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Jerry Kazmarczyk, Robert J. McLennan
and Larry Kania

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Steve Olender - Zeb Robson
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BRANCH 3

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BUFFALO STATIONS

Union Stewards 2024-2027

- Amherst** Renee Boguhn, Michael Stefanucci
- Blasdell** John Pasier
- Central Park** Jesse Osiadlo, Seth Edge
- Cheektowaga** Jamie Jablonski, Mike Wallace
- Eastside** Jesse Doody, Craig Jasin, Brittany Nowak
- Hiler** Julius Martinez
- Niagara Square** Joe Torres
- Northside** Traci Hoffman, Connor Mauche
- Southside** Jorge Rosado Laboy, Jason Koch
- Westside** Mike Miskell
- West Seneca** Brendon Ganschow, Jim Colombo
- Williamsville** Keith Falgiano, Rene Brown

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- Allegany**
- Angola**
- Arcade**
- Attica** Susan Karalus
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- Bolivar**
- Cattaraugus**
- Clarence**
- Cuba**
- East Aurora**
- Eden** Valerie White
- Falconer**
- Franklinville**
- Fredonia**
- Gowanda** Matt Lesefske
- Grand Island** Renee Rydzewski
- Hamburg** Corey Granberry
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- Lakewood**
- Lancaster/Depew** David McCann, Derek VonWrycza
- Lewiston**
- Little Valley** Mark Busekist
- Lockport**
- Mayville**
- Medina**
- Middleport**
- Newfane**
- Niagara Falls - LaSalle** Jake Hans
- Niagara Falls - Main** Andrew Harrison
- Olean** Shawn Ivanich
- Orchard Park** James Isenhart
- Randolph**
- Salamanca**
- Silver Creek** Francis Sprada
- Springville** Jonathan Potzler
- Tonawanda** Robert Klimek, Nick Garigen
- Westfield**

The Buzz is a publication of Branch 3, NALC, AFL-CIO. The Editor, President and Executive Vice-President reserve the right to edit any submission for content, clarity and length. All submissions are due by the 2nd Friday of the month. Anonymous submissions will not be accepted. Content may be republished by any union trade magazine as long as proper credit is given to Branch 3 and the author.



Health Benefits are the hot topic

As many of you are aware, on January 1st, 2025, all postal employees will be moving from the Federal Employee Health Benefit (FEHB) plan to the Postal Service Health Benefit (PSHB) plan. The branch is aware there are a lot of questions and concerns from active and retired members. To help in this transition the branch has scheduled its own Health Benefit Seminar. The seminar will be held on November 2nd at the Matthew Glab Post #1477 located at 1965 Abbott Road, 14218. There are two classes being held that day. The 1st is from 1pm to 3:30pm and the 2nd is from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. As of the writing of this article the 1st session has 127 members signed up and the 2nd session has 35 members signed up. Running the two classes with NALC Director, Health Benefit Plan Stephanie Stewart, and her team.

This health benefit change is completely new and based on current attendance numbers I fear many are not taking this change seriously. If you are a member, get yourself signed up so there are no issues once the conversion from FEHB to PSHB takes place. For those that are not aware, Independent Health will NOT be offered under PSHB. Therefore, you are going to need to do your homework when choosing a new plan. My suggestion is the NALC High Option plan as I personally have the plan and have not had any issues with it. Choosing a plan is very personal based on you and/or your families health needs, Do your homework! The NALC plan saves you hundreds of dollars over the Blue Cross Blue Shields family plan. Get to the Branch’s seminar and get all the details.

I have also received communication from NARFE Chapter 439, Northtowns and Amherst. They are having a free and open to the public Open Season Health Fair. This health fair will have Blue Cross and Blue Shield representatives in attendance to answer questions. This Health Fair is November 25th at 11am at the Harlem Road Community Center located at 4255 Harlem Road, 14226. I have included the flyer in this edition of the Buzz for those that are interested. Additionally, please review Insurance Representative Judy Kersten and Director of Retirees Kent Hankins previous Buzz articles for information pertaining to the upcoming health benefit changes.

By the time this article is printed Trustee Michael Miskell will have attended his 2nd week of the NALC’s Leadership Academy with one more week remaining, Trustee Andrew Harrison will have completed the NALC ‘s arbitration advocacy school. The younger generation is stepping up and stepping out of their comfort zones to learn how to protect and represent the membership. Excellent job gentlemen.

November is the month that we honor the nation’s warriors on Veterans Day. Every year at the November General Membership meeting the branch holds its Veteran’s Ceremony and annual toy drive. This year will be no different. Regarding the toy drive for our Gold Star mother Ann Davis, please bring a new, unused toy to the November 12th meeting. Niagara Square carrier and retired Sergeant Major Wiliam Zeughardt will be heading the Veterans ceremony posting the colors and retiring them along with his speech honoring all the branches of the military. If you have not seen the ceremony in person before, please attend the meeting to watch this amazing tribute to our men and women in uniform.

In closing as Veterans Day is this month, I would like to thank all those men and women in the armed services that volunteered to protect this country. We owe each and every one of you a debt of gratitude.

~ In Solidarity, David J. Grosskopf



Dave speaking at the 1st ever Labor Notes Trouble Makers School held in Buffalo, NY in October.

NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP PINS

- 45 Years: John F. Tourbin
- 40 Years: John C. Hoefler
Eugene M. Blamowski -- Gary Meyer
Darrell R. Field -- Daniel E. Rokitka
- 35 Years: Randall J. Bland
- 25 Years: Stephen D. Grice -- Elizabeth Palizay



DARKNESS and LETTER CARRIERS

Now that it is getting dark earlier, darkness can and may contribute to an unsafe situation. However, Arbitrators have ruled that darkness in and of itself is not unsafe. Regional Arbitrator Witney (C-10514) stated the following:

Management did not violate the contract when it required carriers to deliver mail after dark.

That case dealt with carriers delivering mail in mid-November two hours plus past sunset at 4:30pm. The following Step 4 is relevant:

M-00483:

Normally, letter carriers deliver mail during daylight hours; however, there is no contractual provision which would preclude management from assigning carriers to deliver mail in other than daylight hours.

There are several things you can do to keep safe while delivering when darkness arises. If you are on a walking route and it is not well lit, then you do not cut or cross lawns. Stay on the sidewalks and driveways. Additionally, you cannot finger the mail while walking since you may not be able to see the addresses well enough, so pay attention to where you are walking and not to the mail. If you believe that you will be working into the darkness, protect yourself. With management's permission you can change your delivery pattern, if you have mounted deliveries, cluster boxes or interior apartment deliveries normally during daylight hours, ask to change those deliveries to the end of your route that day knowing you could be delivering in the dark. Be proactive. If instructed to deliver after dark, make the attempt. If you believe it is unsafe, inform management of the **specific safety hazard**.

What happens if you encounter a hazard? The proper way to report the condition to your manager is by following:

ELM 824.631 states:

Any employee, or the representative of any employee, who believes that an unsafe or unhealthful condition exists in the workplace may do any or all of the following:

a. File a report of the condition on PS Form 1767 with the immediate supervisor and request an inspection of the alleged condition.

b. If the employee desires anonymity, file PS Form 1767 directly with the installation's safety personnel, who will immediately give the report to the employee's supervisor for necessary action. (In such cases, safety personnel must not disclose the name of the individual making the report.)

c. Report alleged unsafe conditions to a steward, if one is available, who may then discuss the condition with

the employee's supervisor. Discrimination against an employee for reporting a safety and health hazard is unlawful.

ELM 824.62 states:

Supervisors must maintain a supply of Forms 1767 in the workplace in a manner that provides employees with both easy and (if an employee so chooses) anonymous access.

After you have completed your portion of the form, give it to your immediate supervisor, who then must follow the instructions in the ELM section 824.632: The immediate supervisor must promptly (within the tour of duty):

- a. Investigate the alleged condition.**
- b. Either initiate immediate corrective action or make appropriate recommendations.**
- c. Record those actions or recommendations on Form 1767.**
- d. Forward the original 1767 and one copy to the next appropriate level of management (approving official).**
- e. Give the employee a copy signed by the supervisor as a receipt.**
- f. Immediately forward the third copy to the safety office.**

If you believe that an unsafe condition is so hazardous you could refuse to perform those duties. However, you do run the risk of being disciplined. The following is relevant:

JCAM Pages 41-27:

41.3. I. Carriers shall not finger mail when driving, or when walking up or down steps or curbs, when crossing streets, or at any time it would create a safety hazard to the carriers or the public.

Although there have been no significant Step 4 settlements or arbitration awards interpreting Article 41.3.I, it is wise to bear in mind how arbitrators have generally approached the question of whether employees are justified for refusing to work in a particular place or in a particular fashion because of what the employee believes are unsafe conditions. First, there is the "iron rule" stating that an employee must "obey now and grieve later." Second, there is a narrow exception to that rule which permits an employee to disobey where he or she has a reasonable or good-faith belief that to obey would cause imminent danger to life or limb. A mere belief that a safety hazard exists is usually insufficient reason to disobey an order.

(Continued on page 5)

This is especially true if the supervisor has investigated the hazard. So, before you refuse any instructions, consider them carefully, and then gather all the evidence you will need to support your claim. This evidence will be needed to defend your position if discipline is issued. To be clear, remember darkness is not a hazard in and of itself; **you must identify specific hazardous conditions**. Additionally, if mail is brought back and going to be undelivered. Make sure PS Form 1571 is filled out, signed by a supervisor, and keep a copy of it. It is not only a requirement of your position, but it may save you from being disciplined if you fail to report it. The following relevant:

M-41 Section 442 Completing PS Form 1571

442.1 After return from trip, obtain PS Form 1571,

Undelivered Mail Report, (see Exhibit 442.1) from unit manager.

442.2 Add any mail which was not delivered but was returned to the office. 442.3 Sign the form and give it to a unit manager.

I would like to thank everyone who has reached out to me recently for my eye injury, sending prayers, get-well cards and the poster board signed at the October meeting with the funny one-liners. I really needed the laughs. In closing, I would like to thank all my fellow military veterans for their service and sacrifices they have made for this country and its citizens. I hope to “see” everyone at the November meeting!

~ In Unity and Solidarity, Michael Levering, Executive Vice President

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BRANCH 3 BY-LAWS

to be discussed and voted on at the next General Membership Meeting, November 12, 2024

ARTICLE 12 FUNDS:

Section 18.

(a) The Shop Stewards or their designated alternates shall receive a quarterly personal expense allowance based on the number of carriers represented and at the rates listed below:

one (1) to nine (9) carriers three (3) hours per month at the hourly rate of a City Carrier step D; ten (10) to thirty nine (39) carriers three (3) hours per month at the hourly rate of a top step City Carrier; forty (40) and over carriers three (3) hours per month at the rate of a top step Carrier Technician.

(b) Every January 1st all Shop Stewards' quarterly personal expense allowance will be increased by the same amount of increase in the hourly rate of levels and grades indicated above.

(c) In cases of prolonged absences from work, the President shall designate an alternate to temporarily replace the Shop Steward. The President shall also notify the Secretary-Treasurer of the designation. The designee shall receive the Shop Steward's pay in the absence of the Steward.

(d) A roll call shall be made at each Stewards meeting and General Membership meeting and attendance shall be recorded. Any Shop Steward or their designated alternate in attendance at Board of Stewards meeting shall receive personal expense allowance for that month.

Amend To Read: (change in bold)

ARTICLE 12 FUNDS:

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(c) In cases of prolonged absences from work, the President shall designate an alternate to temporarily replace the Shop Steward. The President shall also notify the Secretary-Treasurer of the designation. The designee shall receive the Shop Steward's pay in the absence of the Steward.

(d) A roll call shall be made at each Stewards meeting and General Membership meeting and attendance shall be recorded. **In order to get credit for the steward's meeting, the steward or designated alternate must be in attendance at the time their name is called.** Any Shop Steward or their designated alternate in attendance at Board of Stewards meeting shall receive personal expense allowance for that month. **When the shop steward or designated alternate is in attendance at two of the three quarterly Board of Stewards meeting, the steward shall receive a personal expense allowance for that quarter. Effective January 1, 2025.**



Do NOT Miss Out!

The Postal Service Health Benefits (PSHB) Open Season is Monday, November 11, 2024, through Monday, December 9, 2024. Open season gives you the opportunity to change or enroll in one or more of the Federal Benefits programs. According to the Office of Personnel Management’s (OPM) website, Postal Service employees, Postal Service annuitants, and eligible family members will remain enrolled in their 2024 FEHB plans through December 31, 2024. **New under Postal Service Health Benefit (PSHB), the PSHB plan year will run from January 1 through December 31 each year.**

OPM has worked on making the transition to PSHB as simple as possible. Every current FEHB member who is a Postal employee, annuitant, or family member will be automatically enrolled in a PSHB equivalent plan for the 2025 benefit year. This auto-enrollment will ensure no enrollee is left without coverage, even if an enrollee takes no action during the upcoming transitional open season. Over 90% of Postal Service enrollees will be automatically enrolled into a PSHB plan option that is equivalent to the 2025 benefits and cost sharing of their current plan option.

If your current FEHB plan is not in PSHB, you will be automatically enrolled in the PSHB nationwide plan option under OPM guidelines.

Members currently enrolled in the Federal Employees Health Benefit plan should have received notification in October from OPM by mail on which plan under the new PSHB you will be auto enrolled.

Members should review the plan on the notification, check premiums and benefits including your doctors’ acceptance of the plan. If you are satisfied with the plan listed, you do not have to do anything. *Remember, you always have the right to choose their PSHB plan during the Federal Benefits Open Season.*

Health Insurance providers constantly revise participating physicians and prescription medications coverage. A great resource in researching health care coverage is on the web at: www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/pshb.

The NALC Health Benefits Plan’s (HBP) mission is to provide members accessibility to quality medical care while maintaining a comprehensive benefit package.

Benefits include a \$25 copay for office visits for primary care, specialists, urgent care, and mental health. TeleHealth and Telemental Health have only a \$10 copay. Lab work at Quest and LabCorp has NO copay. There are several Wellness Programs tailored to your health needs.

For those members who enroll in Medicare A and B and have the NALC Health Benefit Plan as their secondary coverage, all deductibles, coinsurances, and copayments are waived, except for prescription drugs, when you see a Medicare Participating Provider. In most cases you will have no balance with your provider.

These and other benefits can be viewed or downloaded at the 2025 Health Benefits Plan Summary of Benefits and Coverage for **PSHB** from the NALC website at www.NALCHBP.org. To request a paper copy by mail, call **1-888-636-6252** (a toll-free number).

The NALC HBP **PSHB** provides quality coverage at an affordable premium when compared to other plans. NALC HBP high option gives you the most ‘bang for your bucks’.

Is your plan a nationwide plan? ***The NALCHBP is a nation-wide plan.*** With the vast network of providers, you have coverage during your travels or if you relocate. If you are concerned if your doctors accept NALC PSHB, tell them the provider network is CIGNA. Cigna is one of the nation’s largest provider networks.

Health care and insurance coverage is a major expense for everyone. Make an educated choice. Enroll in NALCHBP Postal Service Health Benefit this open season.

Retirees/Annuitants

Annuitants in the NALC Health Benefit Plan High Option have the choice to opt into a Medicare Advantage plan called the **NALC High Option Plan- Aetna Medicare Advantage**. This enhanced benefit is available to NALC Health Benefit Plan High Option annuitants and eligible dependents who have Medicare Parts A and B. You will have \$0 deductibles, copayments and coin-

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2025 NALC HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN PSHB PREMIUM RATES

Type of Enrollment	Enrollment Code	Premium Rate	Annuitant/ Retirees
		Biweekly	Monthly
High Option Self Only	77A	\$109.98	\$238.29
High Option Self Plus One	77C	\$266.08	\$576.50
High Option Self and Family	77B	\$238.42	\$516.58
CDHP Self Only	77D	\$59.13	\$128.11
CDHP Option Self Plus One	77F	\$133.88	\$290.08
CDHP Self and Family	77E	\$144.92	\$314.00

insurance meaning you will pay nothing for most medical care. With NALC High Option Plan — Aetna Medicare Advantage, members will get enhanced benefits and added programs that are not included with the NALC Health Benefit Plan High Option **for no additional FEHB premium.** Additionally, there is **\$900 per year** (\$75 per month) Medicare Part B premium reduction for eligible members.

The NALC High Option Plan- Aetna Medicare Advantage is designed to provide you with extra savings and enhanced benefits and programs, while allowing you to continue to be an important part of NALC HBP.

You can get information at www.nalchbpretiree.org or by calling the **Aetna Retiree Solutions** service center at **866-241-0262** (TTY: 711), Monday–Friday, 8 AM–8 PM ET.

***NOTE: If you are currently enrolled in the NALC-Aetna Medicare Advantage Plan,** all you need to do is select the NALC High Option Plan during Open Season and you will be placed back in the Aetna Medicare Advantage Plan automatically. * NALCHBP.org 9/26/24.


“Upgrade Your Health to A Union That Delivers”

Enrollment in a PSHB plan will not change availability of or enrollment in other insurance and benefits programs, including: FEDVIP-Federal Employees Dental and Vision Program FSA-Flexible Spending Account (active only).

Stay Safe & Stay Healthy, Judy Kersten



DEATHS



Thomas R. Smith
(Life Member)

John Arndt

NEW MEMBERS

Yareliz Mercado -- Damian Rine
Lee Anna Wesman -- Robert Simmons, Jr.
Ahmed Tufail -- Devon Heveron
Joshua Roberts -- Jessica Lester
Tabitha Williams -- Erik Rodriguez
Dominic Tayler -- James Kociencki
Dorian Love -- Benjamin Kriger

THE REASON FOR THE SEASON ZEB ROBSON with JAY KOCH

Hey everyone, with it being that time of year we all know as ‘the season of giving’ we wanted to advise the membership of a recently approved motion and ask for your contribution towards it in advance . We recently saw two pretty substantial hurricanes sweep through most of the southeastern United States and the Letter Carrier Disaster Relief Fund could use our help to help our fellow carriers.

As of the Branch meeting on October 8, some carriers were still MIA and unaccounted for and in some areas regular mail delivery hasn’t resumed due to the overall destruction in those areas. Together in conjunction with the charity committee, a motion was made and passed to ‘pass the hat’ at the December General Membership meeting where the total donation will be then rounded up to the nearest \$100 amount and also matched from the General Fund to help our fellow carriers in need! I know times are tight but we set up the motion in this fashion so that when you show up to the December meeting you have that extra dollar or more in hand, as many of us don’t carry as much cash as we used to, or don’t carry cash at all, or the money in your pocket is earmarked for something else.

That said we’re all waiting for this new contract and a potential raise to help us with our bills, now just imagine being a letter carrier whose home has been completely destroyed, doesn’t have a hot shower to come home to let alone a uniform to wear and maybe not even a post office deliver out of to make some money!

Thank you in advance for finding a place in your hearts to accept this motion, and to dig up those few spare bucks for the Letter Carrier Disaster Relief Fund. We look forward to seeing you all next month at the Veterans Day meeting and the December holiday meeting, and every meeting thereafter in 2025!

~ Fraternally, Zeb Robson and Jay Koch

Partner Violence: Identifying Abuse

IF YOU ARE BEING ABUSED, PLEASE REACH OUT.

You might be experiencing abuse if your partner has or repeatedly does any of the following:

Physical Abuse:

It involves the use of physical violence, or threats of violence, to maintain power over an individual.

- Pull hair, punch, slap, kick, bite, choke, or smother you
- Forbid or prevent you from eating or sleeping
- Use weapons against you, throw objects at you
- Prevent you from contacting emergency services
- Harm your children or pets
- Drive recklessly or dangerously with you in the car
- Force you to use drugs or alcohol
- Trap you or prevent you from leaving home
- Deny you necessary medical treatment

Digital Abuse:

Using technology to bully, harass, stalk, intimidate, or control a partner.

- Controlling your online activity
- Sending negative, insulting, or threatening messages
- Insulting or humiliating you in posts online
- Sending or pressuring you to send explicit messages
- Looking through your phone with or without permission
- Using any kind of technology to monitor your activities

Emotional Abuse:

Includes non-physical behaviors meant to control, isolate, or frighten someone.

- Name calling, insulting, or constantly criticizing you
- Acting jealous or possessive and refusing to trust you
- Isolating you from family, friends, or others in your life
- Monitoring your activities
- Demanding to know how you spend your time
- Attempting to control what you wear
- Humiliating you in any way, especially in front of others
- Threatening you, your children, your family, or your pets
- Damaging your belongings
- Throwing objects, punching walls, kicking doors
- Blaming you for their abusive behaviors
- Accusing you of cheating, threatening to cheat
- Cheating on you and blaming you for their actions

Sexual Abuse:

When a partner controls the physical and sexual intimacy in a relationship.

- Insult you in sexual ways or call you explicit names
- Force or manipulate you into having sex
- Strangle or restrain you during sex without your consent
- Involve others in your sexual activities against your will
- Ignore your feelings regarding sex
- Force you to watch or make pornography
- Intentionally give you a sexually transmitted infection

Financial Abuse:

Occurs when an abusive partner extends their power and control into your financial situation.

- Providing an allowance and monitoring how you spend it
- Controlling your paycheck
- Preventing you from accessing bank accounts
- Prevent you from working or limiting your work hours
- Getting you fired
- Stealing money from you, your family, or your friends
- Withdrawing money from children's savings accounts
- Living in your home but refusing to work or contribute
- Forcing you to provide them with your tax returns
- Refusing to provide money for necessary expenses

Stalking:

When someone you know, a past partner, or a stranger watches, follows, or harasses you repeatedly, making you feel afraid or unsafe.

- Showing up unannounced or uninvited
- Sending you unwanted messages
- Leaving you unwanted items, gifts, or flowers
- Calling you and hanging up repeatedly
- Using social media or technology to track your activities
- Spreading rumors about you online or in person
- Manipulating other people to investigate your life
- Waiting around at places you spend time
- Damaging your home, car, or other property
- Hiring a private investigator to follow or find you as a way of knowing your location or movements

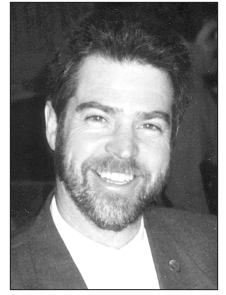


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DIRECTOR OF RETIRED MEMBERS

KENT HANKIN



Hello everybody.

Hopefully, you will have received this before the Health Benefit Open Season starts on November 11, 2024. The Branch is having the seminar on November 2nd at 1:00 and again at 6:30 at the Matthew Glab Post, 1965 Abbott Rd, Lackawanna. You do need reservations to attend and as of October 10, 2024, there are still openings for both sessions with the 1:00 filling up fast.

Before you get this, you will be receiving a letter from OPM telling you what insurance you have now and what insurance they think is equivalent to that plan. Read their letter carefully because if you do nothing that is the plan you will be enrolled in for the next year. The good part of that is if you are in say NALC high option family and they want to enroll you in NALC high option family you do not have to do anything. But please, make sure that the CODES are correct.

Again, the time limit for signing up for Medicare Part B is over as of September 30, 2024, and I hope that everybody did their due diligence on whether or not to take it. If you did take Part B somewhere down the line, you can investigate a Medicare Advantage Plan but make sure that you do it through a licensed Medicare broker and not just one company like Independent Health. They will give you more options to choose from. If you do go with an Advantage program, remember to get the form to suspend your health plan through OPM this way you can always reenroll later. If you cancel you will not be able to get back into the health plans. So be careful about what you are doing. The branch has the form to suspend the health plan.

The quote for the month is from H. Ross Perot. *"Most people give up just when they are about to achieve success."*

We have the Night out Books which are selling for \$10.00 each. They make great stocking stuffers.

God bless everyone with good health and pray for all the people who had their lives changed with the hurricanes this past month.

~ Kent Hankin, Director of Retired Members

BURNS/CONNORS RETIREMENT ASSOC.

This is a short objective of what the Burns-Connors Retirement Association does. The object of this association is to protect in all ways the ways the interest of retired letter carriers, renew old friendships, talk over old times, to promote good will and fellowship by means of planned get-togethers and in general try to advance the welfare of all our members mentally, morally and spiritually. We call and write our Congressmen and Senators when legislation is going to effect the Postal Service, the Union or active and retired carriers. We attend rallies as a show of support and we vote.

We are looking for more retirees to join the Association. The dues are only \$20.00 per year.

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month, with the exception of July and August. Meetings are held at the Magruder's Restaurant, 4995 Broadway, Depew. We have a small meeting at 1:00 and the luncheon right after the meeting for a small fee.

Any retirees interested in joining the Burns-Connors Association can come to any of the meetings which are held on the third Wednesday of the month. If interested call Kent Hankin - 685-4648.

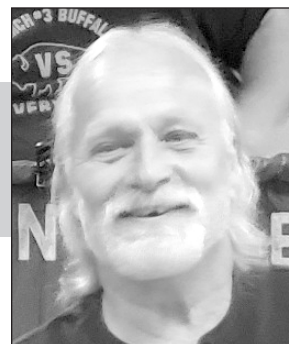


MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION

CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR
CONTINUED
SUPPORT!

35 Years

*Receiving his Lapel Pin
Michael Godziak*



35 Years

*Receiving his Lapel Pin
Ricky Bender*

35 Years

*Receiving her Lapel Pin
Anne Wahl*



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - OCTOBER 8, 2024

- President Grosskopf called the meeting to order at 7:44pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- The Executive Board made a motion to spend up to \$7,500 on the purchase of a new copy machine/scanner for our union hall. Motion passed.
- The Executive Board made a motion to spend up to \$5,500 on the purchase of 14 new conference chairs for the union hall. Motion passed.
- The Executive Board made a motion to remove and replace flooring in both the main and lower levels of the union hall. The flooring and carpeting will be removed and replaced with vinyl flooring. Total cost will not exceed \$15,000. Motion passed.
- The Executive Board made a motion to purchase up to 10 tickets along with a full-page ad for Rochester 210 President Kenny Montgomery's retirement party. Tickets will be used by our officers to represent our branch. Total will not exceed \$850. Motion passed.
- The Executive Board made a motion to spend up to \$10,000 on our annual December holiday party. This amount includes food, beverage and holiday giveaways. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Organization Committee: Chairman Hankin informed the membership that the committee will be making an aggressive effort to recruit non-members.
- Information and Education Committee: Chairman Robson informed the membership that we are trying to organize a Southtowns union meeting possibly mid-November. He also announced that there were plenty of brochures available in the back of the hall regarding legislative issues, letter carrier political fund and other pertinent information concerning our membership.
- Legislative Committee: Chairman Smith recommended that the membership of Branch 3 endorse Mike Keane for Erie County District Attorney and Pat Burke for the 142 NY Assembly. Recommendation passed. The only piece of legislation that looks to pass congress this session is HR 82 the Social Security Fairness Act. Brother Smith thanked everyone for contacting their respective congressional leaders. Brother Smith also informed the membership that he and President Grosskopf had a very productive meeting with Congressman Tim Kennedy.
- By-Laws and Constitution Committee: Chairperson Sister Kersten informed the membership that it is particularly important to have your current address on file for upcoming postal service health benefits elections. She also reminded the membership of the upcoming health benefits seminar on Saturday, November 2nd. There will be two sessions: 1:00pm to 3:30pm and another from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. The seminar will be held at the Matthew Glab Post, 1965 Abbott Road, Lackawanna. Reservations are required. Call the hall to reserve your spot. As a reminder, Independent Health will not be participating in the 2025 Postal Service Health Benefit Plan.

Sister Kersten also read a proposed by-law change and informed the membership that new by-law changes will be published in the upcoming Buzz. Please read these changes because they will be voted on at the next membership meeting. Reminder - open season will run from Nov.11th through December 9th, 2024. This is a hard deadline.
- Charity Committee: Brother Koch made a motion to pass the hat and round up to the nearest hundred and have the Branch double the amount for the NALC Disaster Relief Fund to help our Brothers and Sisters affected by the hurricanes. This will take place at our December meeting. Motion passed.
- Muscular Dystrophy: Brother Koch is looking for suggestions to hold the 2025 MDA golf tournament. He currently has a list of 6 perspective courses, any and all input would be appreciated.
- Safety Committee: Brother Robson informed the membership to be aware of the microphone cord when approaching to speak.
- Convention Committee: Chairperson Sister Fitzgerald opened up the floor for nominations to the 2025 NY State Convention being held in Syracuse, NY from June 22nd through June 24th, 2024. 25 delegates were nominated.

OLD BUSINESS:

- President Grosskopf announced Article 8 payouts since last month totaled \$13,108.
- President Grosskopf spoke on the recent Westside reserve regular case. The USPS argued claim preclusion and timeliness stating the case was not arbitrable. NALC argued differently. The Westside regular case will now be heard in arbitration.
- Niagara Falls inspections: The inspection week is completed. Inspection was held from Sept. 21st to Sept. 27th, 2024.
- The Branch is filing multiple grievances or multiple violations. Brother Harrison gave insight into how the inspection process was managed. Currently the numbers are being reviewed and no decisions have been made.
- APWU Day of Action: There was a rally on October 1st, 2024. The branch attended with President Grosskopf, EVP Levering, along with a number of Niagara Falls retiree association members and other retirees. Niagara Falls Mayor Restaino and Congressman Kennedy also attended in support of the APWU.

(Continued on page 11)

NEW BUSINESS:

- District Manager Roselle Murrell has been appointed Interim District Manager due to the departure of current DM Marcellina Delpizzo. District Manager Murrell will be domiciled at 1200 William Street.

FROM THE FLOOR:

- Trustee Colleen Kreuzer reminded the membership that the annual NALC Military families holiday toy drive will be held on November 12th, 2024. Please bring a toy to your station to give to the steward or the general membership meeting in November. Thank you everyone for supporting our troops.
- Brother Hankin informed the membership that Night Out books were available tonight for \$10 per book. See Brother Hankin tonight or contact the hall to reserve your book. We also have 12 color coded calendars available. First come, first serve.
- Sister Rose Becker made a recommendation to reimburse uniform rep Lee Brown \$200 for her loss due to someone stealing a pair of shoes from her cart. Motion passed.
- Brother Casey Kielbasa inquired if there were any updates on our contract. President Grosskopf stated there was nothing new from National.
- Sister Kersten made a motion to reopen nominations for delegates to the State convention. Motion failed.
- Sgt.-at-Arms Robson announced the “If you are here drawing” Brother Raymond McDonald (retiree) would have won \$30 had he been in attendance.

The next General Membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at the Matthew Glab Post #1477 at 7:30 pm.

CONGRESSIONAL BILL SCORECARD

As of 10/06/2024

“X” Denotes cosponsorship

	Langworthy R-NY-23	Tenney R-NY-24	Kennedy D-NY-26
HR 7629 POLCA (129 cosponsors)	X		X
<u>HR 82</u> <u>S.S. Fairness</u> <i>*(329 cosponsors!!)*</i>	X		X
HR 5995 Retirement Fairness (128 cosponsors)	X	X	
HR 618 Workers Comp (55 cosponsors)			
HR 3721 Shipping Equity (22 cosponsors)			
H Res 376 Door to Door Delivery (129 cosponsors)		X	

By the time you read this article, Election Day has either come and gone or is very soon. If you hadn’t heard, the Branch officially endorsed Pat Burke for 142nd Assembly District in NY and Mike Keane for Erie County DA. We (the legislative committee) believe that creating friendships and allies in a wide range of elected office can only help us in our future endeavors. Especially that of DA, who will in some way, shape or form, with the hopeful passage of HR 7629 the “Protect Our Letter Carriers Act” be directly involved in the prosecution of individuals who commit crimes against letter carriers.

Finally, we are in the legislative home stretch. As I sit in my dining room writing this on October 6, 2024 we are still awaiting the discharge petition on HR 82. Once that happens it will be put on the consensus calendar and voted on. That will most likely be the last piece of legislation we get to during the 118th Congress. Then, we await the 119th Congress to reintroduce our bills and start all over.

I would like to thank everyone who called and sent letters to their representatives over the last couple years. I have attached a “legislative scorecard” to this article so you can see where we succeeded and where we could use some work. Stay informed on everything the NALC has going on including legislatively by visiting the website on a regular basis.

AND AS ALWAYS, DOWNLOAD THE NALC APP AND DONATE JUST \$2.00 A PAY PERIOD TO THE LCPE, THE SINGLE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO ADVANCE OUR ADGENDA!!

UNION MEETING NOTICE

NOVEMBER 12th

6:00 pm Officers Meeting
6:30 pm Stewards Meeting
7:30 pm General Membership Meeting

1965 Abbott Road
Lackawanna, N.Y. 14218

BRANCH No. 3, N.A.L.C.
4845 Union Road
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NOVEMBER 2024 *Monthly Calendar of Events*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5 9:00 am Chktg Breakfast Alton's Restaurant 7:30 pm AFL-CIO Mtg.	6 6:00 pm Officers Meeting	7 9:00 am Kenmore Retiree's Breakfast at Olympic, 1601 Military Rd. 9:30 am Williamsville Retiree's Brunch at Family Tree Rest., 4346 Bailey, Amherst	8	9
10	11	12 11:45 am Tonawanda Retirees at TC Wheelers, 341 Wheeler St., Tonawanda, NY 6:00 pm Officers Meeting 6:30 pm Stewards Mtg. 7:30 pm General Membership Meeting	13 10:00 am Hiler Sta. Retirees at Greek on the Street 3189 Delaware Ave.	14	15 BUZZ ENTRIES DUE	16
17	18	19	20 1:00 pm Burns-Connors Retirement Assoc. meets @ Magruders	21 9:30 am Williamsville Retiree's Dennys (French & Transit)	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
DECEMBER 1	2	3 9:00 am Chktg Breakfast Alton's Restaurant 7:30 pm AFL-CIO Mtg.	4 6:00 pm Officers Meeting	5 9:00 am Kenmore Retiree's Breakfast at Olympic, 1601 Military Rd. 9:30 am Williamsville Retiree's Brunch at Family Tree Rest., 4346 Bailey, Amherst	6 9:00 am Southtowns Retiree Brkft at Alton's - Transit & Seneca	7

The Deadline for submissions to the Buzz is the Friday after the general meeting.