

MOUND CITY CARRIER

Official Publication of Branch 343

2020 General Excellence
Award Winning Publication



St. Louis, Missouri
Chartered 1892

Volume 76, No. 10

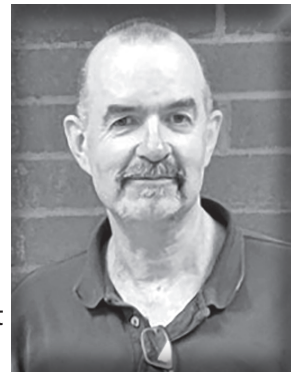
"Diversity is our Strength and Unity is our Power"

October 2025

NEW SENATE BILL AIMS TO PROTECT FEDERAL WORKERS' UNION RIGHTS – WHAT IT MEANS FOR CITY LETTER CARRIERS

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

We don't have the luxury to not talk about politics when it may be our door they knock on next. Recently, a bipartisan group of 48 U.S. senators introduced a new bill that could make a big difference for federal workers, including city letter carriers. The **Protect America's Workforce Act** would cancel two executive orders signed by the president that took away union rights from about two-thirds of the federal workforce. This includes many federal employees who rely on their union contracts to protect their jobs, work conditions, and benefits.



In March, the president signed an executive order that used a rarely used rule from a 1978 law to block unions in many federal agencies. He said it was for "national security" reasons. Then in August, he signed a second order that added more agencies to the ban.

As a result, agencies began canceling union contracts, hurting workers' rights and protections. These orders are being challenged in court, but so far, the courts have let them move forward.

WHAT THE NEW BILL WOULD DO

The **Protect America's Workforce Act** would:

- Cancel both presidential executive orders.
- Bring back all union contracts that were in place before March 26.
- Protect the collective bargaining rights of over 1 million federal workers.

All 47 Senate Democrats and one Republican, Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, are backing the bill. Senator Mark Warner of Virginia said the president's orders were part of a plan to tear down the nonpartisan federal workforce and replace it with political hires. Warner called the executive orders "union busting." "There's never been a tougher time to be a federal worker," Warner said. "This bill helps protect the workers who serve our country every day."

WHY IT MATTERS FOR CITY LETTER CARRIERS

Even though the Postal Service is not directly under the same federal agency rules as others, actions like these executive orders set dangerous precedents. If union rights are stripped from federal employees in other departments, it could open the door to similar attacks on postal workers in the future. When Steiner was appointed the PMG, our union accurately called him an "anti-union postmaster general."

City letter carriers depend on union protections to fight unfair discipline, negotiate fair wages, ensure safe working conditions, and protect seniority and bidding rights. If the federal government weakens or cancels these protections for other federal employees, our rights could be next.

SUPPORT FROM LAWMAKERS AND UNIONS

Senator Chris Van Hollen of Maryland said the orders would allow the president to remove experienced workers and replace them with political friends who would just follow orders. "This bill will stop that and protect the integrity of our federal workforce," he said.

The bill also comes after the House passed a version of the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act with a part that would restore union rights to Defense Department civilian workers. Meanwhile, a petition in the House is just two signatures away from forcing a vote on a similar bill to cancel the president's orders.

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 _____

MOUND CITY CARRIER
Published monthly by:
Branch 343, NALC
1600 South Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63104-3806

Send change of address to:
Branch 343
1600 S. Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63104

Union leaders praised the Senate bill. Everett Kelley, president of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), said Trump's order was the most aggressive anti-union move in U.S. history. "Our members are thankful for this bill that defends workers' rights and restores union protections," Kelley said.

Matt Biggs, president of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), said Trump used "bogus" national security excuses to deny over 1 million workers their rights. "This administration has been the most anti-worker in U.S. history," Biggs said.

BOTTOM LINE FOR LETTER CARRIERS

This bill is a big step toward protecting all federal workers' rights, including ours. Even if we are not directly impacted today, the outcome of this legislation could affect the future of collective bargaining across the federal workforce, including at USPS. United we stand, divided we fall.

Stay informed and contact your U.S. Senators and push them to support this bill.

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.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Oct 9	Regular Branch Meeting
Oct 11	Shop Stewards Banquet (see ad)
Oct 12	Br. 343 Golf Tournament for MDA Rolling Hills Golf Club
Oct 13	Columbus Day Holiday Observed
Nov 5	Retiree Meeting
Nov 6	Shop Stewards Meeting
Nov 10 - Dec 12	Postal Service Health Benefit (PSHB) Open Season
Nov 13	Regular Branch Meeting

Executive Vice President ... *By Brian Litteken*

NALC BRANCH 343 GOLF TOURNAMENT

For the second year, the golf tournament will be held at the Rolling Hills Golf Club in Godfrey, Illinois. Rolling Hills was available for Sunday this year so we are back to having the tournament the day before the Columbus Day holiday. Registration will begin at 8 a.m. and the shotgun start will be at 9 a.m. It is a best ball four-man scramble. The cost of registration is \$85 per person or \$340 per team. Please send in your registration money as soon as possible. The number of golfers must be provided to Home Style Catering a week prior to the tournament so that the correct amount of food can be ordered.

Registration will be held in the banquet room of Rolling Hills starting at 8 a.m. The raffle prizes will be on

display and tickets to win the prizes can be purchased at that time and throughout the day.



Home Style Catering will once again be preparing the food. Home Style Catering is a mile from the golf course. The food is so good that I think some of the golfers remember the lunch more than the golf. Maps to their farm will be provided in the registration bags and signs will be at the side of the road to provide directions. Ribs, fried fish, coleslaw, potato salad, apple cobbler for dessert, and southern sweet tea will be served.

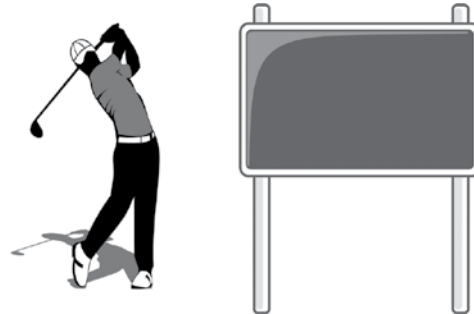
Hope to see you there!



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

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

MDA GOLF TOURNAMENT



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

BRANCH LEGAL PLAN

Advice and Consultation on
General Practice and Civil Actions.



GOFFSTEIN LAW, L.L.C.

JOHN H. GOFFSTEIN
ATTORNEY

225 SOUTH MERAMEC, SUITE 402
ST. LOUIS (CLAYTON), MO 63105
TELEPHONE: 314-932-1919
FACSIMILE: 314-932-5048
JOHN@GOFFSTEINLAW.COM
GOFFSTEINLAW.COM

Vice President Financial Secretary

... By Marvin Booker



THE METRICS OF DYSFUNCTION AND FAILURE?

Management has a tendency to justify their actions by claiming their decisions are based on their metrics. Metrics are quantifiable measurements used to assess performance, track progress, and measure the success of various processes, initiatives, or entities. They provide objective and tangible data that allows organizations to make informed decisions, identify improvement areas, and monitor strategies' effectiveness.

So, let's look at a couple of metrics of the St. Louis Installation:

The "packages first" strategy which allows mail to sit for days on vacant routes, is fundamentally eroding the public trust that has long been the bedrock of the Postal Service. For generations, the reliability of the mail was a civic guarantee, a foundational assumption of daily life.

This new prioritization of e-commerce parcels over first-class letter mail shatters this assumption, transforming a universal public service into a selective, market-driven enterprise. This shift undermines trust on multiple levels, from the transactional to the ideological, as citizens witness the tangible decline of this vital institution.

At the most immediate level, the public's trust is compromised by palpable service failures. People notice when their utility bills, bank statements, and medical prescriptions arrive days or even weeks late. In contrast, the packages they order online often appear with comparative speed. This creates a dual standard of service that is both frustrating and confusing. For some, especially seniors or those in rural areas with limited internet access, this reliance on timely letter mail is not a preference but a necessity.

When the mail fails to arrive predictably, it jeopardizes financial stability and access to critical information, signaling that the USPS is no longer prioritizing its most vulnerable users. The perception that a company's profits (from package delivery) are valued more than a citizen's well-being (via letter mail) is a direct assault on the public service mission.

Furthermore, the pressure to prioritize packages is also driven by performance metrics and tracking. Parcels have detailed tracking, meaning their delivery status is highly visible within the system. Management is acutely aware of delayed packages, which are "red-flagged" and trigger accountability measures. Letters, by contrast, lack this level of tracking (certified mail and return receipts excepted), making it easier for them to be delayed without immediate consequence for management. This creates an incentive for managers to ensure all packages are delivered, even if it means leaving letter mail behind at the post office at the end of the day to meet time-sensitive metrics.

The most immediate and profound impact of the St. Louis Installation's operational failures is on employee health. A combination of understaffing and unrealistic performance metrics forces employees into grueling schedules, on overburdened routes. Beyond the physical toll, the psychological damage is devastating. The atmosphere of constant harassment, intimidation, and belittlement from managers creates a hostile work environment.

Carrier's routinely report being yelled at, berated, and investigated for failing to complete what amounts to an impossible workload. This relentless pressure leads to severe stress, anxiety, and depression. For those who speak out, the threat of retaliation is a constant and sobering reality, contributing to a culture of fear and silence. A job that should provide stability instead becomes a source of significant mental and emotional distress.

A core driver of the toxic culture is a systemic failure in management and a startling lack of accountability. There is "zero quality control on who becomes a supervisor" and managers receive little to no training on how to handle employees, focusing instead on bureaucratic reporting. This deficiency creates a cycle of poor leadership, where supervisors are promoted not for their people skills but for their ability to enforce punishing quotas.

Furthermore, the system seems to reward, rather than punish, ineffective leadership. When managers run an office into the ground, they are often simply transferred to a new location, where they can continue their pattern of mismanagement on a new set of employees.

This "relocation of failure" ensures that a toxic culture is not contained but spreads throughout the installation, leaving little hope for genuine reform at the local level. For the front-line employees, this means their pleas for help often go unheard or are bogged down in the grievance process, which leads to a system that appears to protect the status quo.

While a job at the United States Postal Service (USPS) can offer the promise of stable federal employment, comprehensive benefits, and a living wage, employees are encountering a deeply concerning reality of mismanagement and a toxic workplace culture. As a result, many new hires leave, and veteran employees remain out of necessity rather than satisfaction, trapped in a system that rewards dysfunction and failure.

If the 41st postmaster of St. Louis happens to fly by your office on her broom to wish you happy Halloween asked her what do these metrics tell her.

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

Recording Secretary ... *By Richard Brown*

BAD FAITH BARGAINING

Management has resolved to bargaining with the union, with the worst of intentions. Per Article 15, when a dispute arises, the parties are required to meet in a timely manner, in an attempt to enter into a collective agreement.

When management fails or refuses to meet with us, they display their willingness to bargain in bad faith. If they do meet, but are not prepared to resolve, they are still bargaining in bad faith. These two things show that management has no intention to work through the issues. They simply want it their way, but I think they confuse the job with a fast-food restaurant like Burger King.

Bad bargaining seems to be a common theme from the top down. The following are just a few deficiencies.

- The new National Agreement offered very little, considering what the letter carrier faces daily.
- The language that is beneficial to us, management ignores; (the new overtime list, the New Employee Engagement and Mentoring and Retention Program, etc.)
- They fail to provide requested information and steward time to the steward.
- They fail to meet with the steward at Informal and Formal A.

Due to the above deficiencies, we must remain resilient in our effort to bargain in good faith and pursue the enforcement of language as spelled out in the National Agreement and other handbooks and manuals. If management's failures continue, going to the Labor Board again will be an option. Be a leader in your own right and bargain in good faith even when your counterpart refuses to do so.

ROUTE INSPECTION VIOLATION / REMEDY

Late this year, management conducted route inspections at three offices: Maryville Gardens, West County, and Southwest. As a result, several routes were eliminated. The deliveries from those eliminated routes were absorbed by the remaining routes, creating overburdened assignments in some cases.

Critically, management eliminated the routes held by the most senior carriers in each office, while allowing routes held by junior carriers to remain intact, or at least some of the territory remained on the route. In some cases, routes were completely changed (no original deliveries) but the route number remained the same. These actions constitute a direct violation of **Article 41.3.O** of the National Agreement, which stipulates that **all routes junior to that of the affected senior carrier must be posted for bid** within that office.

Further compounding the violation is the **St. Louis Installation Local Memorandum of Understanding (LMOU)**, which expands this requirement to mandate that **all routes within the entire St. Louis Installation** be posted for bid, not just within the individual office.

In an effort to resolve the issue cooperatively, the union attempted to bargain in good faith and presented management with a less invasive alternative to correct the contractual breach. Management, however, refused to consider the union's proposal, further demonstrating their disregard for both the National Agreement and the locally negotiated MOU.

We are requesting that immediate corrective action be taken to comply with Article 41.3.O and the St. Louis Installation MOU, and that appropriate remedies be provided to all the carriers adversely affected by this violation.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

In case you forgot, we are hosting our annual golf tournament to benefit MDA, on Sunday, October 12, starting at 8 a.m. It will be held at Rolling Hills Golf Course at 5801 Pierce Lane Godfrey, Illinois. If you would like to volunteer to work the tournament (**as much or as little time as you choose**), or if you and/or your office would like to sponsor a hole, please contact Brian Litteken at 314-241-4297 ext. 2. Despite the past flyer's description, fried fish, barbecue, and sides will be served afterwards.

Who is Responsible



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



October greetings to all of the brothers and sisters of NALC Branch 343. Fall is here and with it, cooler weather. Lots of route changes with the recent inspections. So remember, take the time necessary to accurately and safely deliver your assignment! Our safety is on us.

HBP NEWS

This year's PSHB Open Season runs from Monday, November 10 thru Monday, December 8, 2025. Last year the USPS mailed out an "Open Season 2024" booklet to all eligible employees and retirees. Copies of these booklets are still available for viewing. Go to the www.nalchbp.org website and click on PSHB Program. These booklets explained how to review options under the then new PSHB and the process for setting up an account on the new PSHB enrollment site. You may recall that setting up an account is a lengthy eight step process and requires a photo of your state issued ID for authentication. If you are considering changing your PSHB plan during the upcoming Open Season, you may want to set up your PSHB account now to be ready when Open Season does start. There is also a PSHB helpline at 844-451-1261.

An article just out on the Federal News Network details how OPM may not be prepared for this year's Open Season. Democrats on several congressional committees sent a letter to OPM Director Scott Kuper questioning staffing, after an OPM OIG report found there were critical staffing vacancies for the PSHB central enrollment platform. OPM is supposed to have 11 full-time employees to manage the enrollment platform and currently only has three! With Open Season only two months away, this does not sound good at all.

The PSHB plan premiums for 2026 have not been released yet and are supposed to be announced by the end of September, but we can compare some of our current premiums of nationwide fee for service (FFS) plans. Comparing some of the current 2025 FFS biweekly (per pay period) premiums:

Plan	Self Only	Self and Family
Blue Cross/Blue Shield Standard	\$174.13	\$453.43
GEHA High Option	128.19	365.22
NALC High Option	109.98	238.42

You could realize some significant savings by switching to our NALC HBP, especially under the Self and Family premiums. Also, consider that our NALC HBP is the only union-owned, union-run, and 100% union employee plan that is working for you!

OWCP NEWS

If you are injured on duty, report the injury to management as soon as possible, and then request immediate medical treatment. I've recently gotten some calls from injured carriers who waited several days after their injury to get medical treatment. There are specific time limits with filing OWCP claims and you don't want to be testing those limits! I do understand that carriers sometimes think they can "walk it off" or "just rest it" and their injury will go away. That may work, but you're always better off getting your injury treated right away. The obvious benefit to you being the medical treatment should provide some relief for your injury and you are documenting the injury for your OWCP claim. You want the treating physician to examine, treat, and document your injury as soon as possible. For example, if you have a sprained ankle, you want the physician to examine it while it's still red and swollen, not days later when the symptoms are gone, but it still hurts inside. When you request medical treatment, your supervisor/manager is required to issue a **Form CA-16 "Authorization for Examination and/or Treatment"** for you to take to your chosen medical provider. **You choose who you want to provide treatment.** It could be your physician, hospital ER, TAUC, or Concentra, but it's your choice. You take the Form CA-16 with you and give it

to the treating physician. Side A is filled out by your supervisor authorizing the treatment and Side B – Attending Physician's Report is completed by them. **Keep Copies!**

Notes from the Managing Editor

... By Tom Schulte

WHERE'S MY NGDV?



According to an inspector general's report, a combination of factors inside and outside of the Postal Service's control contributed to the delays in acquiring and deploying electric vehicles under its Next Generation Delivery Vehicle (NGDV) project.

"The process to select, acquire, and deploy a custom vehicle took around six years longer than the Postal Service's initial deployment schedule for the NGDV project. It took the Postal Service more than six years to select a supplier and more than three years from awarding the contract to receiving the first production vehicle," it said.

The major reason was the decision to pursue a custom-built vehicle. "At the time of the project's inception, the Postal Service did not identify suitable off-the-shelf alternatives on the commercial market that met its needs for a right-hand drive delivery fleet. Pursuing a custom vehicle is generally more complex and time-consuming than purchasing commercially available models."

Also, at the outset the USPS was open to various types of alternative fuel vehicles, not limited to EVs. "An initial commitment to EVs could have reduced the time spent exploring different options and facilitate an earlier start on infrastructure installation, allowing for quicker rollout of electric vehicles," the report stated.

"In contrast, Amazon and DHL deployed a custom electric delivery van for their fleets within three to four years. However, they had financial and regulatory flexibility and did not publicly source their suppliers, instead directly partnering with EV suppliers," it said.

The report stated that while the USPS is not subject to the Federal Acquisition Regulation, giving it more discretion in its contracting approach, its status as a public agency "contributed to a cautious, time-intensive process ... it chose to prioritize transparency and due diligence by conducting an expansive competitive sourcing process. The agency also chose to develop and test 44 prototypes, significantly more than other organizations examined."

Further, "Statutory limits to borrowing and lack of financial resources put the Postal Service at a financial disadvantage compared to private sector counterparts in funding large procurement efforts. This extended the timeline of EV acquisition and deployment, as the agency had to wait until it obtained

sufficient funds to move forward with large scale fleet electrification."

Lack of availability of charging stations meanwhile resulted in some facilities receiving vehicles but not being able to deploy them for a time. Factors contributing to that included "complex coordination with utilities, local governments, and construction companies; The Postal Service also used unrealistic project management schedules that could not be met at many facilities."

The report added, "Despite delays, the Postal Service has already reduced its gasoline consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and expects the EVs to be cheaper to operate and more mechanically reliable than gas-powered vehicles."

ADDENDUM

A provision tucked inside the Big Beautiful Bill recently signed into law by the president would force the USPS to sell off the brand-new trucks and cancel or significantly amend the contract for the remaining 58,800 vehicles that are due to be delivered over the next 10 years.

According to the text of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs portion of the bill released by Kentucky GOP Senator Rand Paul, all electric vehicles and related infrastructure owned by the Postal Service will be sold and the proceeds will "be deposited into the general fund of the treasury." Selling the EVs would "cut unnecessary costs and focus USPS on delivering mail and not achieving environmental initiatives pushed by the Biden Administration."

"Scrapping USPS' electric vehicles is a lose-lose scenario, Oregon Democrat Sen. Jeff Markley, ranking member of the Budget Committee said. "We move backwards on clean energy and have to spend even more money to replace the vehicles."

Peter Pastre, the vice president of government relations and public policy for USPS in a statement said, "It would cost more than \$450 million to replace the 7,200 revoked vehicles, and the USPS has already spent more than \$540 million on electrical upgrades for infrastructure to support the vehicle.

As the drama continues to unfold the question remains, "Where's My NGDV?"

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



COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Preparations are already underway for the collective bargaining agreement which ends in 2026. The executive council has selected the subcommittees that they will work on and begun discussions about proposals that will be submitted to the service. Last contract, I was on the workplace issues subcommittee. That subcommittee covered anything that affected letter carriers on the workroom floor. The subcommittees this year are broken up by contract article. I am on Articles 5, 15, 17 and 31 subcommittee. We will meet weekly and review previously approved convention resolutions, unachieved bargaining proposals, and other craft union agreements. There is also a rank-and-file bargaining committee consisting of 30 letter carriers from across the country who will meet and discuss collective bargaining and share their thoughts on proposals. Later this fall, surveys will go out to all the membership to get your input. If you have thoughts on proposals that affect Articles 5, 15, 17 and 31, give me a call and we can discuss it. I selected this committee because I believe that the DRT problems need to be addressed in a meaningful way. The backlog and delays in the system currently are unacceptable and must be addressed.

DECEMBER EXCLUSIONARY PERIOD

As referenced in Article 8 sections 4 and 5 the December exclusionary period will commence on November 29 (Pay Period 26-2025 Week 1) and ends on December 26, 2025 (Pay Period 01-2026 Week 2). The penalty exclusionary period does not affect the new language in Article 8.4.G which requires letter carriers to be paid 2½ times the straight time rate for any hours worked beyond 12 hours in a service day or over 60 hours in a service week. All hours worked beyond the 12- and 60-hour limitations will still be paid at 2½ times the normal rate of pay even during the December exclusionary period.

MOU'S M-02013 AND M-02014

The Postal Service and the NALC have agreed to language on two MOUs.

MOU M-02013 Re: Monetization of Annual Leave allows carrier employees to sell back a maximum of 80 hours of annual leave provided two criteria are met.

1. The employee must be at the maximum leave carry-over ceiling at the start of the leave year.
2. The employee must have used fewer than 75 sick leave hours in the leave year immediately preceding the year for which the leave is being exchanged.

MOU M-02014 Re: Annual Leave Carryover for Leave Year 2026 allows regular workforce career employees to carry over 520 hours of accumulated annual leave from leave year 2025 to leave year 2026.

This MOU extends the 520 carryover hours for one year. Any leave carryover after 2026 would need to be negotiated or extended by another MOU.

ROUTE INSPECTIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS

As previously discussed, the Region 5 office is in the process of rolling out route inspection investigation and grievance training. We are currently testing out forensic spreadsheets and training to make sure the product is accurate and complete. In the meantime, we will provide route adjustment 1838C and 3999 training for any individual or station going through route adjustments. Please call the office at 314-985-8040 and we will set up the training before your route inspection. We will also put a route adjustment forensic expert and grievance expert at your disposal to ensure that letter carriers in Region 5 get a fair evaluation of their routes. Reach out to us at the above number and we will assist you.

Until next time stay safe out there!

Retiree Report

... By Recording Secretary Nicki L. Prado



Chairman Tom Schulte called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m. Chaplain John Haake led us in a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Tom thanked Tom Grafton and his wife for the delicious BBQ pork steaks, brats and sides. Tom also thanked Glenda Iberg for the assorted desserts.

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

Treasurers Report: Mike Chenot reported that since he was on vacation last month, an amended treasurer's report will follow at the November meeting. Previous balance reported was a checking balance of \$1,055.30 and cash on hand of \$436.

Branch 343 Presidents Report: John McLaughlin reported that there were approximately 25 carriers and family members at the Labor Celebration Day on August 31 in Florissant, Mo. Region 5 NBA David Teegarden was in attendance at the parade and offered to BBQ for everyone who participates in the parade next year. The next RAP session will take place in Cleveland, Ohio, in November.

Legislative Report: Mike Weir reported that the projected COLA for CSRS recipients is 2.5% and 2% for FERS employees. Mike Weir and Ken Young from Southwest Station presented a \$10,000 check to MDA from Ken's recent Buddy Bass Reel in the Cure Tournament. Mike urged the retirees to contact their respective representatives and senators to support H.R.70 and S. 147 to prevent

the privatization of the U. S. Postal Service. The Missouri Legislature is in the process of gerrymandering Emanuel Cleavers 5th District seat. We need to give to the Political Action Fund and the LCPF.

Health Benefits Report: Barry Linan reported that the NALC Health Benefits Open Season begins November 10 through December 8. If you intend to make any changes you can get online now to set up your changes.

Chairmans Report: Tom spoke about the upcoming annual retiree picnic on October 1 at Creve Coeur Park. Tom also mentioned the recent Office of Inspector General's audit of the several stations in the St. Louis area, leading to management being targeted for the poor performance and delayed mail. Tom mentioned that even 2nd District Representative Ann Wagner commented that all managers should be fired.

Unfinished Business: General discussion of the Wreathes Across America participation this year.

Deceased Members: A moment of silence was observed for Cliff Massey - Gold Card.

50/50 Winner - \$15 won by Sandy Theismann who donated it to the PAC fund.

Closing Prayer: Offered by Chaplain John Haake.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:20 p.m.

South County ... By Matt Gleiforst

Hello from South County. One of the reasons that I have always enjoyed being a letter carrier is because I feel as though we get paid to basically work out. This is a very physical job and by the end of the day we can feel the toll it takes on our bodies. Who needs a gym membership when we get paid to walk? Granted, I don't do as much walking nowadays as I used to, but it is still a physically demanding job nonetheless. It can also be a mentally draining job at times, especially if we are taking the time to maintain our routes and keep up with removals as we should be doing daily. One other part that is draining, mentally, is watching the mismanagement of our stations which, unfortunately, is often caused by the micromanagement of our stations from the higher ups that hardly ever step foot onto a workroom floor. Our supervisors are forced to sit on teleconferences every single day. Just the other day I had to ask my supervisor a question during one of these telecons. I suppose she must have turned the camera off during this moment because within a few seconds I could hear her boss (or whoever this random overpaid person was) saying, "South County, where'd you go?" in a condescending manner. I suppose those telecons are more important than dealing with employees.

Along with all this micromanagement comes instructions that are improper. And what's worse is our local management knows that they are being made to give us improper instructions. In late August, we had a stand-up talk about SPM scans. For anyone that is unaware, SPM scans are the sample requests that we get on our scanners to scan up to 15 pieces of mail for that specific address. This is to track the time it takes for mail to enter the mail stream and then be delivered. When doing these scans, we are instructed to scan the flats first and then the letters. Basically, scan the cased mail and then scan the DPS. At our stand-up talk we were instructed by the station manager to only scan the DPS. We were told not to scan any flats for that address because the flats are showing up late from the plant making them appear delayed when we scan them. **Yeah**, that's kind of the entire point! The whole reason we are doing these scans is to see if the mail is being delayed. And guess what? It is! I verified that this instruction came

from above the station manager which means that someone higher up has decided that in order to make their reports look good, we need to falsify scans. Under no circumstances should you ever falsify anything! I would highly recommend ignoring that instruction if you receive it.

I asked around and other stations are having similar issues with SPM scans. Downtown does not like when we hit the options "already passed address" or "no more mail to scan." One station manager told their employees to not hit either of these options. If they did not have mail for the address selected, the carrier should scan the next address's mail. Again, that would be falsifying the scan. Do **not** do that. If we get caught falsifying anything, we get in serious trouble. Just because management doesn't like their reports, they want us to put our jobs on the line.

Here's a better idea for management. How about they figure out why the mail is being delayed and focus on fixing that problem? They need to take a break from their telecons and start going to the plant and see why the mail isn't getting to stations in time. Or, go see if all available mail is being processed. Perhaps, just maybe, we have far too much management and not enough workers. Maybe if we eliminated some of their positions and invested in craft work, we could actually have a better service. Crazy thoughts, I know.

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



 			
HARASSMENT-RELATED RESOURCES: ■ Publication 553, Employee's Guide to Understanding, Preventing, and Reporting Harassment: blue.usps.gov/cpin/ftp/pubs/pub553/welcome.htm ■ Anti-Harassment Information Line: 1-877-521-4272 ■ Equal Employment Opportunity Complaint/Counseling: efile.usps.com ■ Employment Assistance Program (EAP): eap4you.com ■ USPS EEO Information on MyHR			
Anti-Harassment Information Card Together We Can Prevent Harassment in the Workplace			
 Anti-Harassment Information Card	Together We Can Prevent Harassment in the Workplace		
HARASSMENT: ■ Is unwelcome behavior that an employee finds offensive and harmful, and a reasonable person would consider intimidating, hostile or abusive. ■ Can include offensive comments, slurs, stereotyping, inappropriate graphic materials, and/or engaging in physical or verbal threats. ■ Is inappropriate conduct that may result in disciplinary action, including removal.	REPORTING HARASSMENT: ■ If you feel comfortable, ask the person who is harassing you or behaving inappropriately to stop. ■ You also should report the harassment to either: <table border="0"> <tr> <td> —Supervisor or manager —Labor Relations manager —Human Resources manager </td> <td> —United States Postal Inspection Service at 1-877-876-2455 for threat of serious harassment, physical harm or both. </td> </tr> </table>	—Supervisor or manager —Labor Relations manager —Human Resources manager	—United States Postal Inspection Service at 1-877-876-2455 for threat of serious harassment, physical harm or both.
—Supervisor or manager —Labor Relations manager —Human Resources manager	—United States Postal Inspection Service at 1-877-876-2455 for threat of serious harassment, physical harm or both.		

West County Retiree ... By Pam Stepney

Greetings sisters and brothers of Branch 343. How's everybody doing? Fine, I hope.

Well, I trust everyone has received their back pay from the contract settlement. Yes, I got a check too, and I noticed that half the money was listed under "miscellaneous." Thousands of dollars ended up there. I'm sure most of it went to taxes and some to Thrift Savings, but where did the rest go?

One retiree called me and said \$1,800 was taken out under "miscellaneous," and she wanted to know why. I know there are only so many lines on a paycheck, but the Postal Service should send a letter explaining the breakdown. Some carriers even tried to block taxes for that pay period. I don't know how that works, but I do know Uncle Sam will catch up with you sooner or later.

Now, about the adjustments: No one got the same payout because it was based on your hours worked, rate of pay, overtime, and penalty overtime. Most people received a few thousand dollars, while some only got a few hundred. If you know anyone who retired, was removed, or resigned after May 29, 2023 (when the contract expired) and before it was settled in June 2025, let them know their checks were sent to their last station. And if you've got questions about that mysterious "miscellaneous" category, head to **nalc.org** — I don't have the answers either.

Now let's talk about this scanning mess.

What kind of Postal Service scam is going on with those sample request barcodes? Management got caught hiding mail by the OIG in the plants, stations, and branches. Now, instead of fixing it, they're

blackout the barcodes so carriers can't scan them on the street. Didn't the area manager just spend all summer giving stand-up talks about paying some company \$75 million to track these letters? Now they're scamming that company and turning around to write up carriers who are just doing their jobs!

Who told clerks to black out those barcodes? Why aren't they getting discipline for falsifying scans the way they're trying to discipline carriers? Shouldn't management be facing PDIs for falsifying documents, delaying mail, and signing off on paperwork saying the offices were "all clear"? Who's investigating this? We already have enough supervisors with clipboards walking around watching us. Maybe they should start by looking in the mirror.

When will we stop making the news for this kind of foolishness and start catching up with our competitors?

Moving on! The Postal Service has created terrible routes with bogus adjustments. Some U-strings now have fewer than five routes, so when a carrier bids off the string, it doesn't get posted because it's not a complete assignment. That leaves the U-person with float days every week.

Safety reminder: They're out there watching everything we do, every single day. So, lock your doors, curb your wheels, protect the mail, and protect your personal items before you start a relay. Don't cut corners just to finish faster — it's not worth being pulled off the clock. Remember, you get paid by the hour. Like Richard Thurman says at every meeting: Heed the warning.

And one more thing — stop bullying

your sisters and brothers. There's no reason for anyone's car to get vandalized in the parking lot, or for groups of carriers to talk behind each other's backs to management. The truth is that management isn't really your friend — they just don't get along with each other and envy that we have fun together. Don't let them divide us.

On a brighter note:

The softball tournament was a blast this year! Congratulations to everyone who came out to play and have fun. Southwest took home the trophy after coming back to beat North County.

- Thank you to all who supported the MDA golf tournament this year — congratulations to the first, second, and third place winners.
- Look for the John H. Haake Scholarship application in this issue of the Mound City Carrier. Deadline to apply is December 31, 2025.
- Happy Halloween! 🎃

Condolences: Please keep Dr. Barbara Anderson's family in your prayers. Her daughter Stephanie, her only child, lost her battle and went home to be with our Lord and Savior. May God have mercy on the family, be a fence around them, and guide them through this difficult time.

Closing words: Do your best. Leave the rest. Don't stress.

God bless. Register to vote, exercise your right to vote, and thank you for showing up.



Scenes from the "Labor Celebration Day"

Branch 343 takes part in the "new" Labor Day location



Florissant, Missouri, August 31



Annual Branch 343 Softball Tournament Wrap Up

... By Nate Markovich

Hot temperatures didn't deter a number of teams from participating in the annual Branch 343 Softball Tournament which took place in Bellefontaine Park on August 30.

There were five teams that participated: Florissant, Weathers/North County, U-City & Gaffney, and South County & Southwest. There were wine raffles, which were donated and a 50/50 raffle. In all we raised \$500 for the NALC Disaster Relief Fund.

Brothers and sisters, it takes a lot of time and effort to put this event together. I want to thank Frank Enlow for all of his help. If we want to see types of events like this, we need greater participation from the stations.

South County/Southwest took on the reigning champs, Weathers/North County, in the championship game and defeated them to take home the first-place trophy, with Weathers/North County taking home the second-place trophy.

I want to thank everyone who played, as well as those who helped me out with the tournament. Hope to see you all next year.



Scenes from the Branch 343 Softball Tournament



In MEMORIAM



Leroy Foster and Carmen Roker

Leroy Foster retired from the Jennings Post Office in 1999. He served as a safety captain and shop steward and took pride in representing the letter carriers. He contributed to the community by becoming a Big Brother even though he never had any children.

Prior to his employment with the Postal Service, Leroy served in the United States Marine Corp and said the Marines made a man out of him. He was a Vietnam veteran and exposed to Agent Orange which took a toll on his health. He was a very private person and stayed positive fighting till his last days, but cancer won the battle.

In retirement Leroy enjoyed fishing and just being a home body. He spent his time with his companion Carmen Roker, whom he nicknamed "Sweetness." She was at his side when he passed.

The officers and members of Branch 343 would like to extend our sincere condolences to the Foster family. Semper Fi.

"Those were the Days" ... By Mike Laury, Retired Letter Carrier

Remember the first time you pumped your own gas? Well, if the nitwits that used to come running, wearing their gas station jump suits, could do it, so could I. It was 1980ish and gas had just shot up to a dollar. They called it "panic at the pumps," just one of the by-products of Reaganomics and the times we lived in back then. Now all I hear about is how cheap gas was back then and how "those were the days."

There was a time when baggers used to bag your groceries, and the cashier would ring up your items. I'm guessing there was a board meeting at Schnucks and Dierbergs a while back, where they mistakenly ate some pot brownies during lunch and decided they would let the customer take on the responsibility of scanning and bagging their own groceries. (Are you guys high? That'll never fly.) I pondered these thoughts and others one day while bringing my order to my table, then bussing my table at Paneras one afternoon. They never did tell me where I was supposed to "clock in."

Remember the days when people didn't cut you off in traffic, and obeyed the "rules of the road?" Okay, now

I'm just being silly. It might be just me, but I still find it rather charming when an old couple leaves their blinker on for three miles, driving 40 mph in a 40-mile speed zone and are oblivious to the middle finger salutes left in their wake. Move it, you old coots. The other day, my wife leaned over while I was driving and asked me when I was going to turn off my turn signal. Karma's a bitch.

I remember back in the 1990s when a letter carrier, 20 years my senior, retired after months of bickering over taking DPS to the street. He couldn't stomach it any longer. He told me before he retired, "I remember the days when these pricks used to leave us alone. Those were the good old days."

Fast forward to the year 2056, as two carriers case their mail inside their vehicles, because brick and mortar stations have become obsolete. "Hey Joe, remember when we used to be able to case our mail inside an air-conditioned building?" "Yeah, I remember that, and how about when supervisors were human and not robots with artificial intelligence." "Yeah, back then they had no intelligence." Those were the days.

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, Ribs,
Fried Fish, Potato Salad, Coleslaw and
Cobbler.

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

HOW TO ENTER: A check or checks totaling \$340 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
(NO CREDIT OR DEBIT CARDS, PLEASE)

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 _____



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 am a senior in the 2025-2026 school year.

I am the son/daughter of an (please circle) active, retired or deceased letter carrier *in good standing*.

My name is _____ Home phone _____

My home address is _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature of Branch parent member
(or spouse if deceased)

Signature of
Branch Officer

Title _____ Date _____
(For Office Use Only)

THIS FORM MUST BE POSTMARKED BY DECEMBER 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 _____

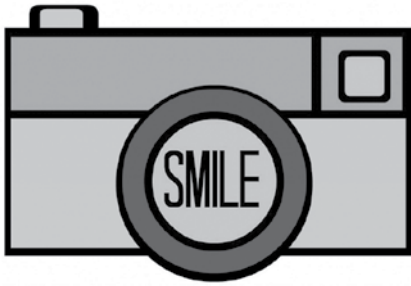
PHONE NUMBER (_____) _____

SIGNATURE OF NALC PARENT _____

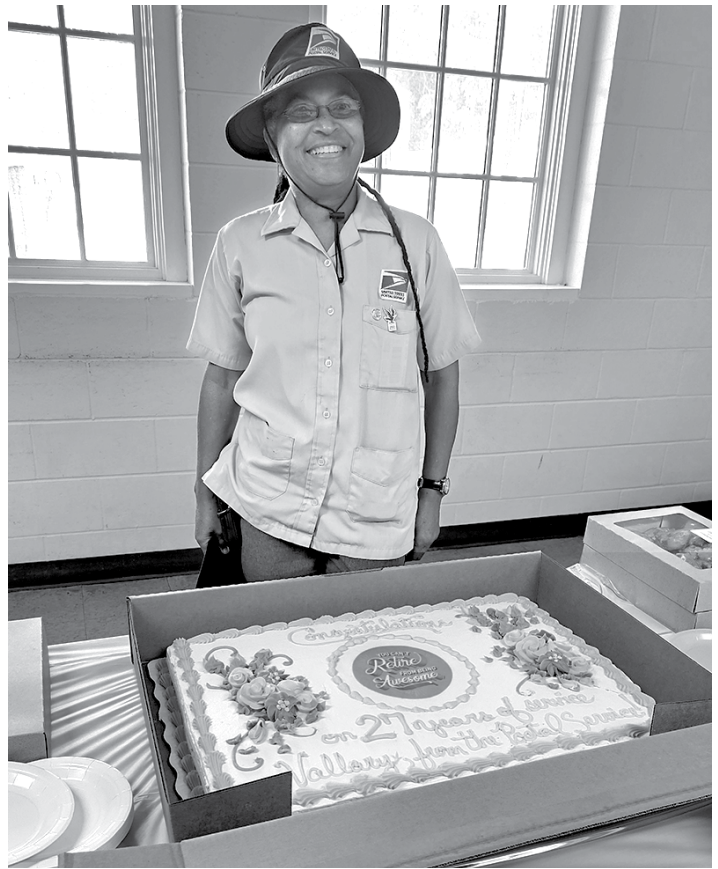
SS# OF NALC PARENT _____

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.



Clayton letter carrier Darlene Tate receives congratulations on her retirement for Pamela Stepney, Br. 343 Vice President Marvin Booker, Darlene, Saronda Sutherland and Frank Enlow.



Normandy letter carrier Vallary Hunt is feted with a retirement cake and well-wishes offered from her fellow co-workers



MDA GOLF TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2025

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

CONTACT:

BRIAN LITTEKEN AT
314-241-4297 EXT. 2

SHOP STEWARDS

Awards Banquet

Saturday, October 11, 2025

Guest speaker to be announced

Festivities will begin at 6 p.m.

Letter Carriers Hall
1600 S. Broadway

BRANCH MEETING

BRANCH 343, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

Summary of Branch Action

- MSC To pay the branch bills.
- MSC That Branch 343 send a floral arrangement to Stephanie Anderson's funeral on Friday, September 26.
- MSC That the branch donates a pair of Br. 343 Cardinal season baseball tickets to accompany a basket along with other items for their silent action/raffle.
- MSC That Branch 343 sponsor a hole at VFW Post 3944 Golf Tournament. The cost is \$100.
- MSC That the branch send up to four of its officers or stewards selected by the president to the National Rap Session to be held November 21-23 in Cleveland, Ohio, and pay their expenses.
- MSC That the branch send the branch health benefits rep to the 37th National Health Benefits Plan Seminar Nov. 2-5 in Orlando Florida, and pay registration fee, union time for three days of training, airfare, and out of pocket expenses to attend the event.



New Members

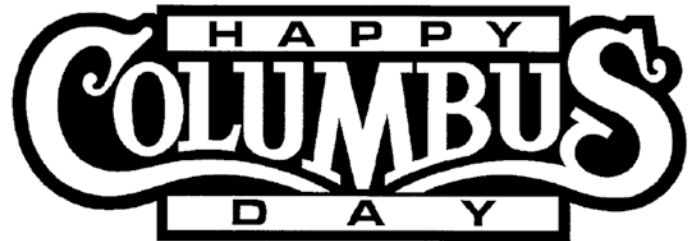
Steven CanadaTown & Country.....8/23/2025
 Quinten CookFenton8/9/2025
 Michael Cutler.....Fenton8/23/2025
 Tyler Francis.....Maryville Gardens8/23/2025
 Chad Hiatt.....O'Fallon.....8/23/2025
 RiAndre JacksonHarriet Woods.....8/9/2025
 Natalie KwiatkowskiWeathers8/23/2025
 Shantay Little.....Clayton.....8/9/2025
 Oscar Martinez-Gavina ..Town & Country.....8/23/2025
 Angelet Mosely.....Carrier Square8/15/2025
 Joshua PattersonPark Hills8/23/2025
 Ronne TolliverMaryville Gardens8/23/2025

Recently Retired Members

Michael Allen.....Fenton8/30/2025
 Norman GerickeArnold8/31/2025
 Vallary Hunt.....Normandy8/29/2025
 Darlene TateClayton.....4/30/2025

Deceased Members

Benjamin Ashmore.....Retired9/04/2025
 Leroy FosterGold Card9/05/2025



BRANCH MEETING ATTENDANCE PRIZES

1. Cardinals vs Cincinnati Sept. 15
2. Cardinals vs Milwaukee Sept. 19
3. Cardinals vs Milwaukee Sept. 21
4. Blues vs Blackhawks Sept. 27
5. Blues vs Ottawa Senators Oct. 2



\$59.50

Shonna Randle, Carrier Square
 Germaine Anderson, Maryville Gardens
 Pamela Stepney, Retired
 Jyron Johnson, Weathers
 Mike Weir, Retired

 Lucille Snow, Retired

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 Sergeant at Arms Frank Enlow and accepted.

NBAs Report, Charlie Sexton: Spoke on the 12/60 rule and how the pay is not being input automatically. Those that are reaching 60 hours, are not being paid correctly. They are bringing in 30 rank and file people to discuss contract issues. You can now cash out 80 hours of annual leave at the end of the year, if you are at 440 hours and have used less than 75 hours of sick leave. This year penalty exclusionary period is November 29 – December 26. If you work over 12/60, you still get 2½ times pay during the exclusion period. National Rap Session is in Cleveland, November 21-23. Deadline for hotel registration is October 30, \$189 per night. The Region 5 Rap Session for 2026 will be February 28 - March 2 (Sat.-Mon.).

Retirees Report, Tom Schulte: They had 31 in attendance. Tom reminded us that the annual retiree picnic is October 1 at Creve Coeur Park at the Tremayne Shelter.

Labor Council Report, Pam Stepney: Pam thanked everyone who came and participated in the Labor Celebration Parade and advised us to make plans to be there next year. Boeing has a tentative agreement to get 45% pay increase and \$4,000 bonus.

MBA Report, Saronda Sutherland: Saronda reminded everyone to check their insurance policies for beneficiaries.

Health Benefit Report, Barry Linan: Asked everyone to pay attention the Mound City Carrier every month. Barry reminded us that PSHB open season is

November 10 - December 8. It is your opportunity to get into the NALC plan. If you have self plus one (\$266.08), it would be cheaper to get self and family (\$238.40).

Mound City Carrier Report, Tom Schulte: Tom reminded us that the Shop Steward Banquet is Saturday October 11, and the MDA Golf Tournament is October 12 (still looking for volunteers). He spoke on the OIG audit report and how Ann Wagner believes all management should be fired. Take the rotating day calendar out of the MCC from September.

Haake Scholarship Report, Pam Stepney: The application for the John H. Haake scholarships is in the MCC. High school seniors must apply by December 31, 2025.

Safety and Health Report, Pam Stepney: Richard Thurman spoke to the postmaster and safety captains will be released and trained. All facility deficiencies will be outlined and abated within 14-21 days. All animal hazards and code violations must be identified by law. All the aggressive behavior in the facilities are being reported to the district manager. Safety teams are out watching carriers and taking pictures, take the time to be safe on your route.

OWCP Report, Barry Linan: Barry spoke on "short form closure," which deals with your claim and not going over \$1,500. If you go over that amount, because the claim is not closed, you need to contact them to advise that you want your claim adjudicated.

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 2.8 %. Inflation is trending up and 25% of Americans don't believe they improve their standard of living. Missouri is trying to move forward to get rid of the 5th District, but the state constitution says you can't redistrict without current census data. Senate Bill 152 says any donation of \$2,000 or more, must sign an affirmation receipt saying money is not coming from a foreign national. We can no longer do 50/50 for the Pac Fund.

Executive Vice President/Treasurer Report, Brian Litteken: Be sure to complete a PS 1767 if you feel you are being harassed by management and file a grievance. The Golf Tournament is Sunday, October 12, it starts at 8 a.m. The fee is \$85 per person, and we will have the same caterer as last year.

Vice President/Financial Secretary Report, Marvin Booker: Marvin read his financial report for August 2025. Be sure to read the MCC articles because management fails to comply with the contract. They are putting carriers off the clock then bringing them back shortly after.

President's Comments, John McLaughlin: John spoke against health benefit representative going to Ohio for training. Custodian (Dontey Hardy) is the person whose house blew up in Florissant. He spoke about the softball tournament (Southwest won). We had 30 people show up for the Labor Parade. Dave Teegarden offered to grill at next parade.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard Brown, Recording Secretary

More of the Same ... Only Worse ... *By Mike Weir*

As of September 2025, the 2026 Retiree COLAs projection for 2026 is 2.8% for CSRS and 2% for FERS. The final determination of the 2026 COLAs will be based on the increase in the CPI (Consumer Price Index) as reported in mid-October. President Trump's claims notwithstanding, inflation is trending higher. Many businesses including Adidas, Best Buy, Macy's, Home Depot and Walmart (to name just a few) have indicated they will have to raise prices due to Trump's tariffs. We could be in for a difficult ride during the holidays and beyond.

While inflation continues to trend upward, employment continues to trend downward. Initial jobless claims reached their highest level in nearly four years, at 263,000 in early September. This makes the Federal Reserve's decision on lowering interest rates more difficult since they have a two-fold mandate from Congress: maximum employment and stable prices. Given the deteriorating labor market, they will probably opt to lower the interest rate by a quarter-point (.25%). By the time you read this article, I expect that they will have already made that decision.

President Trump's polling numbers are underwater on almost every issue imaginable. In particular, the two issues on which he ran (and won), the economy and immigration, the data now shows that the voters are not supportive of his actions and policies. Only 25% of Americans now think they have a good chance of improving their standard of living; this is the lowest percentage since the survey started asking the question in 1987. Even on the issue of crime, where his

approval rating is somewhat stronger, a recent poll found that only 32% of Americans felt safer with armed soldiers deployed to big cities due to uneasiness over some of his tactics. They are not very supportive of the cruelty involved in sweeping up and incarcerating undocumented immigrants as well as some actual citizens (and holding them under inhumane conditions, violating their rights to a hearing and threatening to send them to countries where they could be tortured and killed).

Nonetheless, President Trump and his cronies continue to ramp up their efforts to fully implement the political agenda of the Project 2025 initiative. This Administration is very good at "spinning" bad news; they spent the last several years perfecting the art of political spin to keep Trump out of jail and the voters confused about the very real accomplishments of the Biden Administration. However, the problem for them now is the greater the distance between reality and the story they are telling, the less persuasive it tends to be. Voters can see for themselves that prices are going up, and businesses are not hiring. Of course, daily, President Trump comes up with something new to divert our attention. Hopefully, we are all remaining focused on everything that he and his sycophants are doing to us, our country, and the world.

On the Postal Service front, we must be ever vigilant concerning President Trump's plans. As I have stated in previous articles, he installed David P. Steiner as the PMG because he is looking to eventually privatize our Postal Service. This would result in terrible consequences for us, of

course, but also for the American public, especially in rural areas. A bipartisan postal caucus has been established in the House to investigate the problems there and propose solutions to them. They might want to start with the recent OIG report which found that management was responsible for inadequate staffing levels, failure to secure "arrow keys," inadequate training for employees, mail delays, and executive misconduct. The two Republicans and the two Democrats heading up the caucus have expressed their opposition to privatization and their desire to support postal workers and preserve such an essential public service. This sounds like a good start. Let's all keep our fingers crossed for a good result.

Meanwhile, in the "great" state of Missouri, Republican leadership is bending over backwards to do Trump's bidding like the "great" state of Texas already did. Republicans are realizing that, given the voters' disdain for the One, Big, Beautiful Bill and Republican policies in general, they are likely to have serious problems in the 2026 mid-term elections. Gerrymandering districts to generate more opportunities for Republican candidates to be successful is their best way to hold onto power. As a result, the Missouri Legislature has created a new map to eliminate a Democratic seat in District 5 and establish a 7 to 1 Republican majority in the House of Representatives from Missouri. This is clearly unconstitutional, since the Missouri Constitution requires that redistricting can only be done when you have data from a current census (in other words, only every 10 years). The state Supreme Court has already ruled on this issue in the past; so, I expect the lawsuits that are being filed will be

Political Action Honor Roll

RICHARD RHYNER★★★★★	JOHN HAAKE★★	BILL FISHER★	NICKI L. PRADO★
JOE FITZJARRELL★★★★★	LAWRENCE McHAYNES JR.★★	SAMUEL GOODMAN★	SHONNA RANDLE★
JOE POLITTE★★★★★	KEN MEYER★★	ROY HATCHARD JR.★	IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH P. REGAN★
ART BUCK★★★	MICHAEL RHODES JR.★★	GENO IBERG★	MICHAEL RHODES SR.★
TONY JASPER★★★	MARVIN BOOKER★	ED JOHNSTON★	GARY ROBERTSON★
LYNN RAY PRATT★★★	JIM BRUGGEMAN★	LAURA KEIM★	TOM SCHULTE★
IN MEMORY OF JIM ROBERTS★★★	JOHN BUCHHEIT★	MEAGHAN LAKEY★	PAMELA STEPNEY★
MIKE WEIR★★★	JOE CANMAN★	BILL LISTER★	NBA DAVID TEEGARDEN★
DAN BRAUCHLE★★	BEVE CREELEY★	JOHN McLAUGHLIN★	DEAN WERNER★
CATHERINE CIARAMITARO★★	ROBERT EVERS★		
DON CHARTRAND	ROBERT EVERS	LYNN RAY PRATT	DENNIS STEGMANN
ROBERT ECKER	JOHN HAAKE	GARY ROBERTSON	SARONDA SUTHERLAND
FRANK ENLOW	LAWRENCE McHAYNES JR.		

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

James Goheen Shonna Randle Sandy Theismann

(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.

successful there. Unfortunately, during the Trump presidency, the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., has not been behaving like serious jurists but, instead, like partisan hacks. We will have to see if they will decide to abide by the Constitution on this issue. The state legislature also decided to make it virtually impossible to be successful at passing an initiative petition from the voters. Petitions to put a voter referendum on the ballot to eliminate these new laws (essentially, a citizen's veto, which is permissible under the state constitution) will be available for signatures in the coming weeks. People NOT Politicians and Respect MO Voters will be circulating these petitions. Be sure to add your signature to these efforts. Also, on October 18, the NO KINGS 2 protests will be happening here and

across the country. Do not miss your opportunity to express your love of our country and your opposition to the current regime. Find a location near you.

Finally, Senator Eric Schmitt, one of Missouri's senators, gave a speech at a gathering of the National Conservatism Conference in September. The theme of this speech was "What is an American?" I was stunned when I read the content of his speech. Essentially, he was saying that true Americans are the white settlers and their descendants who are the "heroes" who made our country what it is today. He said: "America, in all its glory ... belongs to us. It's our birthright, our heritage, our destiny." Throughout his speech, there was no reference to people of color.

This racist, whitewashed version of history conveniently excludes non-European immigrants — both those who came voluntarily and those, like enslaved Africans, who did not, as well as Native Tribes whose brilliance and backbreaking labor literally built the United States. This is what the Republican Party has become under Trump, Vance, and Project 2025. He showed their true colors in this speech. If you disagree with this vision, then it is time to get involved to stop it from undermining the principles and values of our great country! Speak up! Join a protest! And contribute to the Branch 343 PAC Fund and the Letter Carrier Political Fund. The job you save, the family you protect and the country you preserve may well be your own.

John H. Haake BRANCH 343

—OFFICERS—

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

La'Tecse Litteken Shonna Randle
 Germaine Anderson Nathaniel Markovich
 Michael Rucker

CORRESPONDENT POSTAL RECORD

Tom Schulte

MEMBER-AT-LARGE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

Jerry Cantrell Lamont Broomfield
 Andrew Garces Marvin "Blu" King

DELEGATES TO THE ST. LOUIS LABOR COUNCIL

Pamela Stepney Frank Enlow
 Barry Linan William Lister
 Marvin Booker Mike Weir
 Richard Brown

MOUND CITY CARRIER

Published monthly by NALC Branch 343
 Contents may be reproduced by NALC
 publications — Just mention Branch 343.

STAFF

Tom Schulte Managing Editor
 Brian LittekenEditor
 Barry Linan Editor
 Meaghan LakeyEditor
 Matt Gleiforst.....Editor

ADVISORY BOARD

Brian Litteken John McLaughlin

All correspondence and all articles intended
 for publication in this paper should be
 addressed to:

Tom Schulte, Managing Editor
 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.**

Opinions expressed intend no malice toward anyone
 — neither do they necessarily express the views of the
 editor nor that of Branch 343 N.A.L.C.

Articles may be edited for brevity and potential libelous
 statements.

LETTER CARRIERS BUILDING BRANCH OFFICE

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

President: 314-761-1784
 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
 Wednesday 8 am to 5 pm

SAFETY & HEALTH

Richard Thurman, Creve Coeur
 314-218-4829

EEO REPRESENTATIVE

Andrew Garces
 314-353-5702

MBA LIFE INSURANCE

Saronda Sutherland, MBA
 314-623-9354

FOR PERSONAL HELP CALL: 1-800-EAP-4-YOU

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 NOVEMBER issue is OCTOBER 13, 2025

★ ★ ★

REGULAR BRANCH MEETING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025 7:30 pm

★ ★ ★

SHOP STEWARDS MEETING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025 7:30 PM

The Letter Carriers Building
 1600 S Broadway



Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 St. Louis, MO
 Permit No. 1452

John H. Haake Branch 343
MOUND CITY CARRIER
 1600 S Broadway
 St. Louis, MO 63104
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED