

MOUND CITY CARRIER

Official Publication of Branch 343

2026 NALC Publications Award
Mound City Carrier: Best Photo



St. Louis, Missouri
Chartered 1892

Volume 77, No. 10

"Diversity is our Strength and Unity is our Power"

October 2026

VOTE

... By President John McLaughlin

ELECTION

Every union member in good standing as of June 1, 2026, should be receiving a ballot in the mail. Your ballot will be mailed out from September 18-28. If you do not receive a ballot by October 5, contact the NALC membership to request a replacement: 202-393-4695. You will have until October 9 to request a replacement ballot. Follow the instructions that will come with the ballot. Your completed ballot must arrive back at NALC Headquarters by October 19, 2026.

DEBATES

I strongly encourage any member who has not yet done so to look for candidate debates on social media, including Facebook and YouTube. Branch 1100 hosted a debate with all four presidential candidates, and the Next Generation Carriers podcast held a Q&A with three of them. Although these programs run for a couple of hours, they are worth your time. I was impressed by all the candidates. Each one discussed major issues facing our members, including low pay, toxic work environments, route inspections, and the backlog of grievances at the B Team.

HIPP MEMORANDUM (M-02017)

A memorandum of understanding was signed recently relating to the Heat Illness Prevention Program (HIPP). I was not very impressed with it. As you may or may not know, the branch has filed a class action grievance each year for at least four years. All are still awaiting a resolution. The violations, as the union sees, are management falsifying training records for both letter carriers and management, and management never following the procedures outlines in the program before and when a carrier has a heat episode.

The memorandum all but puts an end to our grievances. In short:

1. The parties agree the USPS developed and administered HIPP.
2. The purpose of the program is to protect employees from heat-related illness.
3. The USPS must comply with the contract.
4. **HIPP is not a contractual requirement.**
5. The Postal Service is reminded about Article 14 (Safety & Health).
6. The parties are going to discuss this more, sometime in the future.



"HIPP is not a contractual requirement" is the only item with any significance in the entire memorandum. I'm really glad the union has spent hours each year writing positions on HIPP just to kick us in the crotch with this pathetic memo. The union does not have a leg to stand on when our national president takes the wind out of our sails, but they are going to talk about it some more later. What is to talk about? I just would like to hear one time that management actually calls 911 or immediately takes a carrier to the hospital. I'll hold my breath.

EUREKA!

Two things did happen I never thought I would see again. First, I received a call from one of my stewards about their manager committed to following the contract. This manager wanted to stop all the payouts from grievances, so he made the ridiculous decision to follow the contract when handing out OT. The manager was actually going to the street and conducting street observations. When asked what he was doing, he remarked, "my job." Needless to say, this manager came from outside St. Louis. I told my steward, "I'll give this a week." I was close, 2 weeks later it ended.

Second, a steward from outside of St. Louis called to inform me of a favorable settlement she was able to reach with a new supervisor. The steward received a

past B Team award in our favor for management not properly distributing overtime. The steward showed the B Team decision to her, and she complied with everything the B Team agreed to. Carriers got paid, cease and desist, and escalating remedies in the future. This is exactly how the grievance process should work. Once a decision is made at the B Team, it is final and binding so that if it were to occur again, resolve the issue at the lowest level exactly how the B Team settled the same issue prior. Needless to say, that supervisor got reamed. The postmaster informed the steward that it was illegal to agree to cease and desist.

RUMOR!?

It has been rumored that PMG Steiner is deeply discouraged by his job and wants to resign. The combination of financial troubles, Trump's vote by mail interference, and being dressed down by multiple politicians on the Hill have brought him to the brink. Cross your fingers. 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 _____

MOUND CITY CARRIER
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St. Louis, MO 63104



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

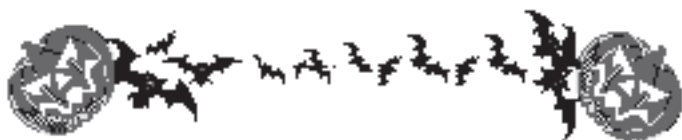
Oct. 7	Retiree Picnic, Greensfelder Shelter, Creve Coeur Memorial Park
Oct. 8	Regular Branch Meeting
Oct. 10	Shop Stewards Banquet (see ad)
Oct. 11	Br. 343 Golf Tournament for MDA Rolling Hills Golf Club
Oct. 12	Columbus Day Holiday Observed
Nov. 4	Retiree Meeting
Nov. 5	Shop Stewards Meeting
Nov. 9 - Dec. 14	PSHBP Open Season
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Holiday Observed
Nov. 12	Regular Branch Meeting

2026 Branch 343 Calendar Correction:

Please be aware of a correction to the Pay Periods in the month of December.

Pay Period 01 on December 12, 2026, should be Pay Period 27.

Accordingly, December 26, 2026, should be Pay Period 01.



Stations represented at the September Shop Stewards Meeting

Carrier Square	Mackenzie Pointe
Clayton	Maryville Gardens
Coyle	Normandy
Creve Coeur	North County
Ferguson	O'Fallon
Gaffney	Sappington
Gravois	South County
Harriet Woods	Southwest
Jennings	West County
Kirkwood	

BRANCH LEGAL PLAN

Advice and Consultation on
General Practice and Civil Actions.



GOFFSTEIN LAW, L.L.C.

JOHN H. GOFFSTEIN
ATTORNEY

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JOHN@GOFFSTEINLAW.COM
GOFFSTEINLAW.COM

Question & Answer

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES GROUP LIFE INSURANCE (FEGLI)



My father needs assistance with his finances, and I am willing to help. Will I be able to manage his retirement benefits using the power of attorney (POA) that he provided for me to manage his affairs.



The **Office of Personnel Management (OPM)** does **not** accept the power of attorney alone to manage a CSRS or Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) annuity. Instead, it requires either a court-appointed guardian or conservator, or an OPM-approved representative payee. To request a representative payee arrangement, file OPM Form RI 20-7 and the required supporting documents. If there is already a court appointment, send OPM a certified copy. Once approved, the representative payee must use the annuity only for the annuitant's benefit, save any money not needed for current expenses, and be prepared to account to OPM for how the funds are used. The payee must also notify OPM promptly if the arrangement ends or if the annuitant dies.

Contact information:

opm.gov/retirement-center/my-annuity-and-benefits/representative-payee/

Courtesy: NARFE Magazine

St. Louis Postal Accountability and Reform Act

... By Executive Vice President Brian Litteken

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) performed an audit of the St. Louis Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC), the Network Distribution Center (NDC) in Hazelwood, four St. Louis post offices, the O'Fallon Main Post Office, the Ballwin Main Post Office, and the St. Charles Main Post Office during June 2025 based on congressional inquiries from U.S. senators and representatives from Missouri and Illinois. The OIG identified deficiencies with clearance times; delayed mail; late, canceled, and extra outbound trips; and scan compliance at the St. Louis P&DC and NDC. The OIG identified deficiencies with delayed mail, package scanning, arrow keys, and package separations at the four St. Louis post offices and O'Fallon.

Members of the Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Operations including Representative Wesley Bell, D-Mo., 1st District) toured the P&DC in downtown St. Louis on Friday, September 11, to better understand some of the postal issues impacting the region.

Representative Bell introduced the bipartisan *St. Louis Postal Accountability and Reform Act* to address the issues detailed in the OIG report. The following comes directly from that bill.

Sec. 2. Findings

- (2) In August and September of 2025, the United States Postal Service Office of Inspector General published two audit reports in response to eight congressional inquiries from senators and representatives from Missouri and Illinois:
- The Office of Inspector General Audit Report 25-097-R25, "Efficiency of Operations at the St. Louis Processing and Distribution Center, St. Louis, MO" and
 - The Office of Inspector General Audit Report 25-100-R25, "Kansas-Missouri District: Delivery Operations — St. Louis, MO."

- (3) The Office of Inspector General found that the Kansas-Missouri District ranked among the lowest-performing postal districts in the country for mail delivery from May through July 2025, averaging fourth out of 50 districts nationwide, and below average for package delivery during the same period.
- (4) The Office of Inspector General identified over 89,000 pieces of delayed mail across seven audited delivery units on June 25, 2025, the majority of which went unreported in the United States Postal Service's internal tracking system, limiting management's ability to identify and address service failures.
- (5) The Office of Inspector General found that the St. Louis Processing and Distribution Center missed its letter processing clearance time target more than half of the days reviewed between February and April 2025 and identified millions of delayed mail pieces during a site visit in June 2025.
- (6) The Office of Inspector General found that staffing shortfalls, including high turnover, elevated vacancy rates, and workforce availability below the United States Postal Service's own goals, contributed to operational challenges at both the St. Louis Processing and Distribution Center and Kansas-Missouri District delivery units.
- (7) The operational challenges identified in the 2025 audits are consistent with deficiencies documented in a prior Office of Inspector General audit of the St. Louis Processing and Distribution Center in July 2022, and Congress has an obligation to ensure that corrective actions are implemented and that St. Louis-area residents and businesses receive the reliable postal service they are entitled to.



SEC. 3. REPORT ON MAIL AND PACKAGE DELIVERY SERVICE PERFORMANCE IN THE ST. LOUIS REGION

Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the postmaster general shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, a report evaluating first-class mail service performance in the St. Louis region for fiscal years 2023, 2024, and 2025. Such report shall include:

1. A comparison of on-time delivery performance for first-class mail, marketing mail, priority mail, and ground advantage products in the St. Louis region against:
 - A. The national average;
 - B. Similarly sized postal processing districts; and
 - C. The Kansas-Missouri District's own performance in prior years.
2. An explanation of the causes of any service performance in the District that lags behind national averages;
3. An analysis of workforce conditions across the St. Louis Processing and Distribution Center and Kansas-Missouri District delivery units, including:
 - A. Vacancy rates by position type, including clerks, mail handlers, carriers, maintenance personnel, and supervisors;

- B. Turnover rates for carriers and clerks;
- C. Absenteeism and unscheduled leave rates;
- D. The operational impact of workforce shortages on mail processing, transportation, and delivery.

4. An assessment of the accuracy of delayed mail reporting in the Delivery Condition Visualization system and the Mail Condition Visualization system across the Kansas-Missouri District, including a description of any systemic underreporting and the steps taken to correct it.

SEC. 4. ACCOUNTABILITY

The postmaster general shall include in the report required under Section 3 a description of the management accountability systems in place at the St. Louis Processing and Distribution Center and Kansas-Missouri District delivery units to prevent recurrence of the operational deficiencies identified in the Office of Inspector General Audit Reports 25-097-R25 and 25-100-R25, including:

3. The processes in place to ensure that staffing shortfalls are identified and addressed in a timely manner, including recruitment, retention, and workforce planning strategies specific to the St. Louis region.

BRANCH 343 SHOP STEWARDS

Awards Banquet

Saturday, October 10, 2026

Guest Speaker: NALC, Director of Health Benefit Plan Stephanie M. Stewart

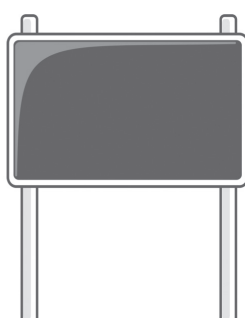
Festivities will begin at 6 p.m.

Letter Carriers Hall
1600 S. Broadway

MDA GOLF TOURNAMENT

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Rolling Hills Golf Club

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

Rebuilding Real Union Brotherhood and Sisterhood

... By Vice President Financial Secretary Marvin Booker

A strong union is more than a contract, a dues structure, or a group of employees represented at the bargaining table. A real union is a community of working people who understand that their greatest strength comes from standing together. Brotherhood and sisterhood are not simply words used at meetings or printed on union materials. They are relationships built through trust, respect, sacrifice, communication, and action. If we want stronger unions, we must rebuild those relationships from the ground up.

The first step is **restoring trust**. Trust cannot be demanded; it must be earned. Workers need to believe that their coworkers will stand with them when times are difficult. Union leaders can help rebuild that trust by being transparent, communicating consistently, following through on commitments, and listening to members before making decisions. Members must also hold themselves accountable. When we say we will support a coworker, attend a meeting, or help solve a problem, we need to follow through.

The second step is **bringing people back together**. In many offices, employees rarely have meaningful conversations with one another. Leaders can organize regular workplace meetings, member-to-member conversations, educational sessions, and social events that allow people to connect outside of a crisis. A union should not become visible only when there is a grievance or contract fight. Solidarity must be built every day.

We must also create a culture where **every member matters**. Unions bring together people from different generations, backgrounds, job classifications, and life experiences. Those differences should not divide us. In fact, they can make us stronger when we learn from one another. Brotherhood and sisterhood do not require everyone to agree on everything. They require us to respect one another, recognize our common interests, and refuse to allow differences to destroy our collective strength.

Mentorship is another powerful tool for rebuilding solidarity.

Experienced members carry the history of the workplace and the union. They remember past struggles, understand how the contract works, and know lessons that cannot always be learned from a handbook. Union leaders should create formal or informal mentoring opportunities that connect long time members with newer workers. This creates continuity and ensures that the knowledge earned through years of experience is passed on to the next generation.

We also need to **increase member participation**. A union cannot depend on the same few people to attend every meeting, organize every event, and fight every battle. Leaders should actively invite

members to participate and create meaningful opportunities for them to contribute. That could include committees, safety initiatives, contract education, new member orientation, workplace outreach, or community service. When people have a role in building their union, they develop a stronger sense of ownership.

Most importantly, solidarity must be **visible through action**. If a coworker is struggling with an unsafe working condition, unfair treatment, harassment, discipline, or another workplace concern, other members should not simply walk away. They should listen, offer appropriate support, and help the coworker understand the resources and procedures available to them. Supporting one another does not mean ignoring facts or abandoning due process. It means refusing to let a fellow worker face legitimate workplace problems alone.

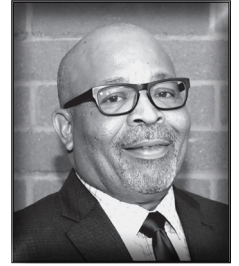
Union leaders also have a responsibility to **lead by example**. Members notice how leaders treat people. If leaders listen respectfully, resolve disagreements professionally, communicate honestly, and make room for new voices, members are more likely to follow that example. Leadership should not be about having the loudest voice in the room. It should be about creating an environment where people feel heard, respected, and willing to participate.

Finally, we must remember **why solidarity matters**. One worker acting alone may have limited influence, but workers acting together can have a meaningful collective voice. That principle is the foundation of organized labor. When workers protect one another's dignity, safety, wages and opportunity, they strengthen the entire workplace.

Rebuilding real brotherhood and sisterhood will not happen overnight. It will happen through thousands of everyday decisions: Welcoming a new member, checking on a coworker, attending a meeting, learning the contract, mentoring someone, speaking respectfully, sharing information, and standing together when it matters.

The future of a union depends not only on the language of its contract but also on the strength of the relationships among its members. Brotherhood and sisterhood are commitments we demonstrate through our behavior. If we choose trust over division, participation over apathy, communication over silence, and solidarity over isolation, we can rebuild a union culture where every worker knows one fundamental truth: **We are stronger when we stand together.**

Until next time, stay safe and be professional.



Recording Secretary

... By Recording Secretary Richard Brown

ELECTIONS

As you all know, elections for our NALC national officers are now in full swing. If you have not already, you should be receiving a ballot very soon. This ballot will afford you the opportunity to choose officers in just about every major position. More importantly, you will have to get that ballot completed and returned by October 19, 2026, **not postmarked by**. This simply means complete and return it immediately upon receipt.

While the positions are all important, the office of president appears most important. This is mainly because we have four candidates to choose from and each bring their own value to the position. The other thing to think about is that they will lead the entire union for 4 years and will be responsible for negotiating our next contract.

There are several podcasts on YouTube and other social media sites, by which the candidates can be seen and/or heard responding to questions regarding their intent in office. Some of them have appeared more than others, while some explain in more detail than others, their intent and accomplishments thus far. Please search for interviews on social media to get a better idea of who these candidates are.

Also, our local branch recently had nominations for officers to serve the union 2027-2029. While some positions went uncontested (president, executive vice president, health benefits rep, MBA, negotiator-at-large), the others may require a vote if the fields were not narrowed by declination, within the time allowed.

Either way, be on the lookout for a ballot in the mail for Branch 343 positions which remain contested.

MAIL TROUBLE

If you have been looking at the local news, you are probably familiar with the mail troubles of St. Louis. While finding mail in places it shouldn't be is not new, it seems to have escalated in the last year. The OIG even found delayed mail in our processing plant downtown, but that didn't stop the service from delaying it.

There was an investigation/audit conducted in 2025, where multiple facilities and post offices throughout St. Louis were visited due to mail being reported missing. Well, more discrepancies were found as a result of those investigations. Again, that process did not stop the delay of mail. As most active carriers know, management regularly fails to have mail delivered on routes when the regular carrier is on vacation or calls off.

Congress then ordered a report detailing mail and package delivery

performance in St. Louis. It is unknown if the report has been completed. What we do know is that Texas Senator Pete Sessions and Missouri 1st Dist. Rep Wesley Bell and PMG David Steiner were in St. Louis recently, but the visit seems to be on the hush. Oddly enough, personnel located at the Main Post Office were advised not to leave their offices during the visit. I wonder why. There were no reports of sightings of our visitors at any offices, but they should have visited Maryville at least.

Mail was recently found dumped in a vacant lot in North St. Louis. Management was quick to place blame on a carrier, and he has been officially charged with a crime. Why didn't this happen when the OIG found the mail in the processing plant? Shouldn't senior management in St. Louis have been held accountable in the same way? Either way the delay of mail is wrong, and I just hope the service gets the right person(s), especially since they are pursuing criminal charges against one individual.

OVERTIME

There has been an influx of complaints regarding how management distributes overtime. Yes, there is a specific manner in which overtime should be distributed; first to OTDL carriers (4-hour max), PTFs (3.5 hours max), then by drafting non-OTDL carriers. This all occurs on a regular scheduled day. More importantly, if you come in on your day off (working overtime), management can't switch your day off to another day and make the "overtime day" a regular scheduled day. That act is a violation of Article 8.5.

The other issue that comes up a lot is carriers not being allowed to come to work on their day off. Unfortunately, management is not required to bring you in on your day off. I know you may be thinking, "but I'm on the list." The requirement is that they work the OTDL prior to issuing overtime to non-OTDL carriers.

They are also not allowed to work non-OTDL carriers prior to maximizing the OTDL to 12 hours on the OTDL carrier's non-scheduled day. This could mean bringing the non-OTDL in on their day off or issuing overtime to more than one non-OTDL, that equates to at least 8 hours in one day. If the latter happens, more likely than not, they violate Article 8.5 by not maximizing the list. You can help by letting your steward know if you see these violations because he or she may not be at work when this happens.

Stay vigilant and be sure to complete your letter carrier task in a professional manner.



Health Benefits Plan/OWCP

... By Barry Linan



October greetings to all of the brothers and sisters of NALC Branch 343. PMG Steiner is continuing his goal of alienating the USPS from our customers and destroying our reputation for service. Management decided that overtime costs were too high and their solution was to just let whole routes sit undelivered. Management then decided they could also save overtime by instructing OTDL carriers to just scan and deliver the parcels on a route, but leave that day's mail undelivered. Those same actions would have gotten that manager placed off the clock and escorted out by the postal inspectors just a few years ago, but apparently this is the new normal under PMG Steiner's USPS management team?

PMG Steiner came to the USPS straight from the board of FedEx and his net worth is estimated at \$147 million. I don't think he cares at all about providing service to the average American or about preserving the USPS. At a recent meeting of the USPS board of governors, he claimed to be "deeply immersed in our business" and yet when questioned by Missouri Senator Josh Hawley, claimed he didn't know anything about the huge pile of mail found on a vacant lot in Saint Louis. Steiner then told the board that during the last quarter operations we "have reduced work hours and increased service performance." Say what? I worked in delivery for decades and I can tell you with certainty that **you can't increase service by cutting hours**. That is a bald-faced lie and if Steiner continues spending billions on building more of the "Mega Center" hubs to centralize delivery operations, it's only going to get worse!

HBP NEWS

This year's **PSHB Open Season** for changes to your health, dental, or vision benefit plans **begins on Monday, November 8, and ends at midnight on Monday, December 14**. If you are not a member of our NALC HBP, please consider joining us during this open season. Ours is the only union owned, union administered, and union staffed plan in the PSHB. We offer competitive rates, first class customer service, and outstanding plan benefits! To make a HBP change, you will need to go to the **secure**.

login.gov webpage and then use your **login.gov** ID and password to access your account. To make changes for dental or vision plans, go to the **benefeds.gov** webpage where you will also need your **login.gov** ID and password to get access to make changes there. HBP premiums for 2027 will be announced sometime in October. I note that health industry analysts expect another premium increase of 7%-11% for 2027. Where is all of our much, much ballyhooed PSHB premium savings promised from the mandated PSHB — Medicare integration in the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022?

OWCP NEWS

We continue to have issues with injured carriers not being properly issued a **Form CA-16 — Authorization for Examination and/or Treatment by their supervisor**. **Issuance of the CA-16 is not optional and is required under Federal law per 20 CFR Part 10.300**. Upon reporting an on-job-injury to your supervisor "that requires medical examination, medical treatment, or both" that supervisor is required to "authorize such examination or treatment by issuing a Form CA-16." The CA-16 is very important for two reasons. One, it authorizes medical treatment and instructs the medical provider to bill OWCP for that treatment, not your medical insurance. Two, on the back of the CA-16 is the **Attending Physicians Report** and it needs completion by the provider who initially treats you for your injury. The information provided on the Attending Physicians Report is very important to OWCP and can be enough to get your claim accepted. Make sure the Attending Physicians Report is completed by your medical provider and **keep copies of all forms**.

If you are taken directly to the ER, the Form CA-16 should be issued to the ER by your supervisor within 4 hours. If you already received medical treatment and were somehow not issued a Form CA-16 prior by your supervisor, request the form from them. If they still refuse to provide a CA-16, request to see your steward immediately and have a grievance filed.

Region 5 NBA Report

... By David A. Teegarden



REGION 5 RAP SESSION 2027

The Region 5 Rap Session is scheduled for February 4–7, 2027. The hotel agreement has been signed, and I will notify branch presidents when the reservation link is available. The room-block cutoff is in early January, so branches planning to attend should secure membership approval between now and the end of December. The earlier, the better. Please use the reservation link once it is available.

We have contracted 200 rooms each for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night. This year's Rap Session returns to our original weekend schedule. Thursday afternoon will include the branch president meeting and an informal meet-and-greet. Classes will be held on Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., followed by the NBA reception on Saturday evening. Sunday will feature the Rap Session with a nationally assigned officer.

We will continue our aggressive class schedule, offering multiple choices and several new classes.

FIVE NEW MOUS SIGNED

NALC recently reached agreement with the Postal Service on five MOUs.

M-02017 – Heat Illness Prevention Program: Establishes a process for issues related to the Postal Service's HIPP. HIPP-related grievances will be discussed by the national parties, while other issues, including falsification or Article 14 violations, will proceed under Article 15. If you have a HIPP-related grievance being held locally, please contact the NBA office for guidance before withdrawing it or advancing it.

M-02018 – PS Form 1767: The Postal Service withdrew its request for interpretive review concerning the filing of PS Form 1767 and remedies for rights not bargained for in the contract.

M-02019 – Monetization of Annual Leave: Allows eligible career carriers to sell back up to 80 hours of annual leave before the beginning of the leave year. Employees must be at the ELM 512.32 maximum carryover of 440 hours and have

used fewer than 75 hours of sick leave during the previous leave year.

M-02020 – Annual Leave Carryover for Leave Year 2027: Increases the maximum annual leave carryover for regular workforce career employees to 520 hours from the 2026 leave year into 2027. The MOU expires at the conclusion of the 2027 leave year.

M-02021 – Bidding Procedures: Extends the bidding procedures under Article 12.3.A, effective May 23, 2026. Carriers may continue bidding on and being awarded vacant assignments during contract negotiations and, if necessary, interest arbitration. Successful bids made after May 23, 2026, will count toward the maximum number of bids established in the next National Agreement.

NALC NATIONAL ELECTION

Ballots for the NALC National Election will be mailed **on or about September 18** to all eligible voters. Voting instructions will be included with the ballots. To be eligible, a member must have been in good standing as of **June 1, 2026**. Members who do not receive a ballot by **October 5** should contact the Membership Department at 202-393-4695 for a replacement. The deadline to request a replacement ballot is **4 p.m. Eastern Time on October 9, 2026**.

On a personal note, I want to thank the members of Region 5 for your support at the National Convention during my nomination and election by acclamation. Seeing the support and confidence of Region 5 was truly humbling. My commitment to you remains the same: **find, develop, and train our replacements while giving every carrier an opportunity to reach their full potential within the NALC**. Education will continue to be the centerpiece of Region 5, ensuring our members have the knowledge and tools to protect their jobs and rights under the National Agreement.

In short, we will continue to raise the bar in **training, arbitration and remedies, contract enforcement, and contract compliance**.

Retiree Meeting

... By Guest Recording Secretary Nicki L. Prado



SEPTEMBER 2, 2026

Chairman Tom Schulte called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m. Chaplain Lawrence McHaynes led us in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Tom thanked Region 5 NBA David Teegarden and staff for providing the delicious BBQ lunch and desserts. Tom reminded everyone that October 7 is the retiree picnic at the Greensfelder Shelter in Creve Coeur Memorial Park.

Minutes from the last meeting: The minutes were read by guest Recording Secretary Nicki L. Prado.

Treasurer Report: Mike Chenot reported a checking balance of \$918.36 after expenses and cash on hand of \$580.

NBA Report: Region 5 NBA David Teegarden spoke about the importance of voting in the upcoming NALC elections. Ballots should be in the mail by September 28. If you don't receive a ballot by October 6, please contact NALC Headquarters. Ballots must be returned by October 19. Dave spoke about the upcoming Missouri State Training at the Lake of the Ozarks on September 26 and 27. Dave thanked the retirees for their many years of service to the union and for paving the way for all current letter carriers.

Branch 343 Presidents Report: John McLaughlin spoke about a You Tube Q&A podcast in which all the current candidates running for NALC president answered questions from a moderator. Please take the time to watch the debate before casting your ballot. Locally, route inspections are about to commence at Des Peres and Kirkwood. With management's lack of cooperation, the results are not expected to be favorable.

Legislative Report: Mike Weir stated that our current COLA stands at 3.5%. The country is in big trouble, with our national debt exceeding \$40 trillion, a \$4.2 trillion increase since the passage of the Big Beautiful Bill which gives even bigger tax breaks to the oligarch class. All the major corporations received the rebates of the illegal international

tariffs, while the rest of Americans fell deeper into debt. Trump is now picking fights with Canada and the rest of our NATO alliances in western Europe. While polls show the president and the Republican party losing favor with the electorate, plans are afoot to discredit voting by mail, with the apparent approval of the postmaster general. The attorney general is threatening to send out ICE agents to specific polling locations. Be prepared to vote in the November elections and take back our democracy.

Health Benefits Report: Barry Linan reported that if you have NALC Health Benefits Insurance, you can sign up, online, for various wellness programs. There is no cost. PSHBP Open Season begins November 9 through December 14. We can expect that all healthcare costs will go up.

Chairmans Report: Tom Schulte announced that the October retiree picnic will be held at the Greensfelder Shelter at the top of the hill overlooking Creve Coeur Lake. Art Buck volunteered to provide the beer, soda, water and ice. Tom asked for volunteers to come out early to help set up.

Unfinished Business: Tom asked Geno Iberg to relay the story of presenting KSDK's Mike Bush with a signed congratulatory card from the retirees. Geno said Mike was very appreciative and was grateful to all Branch 343 letter carriers for their contributions to the MDA Telethon fundraisers through the years. Geno made Mike an honorary letter carrier and presented him with a retiree shirt.

\$25 Gift Card to QT won by Bill Lister

50/50 Winner: \$18 won by Wayne Imes who donated it back to the retirees.

Closing Prayer: Offered by Chaplain Lawrence McHaynes

Meeting Adjourned: 1:30 p.m.

The Following are the Results of the Nominations for Branch 343 Officers and Delegates to the St. Louis Labor Council that took place at the Regular Branch Meeting on Thursday, September 10, 2026

President (1)

Brian Litteken – (Won by Acclamation)

Exec. Vice-President/Treasurer (1)

Richard Brown – (Won by Acclamation)

Vice Pres/Financial Secretary (1)

Marvin Booker
James Anderson
Andrew Garces

Recording Secretary (1)

Marvin "Blu" King
Shonna Randle

Sergeant-at-Arms (1)

Frank Enlow – (Won by Acclamation)

MBA (1)

Saronda Sutherland – (Won by Acclamation)

HBR (1)

Barry Linan – (Won by Acclamation)

Trustees (5)

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

Correspondent to the Postal Record (1)

Matthew Gleiforst – (Won by Acclamation)

Negotiators at Large (4)

Andrew Garces
Charles Kell
Carmellia 'Nikki' Jackson
Richard Thurman
(Won by Acclamation)

Delegates St. Louis Labor Council (7)

Pam Stepney
Frank Enlow
Mike Weir
Marvin Booker
Brian Litteken
John McLaughlin
William "Bill" Lister
(Won by Acclamation)

All candidates in the contested offices have 14 days from the September 10 regular branch meeting date to decline the nomination and 21 days to accept the nomination.

Elections will be held in the fall for all contested offices.

The New Fleet Has Arrived

... By Matt Gleiforst, South County

Hello from South County. A couple of months ago I mentioned that we were starting to receive some of the new Next Generation Delivery Vehicles (NGDV). As of now almost every route in South County has been assigned a NGDV. I am aware that other stations are also being sent these vehicles as well so they will be a pretty common sight across St. Louis before long. I have my opinions on the new vehicles, but I also went around and asked a few carriers what they thought of them. I wasn't too surprised to hear that there is a bit of a negative reception to these new trucks. While there are some perks there are also many downsides.

The most obvious perk to these vehicles is the air conditioning. I will admit that I have grown quite fond of the cold air blowing on the hot days. It has certainly made the excruciating heat more bearable, and I am sure I will feel the same way about the heater in the winter months. Another thing people seem to like is how much room is in the back. At 6 foot 2 inches, I can stand completely upright, and my head does not touch the ceiling. There are also six fold down trays that can be utilized to hold tubs of parcels or trays of mail. On the heavier volume days this is a very nice feature to utilize.

Unfortunately, there are many negatives to the NGDV as well that carriers need to be aware of. The most common complaint I hear is that the vehicle is too long and too tall. The extra space is nice, but it is difficult to navigate around tight spaces, and we need to be very mindful of low hanging trees and basketball hoops because these trucks are so tall that they will absolutely hit these obstacles. Another issue people are having is with the door sensors. For a few carriers, the vehicle monitor states that the lift gate is ajar or that another door is open when all doors are clearly closed. Also, these vehicles have a brake check feature that, when backing, the vehicle will automatically brake when within 2 feet of an object. This is great, but it will do it when the object is the curb that we are trying to back up to as well. It can

be very jarring when this happens and has caused me to scream a few expletives more than once. Finally on the sensors, when in traffic, the collision alert alarm goes off often when getting close to another vehicle. This gets to be very annoying, and, in my opinion, is dangerous due to the loud and distracting alert it chimes.

The most important negative of the vehicle is the camera system and the overall vision from the vehicle. When the camera monitoring system works, especially the backup camera, it's great. Unfortunately, there are times when the cameras will just stop working and you can't see anything behind you. There is no rear mirror to look at or anything. We also have limited vision on our left side. The old FFVs had a cargo side window, however the NGDV does not, so it can be a bit scary making a right hand turn at an intersection.

One other negative not related to safety is that these vehicles are gas guzzlers. I think mine took 22 or 23 gallons to fill, and some carriers are having to fill up twice a week. There's no way these things are going to help our institution financially.

Long story short, carriers, **be careful** operating these vehicles. If anything, and I mean anything, goes wrong with one of these, write it up and get a different vehicle. Take the extra time needed to perform your duties in a safe manner. I'll admit that it takes me longer to deliver out of this new vehicle because I'm being more cautious. I implore you all to do the same. Do your jobs efficiently, but most importantly, do them safely.

Until next time keep your heads held high and keep surviving!



West County Retiree

... By Pam Stepney

Greetings sisters and brothers of Branch 343. How's everybody doing? Fine, I hope. Election ballots are on the way, so stop today and check your mailboxes. There's **no** need to mail it back late! So, sit down, look it over, and select the union candidates you want to support — candidates who are waiting and ready to fight your battles.

There have been debates on the internet between the candidates, and I hope you saw them and did your research. From what I saw, I support the Nicole Rhine/Peralta team, and I believe Nicole Rhine's experience and background make her an important candidate to consider. She is from Region 5, meaning she represents our very own area. She has worked hard climbing to the top, and her record shows the experience she brings to the position.

Remember, she was there when the former president was missing in action, standing strong as secretary treasurer. Plus, on the podcast, they said she helped with whatever they asked for when they wanted to see the books.

I know there are other candidates out there with great credentials, but I want someone with experience working for three different presidents, like she did.

Local elections are happening right here in our branch. Make sure you sit down and select the candidates who will represent you and letter carrier issues. Take the time to read the names on the ballots and select each person you would like to see win.

CAN WE TALK ABOUT BULLYING?

Nobody should have their feelings hurt from simply asking a question.

If you are elected as an officer, please understand that not all people understand computers or interpret the contract the same way when they read it. Some people graduated at the top of their class, and some people struggled to make it through.

I've said this in the past: When Mike Weir, Bill Lister, Nicki Prado, Ken Meyers, John Haake, and Ray Breakfield were in office, you could ask a question and receive an answer. They never hurt your feelings.

I know times have changed, and there are some people out there playing the game when asking questions. But still, be respectful when answering. If you don't know, ask them to call someone else.

I remember Mike Weir, Nicki Prado, and Ken Meyer would send you the argument on any issue you were facing as a new steward. They would call you to make sure you received the information in

the mail, ask you if you understood it, walk you through the highlighted violations, and tell you to call back if you had questions.

Now, I know the officers are busy, but we need stewards to stay and fight instead of quitting because they have to fight with management, other carriers, and officers.

Stewards, please show up for training at the Union Hall on the first Thursday of each month. If you don't understand the slide they're working from, ask questions. There may be other stewards with the same questions you ask.

Officers, be respectful and don't dismiss the stewards' questions. They're trying to figure it out while still being a letter carrier on the workroom floor.



MDA GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thank you to all of the stations and branches who sponsored a \$100 hole at the MDA golf tournament.

Stop where you are and give yourselves a round of applause!

RETIREES PICNIC

Retirees, if you are newly retired, make plans to come out to the retirees picnic on October 7 at noon at Creve Coeur Park.

JOHN HAAKE / CHARLES COYLE SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship applications are in this book you're holding right now.

If you have a senior graduating in 2027, fill out the form and mail it today.

Remember, if you are active, retired, or the member is deceased, you can put the application in for your children or grandchildren for the John H. Haake Scholarship.

The Charles Coyle Scholarship is a \$1,000 scholarship for college and will be selected at the convention by the luck of the draw.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Happy Halloween to all of you. Remember: Safety first when delivering in the dark.

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

Where There's a Will, There's a Delay

... By retired letter carrier Mike Laury

My wife and I met with an attorney back in August of this year to amend our irrevocable trust to a revocable trust. It was quite the snooze-fest, as I nodded in agreement with the "written lawyers speak" and legal jargon. Mr. Attorney Mike, who seemingly had been speaking in what to me was a foreign tongue, finally regained my attention when he said, "That will be \$2,000 to update your final wishes." It's difficult to get a deal or discount on attorney fees when trying to use a senior citizen or Groupon discount. Sensing that I was suffering from some type of "sticker shock," Attorney Mike half-jokingly told me, "You need to know that when you use a last will and testament, it usually gets hung up or delayed in probate court. Besides that, Mr. and Mrs. Laury, your estate is valued well into six figures, so a will wouldn't fit your particular needs."

When my Grandma Laury followed Grandpa to their heavenly reward, my dad and his six other siblings discussed over dinner how their "estate" would be divided. There were no lawyers nor the contractual suffocating language that came with a will. It was the winter of 1974 when my aunts and uncles divided up items in the estate amongst themselves. My mom and dad got the 1967 chevy wagon, while things like jewelry, furs and other household items were divided amongst them without any bickering or resentment, according to my dad. Proceeds from the sale of the house were divided equally, seven ways.

Many years later, my grandparents' old house went up for sale, so a couple of my brothers and I toured the inside and outside of it with no intention of buying it. I remember in particular the bathroom, where as a child I stared with horror at Grandpa's false teeth, soaking in some Polident. My brothers and I concluded that the house seemed a lot bigger as kids, where we celebrated Thanksgiving and Christmas every year. I recall Grandpa's hearing aid, tucked in his front pocket and my dad yelling "Hey Pop!" before he kissed Gramps on the forehead. There was lots of shouting in their home for the "hard of

hearing." My grandparents had a huge backyard where my cousins and I played Indian ... or rather "Native American Ball" during the summertime. In their basement, where there always seemed to be a musty smell as you reached the bottom of the steps, during most holiday celebrations, a variety of pies were lined up on a large table, which my Aunt Betty guarded from little fingers, until we said the family blessing.

As I drove home that day, other memories washed over me. We even got to see Neil Armstrong walk on the moon in 1969 watching it on the first color TV we had ever seen. It was OK that Hoss and Little Joe used to glow with shades of orange and red and that Ed Sullivan looked like he had a mild case of jaundice. Those were simpler times, even if technology had to iron out some of the "bugs" that came with it.

Fast-forward to 2026, where letter carriers are now being bathed in sunlight, with fall colors and Halloween decorations replacing some of the "wicked hot" summer days and oppressive July humidity. The sound of crunching leaves and the bit of nip in the air were two of the reasons this always my favorite time of year to carry mail. So be safe out there as we edge closer to the "Fall Classic," the World Series. Maybe, just maybe, in a couple more years, the Cardinals can win the last game in November and add a 12th WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP to their historically impressive resume. Rest in peace, Mr. Forsch.



MDA GOLF TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

CONTACT:

BRIAN LITTEKEN AT

314-241-4297



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 2026-2027 school year.

I am the (child) of (retired) _____
(grandchild) (active) letter carrier _____
(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, 2026.



NOTICE FOR THE 2027 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 2026-2027 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, 2026.

BRANCH MEETING

BRANCH 343, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

Summary of Branch Action

MSC: To pay the branch bills.

MSC: The branch pays up to two nights lodging at \$157 per night, \$90 registration fee, and \$100 expense money for a maximum of four branch members who have attended at least 16 branch meetings between October 2024 and September 2026.

MSC: That the branch donate a pair of Br. 343 Cardinal 2027 season baseball tickets to accompany a basket along with other items for their silent auction/raffle.

MSC: That the branch sponsor a hole for \$100 for the Missouri State Association 31st Annual Golf Tournament for MDA on Friday, September 25.

New Members

Gregory Crumer IIIUnion.....7/25/2026
Kelley HarveyPiedmont..... 8/29/2026
Sikina HughesSouth County 8/25/2026
Willy Schejbal.....Union.....7/25/2026
Antoine WilliamsTown & Country.....9/5/2026

Recently Retired Members

Charley F. Key Jr.Gaffney8/31/2026
Todd Lester Maryville Gardens ...8/21/2026

Deceased Member

Charley F. Key Jr.Retired



Branch Meeting Attendance Prizes

1. Cardinals vs. Oakland Athletics	Sept. 13	John McLaughlin, Des Peres
2. Cardinals vs. San Francisco Giants	Sept. 14	Tom Schulte, Retired
3. Cardinals vs. San Francisco Giants	Sept. 15	Nate Markovich, Southwest
4. Cardinals vs. San Francisco Giants	Sept. 16	Mike Weir, Retired
5. Cardinals vs. Washington Senators	Sept. 20	Pamela Stepney, Retired



\$43

Andre Hayes, Retired

Highlights

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Chet Drain and the minutes were read and accepted.

NBA Report, Dave Teegarden: Rap session will be February 4-7 at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Kansas City. Five MOUs recently came out; 02017-HIPP training, 02018-regarding filing 1767s remedies for rights not bargained for, 02019-sell back of annual leave, 02020-monetization of annual leave (sell back), 02021-maximum successful bids. Elections for national officers coming up, do your homework and look at the debates online.

Break for Nominations of officers

Retirees Report, Tom Schulte: There were 30 in attendance. Tom thanked the NBA office for providing lunch. Do your due diligence and research the background of the candidates for national office. There will be a 3-week window for ballots to be back so get it back in the mail asap.

Labor Council Report, Frank Enlow: A data center may be put at the old Emerson building (Ferguson). The data center is supposed to give \$7 million to the neighborhood. Politicians that support Trump are telling people to vote as if he is running again. People that support Trump is not good for us, pay attention when you vote.

Health Benefit Report, Barry Linan: The 2026 NALC insurance booklets are in the back, the current rates are listed on the back of it, but the new rates are not out yet. Our rates may go up due to the current climate, but we still have one of the best plans out there.

OWCP Report, Barry Linan: CA-16s are still not being given to carriers when injured and COP is not being paid appropriately, if at all. The attending physicians report on the back of the CA-16 must be completed. This can make a difference if your claim is approved or not.

Mound City Carrier Report, Tom Schulte: The current MCC (Sept.) release date was pushed back due to the National Convention. The rotating day calendar is the centerfold of this month's issue. Missouri State training is September 25-27, Retiree Picnic is on October 7 at Creve Coeur Park, Shop Steward's banquet is October 10, and the Annual MDA Golf Tournament is October 11.

Haake Scholarship Report, Pam Stepney: The Haake Scholarship is in the September MCC issue, you must apply by December 31. Grandchildren of carriers (active or retired) can also apply.

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

Political Action Committee Report, Mike Weir: Read the names of the contributors. The COLA is currently 3.4%.

Legislative Report, Mike Weir: Republicans and Democrats both voted against Amendment 4 and 5. Vote no on amendment 3, yes on amendment 6 and no on Prop A (redistricting). Contribute to the PAC and LCPF.

Executive Vice President/Treasurer Report, Brian Litteken: Republicans in the Missouri Congress are attempting to impeach the judges that held Denny Hoskins in contempt. Members of the House Oversight Committee and the PMG visited St. Louis last Friday (September 4). This was due to the mail that has been delayed and the mail found in North St. Louis. St. Louis hired only seven city carriers in St. Louis since May. The pilot program to take photos of parcels with your MDD is up and running in New York and other places. See La'Tecse if you want to volunteer for the golf tournament.

Vice President/Financial Secretary Report, Marvin Booker: Read his report for August.

President's Comments, John McLaughlin: Route inspection training was conducted in Kirkwood from 6-8 by Brett Messinger. The RCI team is attempting to take senior carriers' routes again and blaming the union if citywide bidding has to take place again. John will address the postmaster about this. The manager of labor asked if he was interested in minor adjustments, but he asked them to just do the inspections properly. The RCI team tried to convince the steward at Des Peres to convince the other carriers to take on more deliveries. This to eliminate routes more easily, without a fight. Management is trying to resurface the "redline program," where carriers can't cross this line until they dispose of their mark-ups. Go online and look at the debates of our national officer candidates.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard Brown, Recording Secretary

Step Up on November 3 to Protect Our Democracy!

... By Mike Weir

Given the brazen attacks on the very foundations of our Constitution and our basic rights as American citizens since President Trump was inaugurated in January of 2025, we need to step up to take back our Democracy and to protect the values it embodies. Here in Missouri, that process began in the August 4 primaries with the rejection of Amendments 4 and 5 by huge majorities, and it must continue in the midterms on November 3! That overwhelming vote on August 4 against the Republican leadership's attempts to undermine our rights as citizens clearly reflected a united front of Democrats, Republicans and Independents. It appears we are finally beginning to recognize that the Republican leaders at the state and federal levels are only interested in protecting the interests of their millionaire and billionaire donors at the expense of the middle class and the poor. President Trump's approval ratings on nearly every issue are in the low to mid 30s while his disapproval ratings are in the low to mid 60s. His policies have been disastrous for our country as well as the rest of the free world. (I emphasize the free world because his actions and words have been largely supportive of and helpful to Putin (Russia) and Xi Jinping (China).) During the so-called midterm Republican convention (which was more like a sparsely attended campaign rally), President Trump repeated his usual lies about inflation (nonexistent), the Iran war (which will be over soon) and the rising standard of living (which the majority of us are not experiencing). Instead of endorsing Republican candidates across the country; as usual, he made it about himself by telling his supporters to vote as though he is on the ballot. Actually, I think that is a good idea. Hold all Republican candidates accountable for their allowing the enormous damage Trump has done to our country and our families to go unaddressed. **Vote them out of office!**

On November 3, we must, again, stop the Republican leadership in Missouri from hoodwinking us and

our fellow citizens. Amendment 3 is yet another attempt to overturn the will of the majority on an issue we have already approved in 2024. Do not let them get away with it. **Vote NO on Amendment 3!**



Amendment 6 was put on the ballot based on **Respect MO Voters'** collection of over 367,000 signatures on their petitions. This amendment expands the initiative and referendum petition process by making it a fundamental right; it prohibits the Missouri legislature from changing or repealing laws enacted through the citizen initiative process or passing laws similar to those rejected by referendum without approval from at least 80% of both chambers and a subsequent vote of the citizens; and it prohibits the legislature from weakening initiative or referendum powers. In other words, Amendment 6 preserves the voters' rights under the Missouri Constitution. **Vote YES on Amendment 6!**

Proposition A is on the ballot as a veto referendum pursued by the People Not Politicians organization. It addresses the gerrymandered map that Republicans established under HB 1 in 2025 to illegally create a 7-1 district map from the current 6-2 district map, potentially giving Republicans an additional representative in Congress. A petition with over 305,000 signatures was collected and provided to the secretary of state's office in December of 2025 in opposition to this plan. In a purely political move, Secretary of State Denny Hoskins refused to certify the signatures, thereby forcing the voters to deal with the gerrymandered map in the primary election of August 4. The issue went to the Missouri Supreme Court. The seven justices (four Republicans and two Democrats) ruled unanimously that the gerrymandered map was not in effect and could not be used in the November 3 election. Ultimately, the U.S. Supreme Court had to weigh in twice that

Political Action Honor Roll

JOE POLITTE★★★★★

JOE FITZJARRELL★★★★★

RICH RHYNER★★★★★

ART BUCK★★★

DAN BRAUCHLE★★★

CATHERINE CIARAMITARO★★★

JOHN H. HAAKE★★★

TONY JASPER★★★

IN MEMORY OF JIM ROBERTS★★★

MIKE WEIR★★★

MARVIN BOOKER★★

BARRY LINAN★★

LAWRENCE McHAYNES JR.★★

KEN MEYER★★

LYNN RAY PRATT★★

SHONNA RANDLE★★

DEAN WERNER★★

CHARLES ALBRECHT★

RICHARD BOIEN★

JIM BRUGGMAN★

JOE CANMAN★

JOHN S. CHUDY★

BEVE CREELY★

JAMES T. GOHEEN★

SAMUEL GOODMAN★

NICK GRILLO★

GENO IBERG★

LAURA KEIM★

BILL LISTER★

JOHN McLAUGHLIN★

NICKI L. PRADO★

IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH P. REGAN★

TOM SCHULTE★

PAMELA STEPNEY★

DARLENE TATE★

RICHARD THURMAN★

KEVIN WELBY★

DON CHARTRAND

ANDY GARCES

ROY HATCHARD JR.

CAROLYN T. HOUSE

LAWRENCE McHAYNES JR.

SHONNA RANDLE

DENNIS STEGMANN

SARONDA SUTHERLAND

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

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

(Donations are not tax deductible)

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.

the 6-2 district map as established based on the Missouri 2020 census must be used. Do not let the Republican leadership have another shot at shoving a blatantly illegal 7-1 map down our throats! **Vote NO on Proposition A!**

As I was writing this article, the Supreme Court (by a 7-2 margin) blocked Trump's executive order on mail-in-ballot rules for the 2026 election! They had initially allowed the order to continue on a procedural basis; but when the USPS released its plans to implement Trump's order, the Supreme Court majority held that the Trump Administration was unlikely to prevail on the merits of its challenge to the lower court's injunction against the executive

order. They, therefore, denied the administration's emergency request to enforce the rule pending appeal. **Vote-by-mail is preserved to the benefit of the voters and us, as employees of the Postal Service.**

Obviously, the Constitution does not give the president any power over the voting process. We prevailed in this instance; however, Trump and his Republican enablers will continue to grasp at any straw to hold onto power and impose their will on our democracy to our detriment. We must be ever vigilant and ready to respond. Please contribute to the Branch 343 PAC Fund and the Letter Carrier Political Fund.

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
 Saronda Sutherland MBA Representative
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Pamela Stepney Frank Enlow
 Barry Linan William Lister
 Marvin Booker Mike Weir
 John McLaughlin

MOUND CITY CARRIER

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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.

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 St. Louis, MO 63104-3806
 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
 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, Chairman 636-255-3057
 Kevin Welby, Vice Chairman..... 314-398-4802
 Mike Chenot, Treasurer 314-779-3356
 Nicki L. Prado, Recording Secretary..... 314-241-4297

Deadline for articles for the NOVEMBER issue is OCTOBER 13, 2026

★ ★ ★

REGULAR BRANCH MEETING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026 7:30 pm

★ ★ ★

SHOP STEWARDS MEETING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2026 7:30 PM

The Letter Carriers Building
 1600 S Broadway



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