Louis, MO 63104-3806
 Phone: 314-241-4297

or

You may submit articles and photos from
 events and retirement photos to:

tomnalc@sbcglobal.net

If you submit a photo, please identify all
 members in the photo.

**All copy should be TYPED in upper and
 lower case, double spaced and written on
 one side only. Articles are to be limited to
 500 words and must be signed.**

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Articles may be edited for brevity and potential libelous
 statements.

LETTER CARRIERS BUILDING BRANCH OFFICE

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 314-241-4297

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 EVP: 314-753-1699
 VP: 314-517-3200

Hours: 8 am - 5 pm (M-F)
 8 am - Noon (Sat)

Fax: 314-241-2738

Website: www.branch343.org

HEALTH BENEFITS HOT LINE

Barry Linan — Hall: 314-241-4223
 Tuesday 8 am to 5 pm

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION HOT LINE

Barry Linan — Hall: 314-241-4223
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NBA OFFICE

David Teegarden — 314-985-8040
 RAA Charles Sexton
 RAA Larrissa Parde
 RAA Patrick Baker

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 Chairman573-358-5266
 Mike Chenot/Kevin Welby, Treasurers..314-779-3356
 Nicki L. Prado, Recording Secretary.....314-241-4297

Deadline for articles for the OCTOBER issue is SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

★ ★ ★

REGULAR BRANCH MEETING THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025 7:30 pm

★ ★ ★

SHOP STEWARDS MEETING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2025 7:30 PM

The Letter Carriers Building
 1600 S Broadway



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