



WAKE UP!

President/ Editor
Daniel P. Wheeler

Publisher

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Acton , Amesbury , Andover , Bedford , Beverly , Billerica , Burlington , Chelmsford , Concord , Danvers , Dracut , Gloucester , Haverhill , Holliston , Ipswich , Lawrence , Lowell , Lynnfield , Manchester , Marblehead , Maynard , Merrimac , Newburyport , North Chelmsford , North Reading , Peabody , Reading , Rockport , Salem , South Hamilton , Sudbury , Tewksbury , Topsfield , Wakefield , Wayland , Wilmington , Winchester



Salem Carriers Showing Their Christmas Spirit

President's Message

As I write this article, we are winding down 2025. By the time you read this, it will already be 2026. Peak season seemed like it was not too bad overall. The winter weather held off for the most part, and mail volumes did not seem to be excessive for the most part. That is a double-edged sword for letter carriers, though. The fact that we weren't buried with parcels this season takes a load off of us letter carriers. However, the lack of volume compared to past years is not good for the business's future.

There are many potential changes coming for us in 2026 and beyond. The first one concerns our deal with UPS to deliver what used to be called SurePost packages. At the beginning of 2025, the USPS, under then Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, looked to overhaul its agreement with UPS and SurePost, which relied on our last-mile capabilities. UPS decided not to enter into a new deal with the USPS and chose to keep SurePost packages for its own delivery.

UPS started negotiations with the Postal Service again a few months ago to resume delivering those last-mile deliveries, now called Ground Saver packages. The USPS has a very efficient delivery network. We essentially hit every address every day and therefore excel at last-mile deliveries of smaller items, which UPS has struggled to deliver efficiently since they took them back earlier this year. Hopefully, there will be news of a new deal soon.

The other news that has been reported lately has to do with Amazon. There was a report that the delivery giant was going to look to drop the Postal Service. It is reported that the agreement with Amazon nets the Postal Service \$ 6 billion in revenue annually. The agreement with Amazon, like the one previously mentioned with UPS, relies on our efficient last-mile network. The uncertainty stems from the Postal Service's recent announcement that it plans to open our last-mile delivery network to competitive bidding starting in January or February. This would give access to our 18,000 delivery destination units (DDUs) for same or next-day service.

This would necessitate that Amazon, which has had an almost 30-year relationship with the USPS, compete with other carriers. Our contract with Amazon currently expires in October of 2026. Upon hearing about plans to open the network, Amazon suggested it may walk away from the Postal Service if forced to compete with other carriers.

It is unclear whether this is just a negotiating tactic on Amazon's part or a serious threat. It remains to be seen if Amazon has the costly last-mile and rural delivery

capacity. We will see how these current and potential agreements play out going forward. One thing is clear, however. We have become a parcel delivery-driven business, and that is not changing. First-Class Mail volume peaked in the year 2000 and has been in decline every year since. Currently, the First-Class Mail volumes are at 1968 levels.

It is my sincere hope that the current Postal Service leadership, led by Postmaster General David Steiner, has the understanding and ability to determine what we need to do as a business going forward to maximize our strengths as a company. Those strengths are our unrivaled last-mile delivery network and the hard-working letter carriers who get the job done out there every day. There was much concern when Steiner was named as PMG earlier this year. It is no secret that he has an anti-Union background with the former businesses he has run. It is also no secret that he was previously on the board of one of our biggest competitors, FedEx.

Steiner has been mostly quiet since taking over, so it remains to be seen what effect his appointment will have on letter carriers and the USPS as a whole. In this case, as with any Postmaster General we have, his success will be our success. Time will tell the tale as we move forward, and I hope that it is a good tale. We will see...

Last month, I mentioned some of the new stewards who stepped up to represent the members in their offices. On the next page, you will find the complete end-of-year grievance list for all of the Branch 25 offices. Thanks to all the stewards, new and old, who worked to represent the membership by filing, meeting on, and settling grievances on behalf of the members!

One of my favorite things I get to do as Branch President is to get out to present years of membership pins to some of our long-time members. I got to make two such presentations recently. Both of these Brothers were here for the 1970 strike and have 60 and 65 years of NALC membership. You can see those on page 6 of this month's issue.

In Solidarity,

Dan Wheeler

<u>STATION</u>	<u>GRIEVANCES</u>
LAWRENCE	115
BEVERLY	54
LOWELL	47
BILLERICA	33
DRACUT	20
GLOUCESTER	16
HAVERHILL	14
PEABODY	14
ACTON	13
WINCHESTER	13
ANDOVER	12
SALEM	12
BURLINGTON	11
AMESBURY	8
LYNNFIELD	8
SUDBURY	8
TEWKSBURY	8
MARBLEHEAD	7
READING	7
WAKEFIELD	6
WAYLAND	6
CONCORD	5
HOLLISTON	4
MAYNARD	4
BEDFORD	1
IPSWICH	1
MANCHESTER	1
NEWBURYPORT	1
NORTH READING	1
SOUTH HAMILTON	1



Beverly carriers helped to make Christmas a little brighter this year by taking part in the Beverly Holiday Parade as they always do to hand out candy and take Santa letters from the kids along the parade route.

Calendar of Events

- January 1** **New Year's Day**
- January 13** **Regular Branch Meeting**
K of C Wilmington 8:00PM
Food served at 7:15 PM
- January 19** **Martin Luther King Day**

Daniel P. Wheeler	President
Paul G. Desmond	Executive V.P.
Gilbert Paredes	Vice President
Joe Stearns	Secretary
James Metilinos	Treasurer
Wes Tugman	Health Benefits Rep.
Dan Raske	Chairman of Trustees
Bruce Johnson	Trustee
Tony Porciello	Trustee
Bob Cronin	Trustee
Sandi Mannas	Trustee
Jeremy Boucher	Assistant Safety Officer
Mike Pinto	Assistant Secretary
Justine Mannas	Sergeant at Arms

Your “Wake-Up!” is produced in-house at the Branch 25 Union office each and every month.

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“Why This Round of Negotiations Must Be Different”

As we move closer to the start of national negotiations, letter carriers across the country are feeling something we haven’t felt in a long time: a quiet but growing frustration. In the last contract, we waited over 700 days only to be told that the Postal Service “didn’t have the money” for meaningful raises. And yet, not long after, other crafts and supervisory ranks received increases that outpaced ours without the same delays or hesitation. Carriers notice things like that — because no one understands value better than the people who earn every dollar with their feet, their backs, and their daily commitment to the public.

The truth is simple: our starting wage no longer makes us competitive, especially in high-cost regions like ours. Offices struggle to hire. Even when we do hire, many new CCAs leave once they realize they can earn equal or better pay in far less demanding jobs. That isn’t a reflection on them — it’s a sign that the wage structure no longer aligns with the realities of the labor market. A healthy Postal Service needs staffing stability, and staffing stability starts with a wage that respects the difficulty and importance of the work.

Letter carriers didn’t abandon America during a pandemic. We didn’t ask who you voted for or how much you earned. We served every home, every day — because that is what this job requires and because that is who we are. As we enter these negotiations, all we ask in return is recognition in the form that matters most to working families: fair wages and fair treatment. Respect isn’t a slogan; it’s a commitment expressed through contract language.

This upcoming round is an opportunity — not just for the NALC, but for the Postal Service itself. A strong, stable, fairly paid workforce benefits everyone: management, the public, the institution, and the future of universal service. Carriers looking for special treatment. We’re simply asking that the people who carried this country through crisis not be asked to settle for less than what we’ve already earned.

As negotiations begin, unity will be our strength. We stand together not out of habit, but because the stakes are real. If we remain informed, engaged, and supportive of one another, we will send a clear message: this round must be different — because carriers deserve better, and the future of the USPS depends on getting it right.

Mike Pinto, Assistant-Secretary

 **BRANCH 25 RETIREE GRATUITY VOUCHER**

Name: _____
(as it will appear on plaque)

P.O. Retiring from: _____

Phone number: _____

Retirement date: _____

Please note: Retiree must be a member in good standing at date of retirement. Retiree has 4 months from retirement date to remit this voucher to the branch office. Please mail to: NALC Branch 25
2500 Main St, Suite 201, Tewksbury Ma, 01876



Looking Back and Forward

The holiday season of 2025 has passed and no matter what you celebrate, I hope you all enjoyed them with family and friends. I am going to take as we say at the meetings a moment of “Personal Privilege” for this article. As the year ends, we always seem to look back at what went by and then try to decide what will come of the new year ahead. As I look back on my year, I can say this has been a great year for me and my family. I finally lost weight and got a surgery to help me for the rest of my life. My daughter graduated from Keene State College and landed a full-time job in her field, and she loves doing it. So, the year was going great and then December came. My car decided it had to even out my good year and thought it was a good idea to need a new rear differential. Then my house got jealous and wanted to get in on the action on Christmas Eve. My bathroom sink drainpipe came loose and needs to be replaced. So, the old adage of win some lose some came full circle. I say this because this is life, and you get some good hits and some rough misses.

The Postal Service is no different. This year we started the year with still no contract, then we got a contract and now we are preparing to bargain again. I refer to the movie “the Lion King”. It’s the circle of life or the circle of collective bargaining. Managers come and go, some bad and some not so bad, but like New England weather wait five minutes because a new one will be around the corner before you know it. And the next year ahead looks to be the same.

Our branch is no different either. This year we saw the branch do the most MDA fundraising it has done in years and members of our branch have been recognized for their hard work in the NALC. We also lost an integral member of our branch when President Emeritus Dave Barbuzzi passed away. But as my life, the Postal Service, the NALC and our branch, be always find a way to keep the ball rolling and moving along.

This last year I have been trying to get out service pins to any member who are due them, especially in my office. I have done it for both retirees and active carriers. My most recent one was Tina Destefano who received her 30-year pin. Congratulations to her on that accomplishment. If you have been a union member for at least 25 years, then you are eligible to receive one. You can contact me at my email address in the last paragraph.

Lastly to cover the looking forward part of this article is that no matter how much things change the basis always seems to be the same. We here at the branch keep doing what we do to help the carriers as best we can. You as carriers keep doing what you do to take care of your customers and keep the postal service as the most trusted division of the federal government. So, a big “**THANK YOU**” to all of you out there for working hard and delivering the mail the way you do. I hope this coming next year is full of joys and accomplishments for all but just remember it will all work out in the end. So Happy New Year to all and hope to see you at a meeting next year.

As I always end this, if you have moved, please update your address with the branch. You can call, write, or email me at JESBR25@gmail.com. See you at the branch meeting on January 13th.

Snapple Fact # 1522 – Some cats are allergic to humans.

Joe Stearns

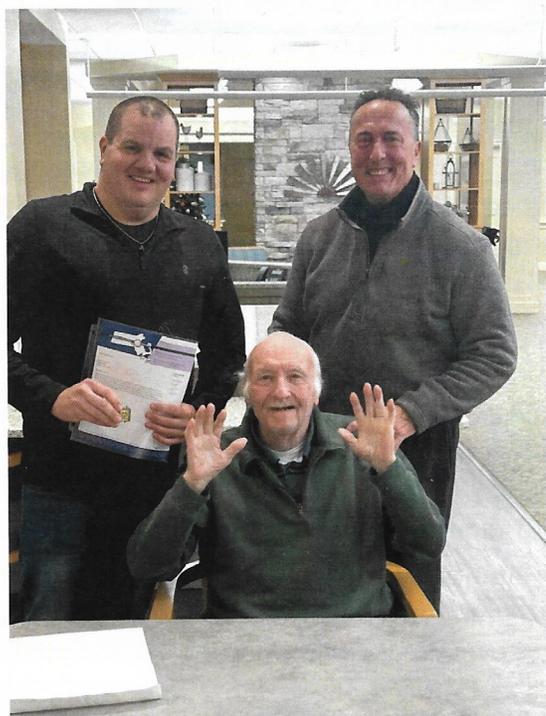


The opinions expressed in the Wake Up! are those of the authors. They do not reflect the opinions or views of Branch 25 or the National Association of Letter Carriers.

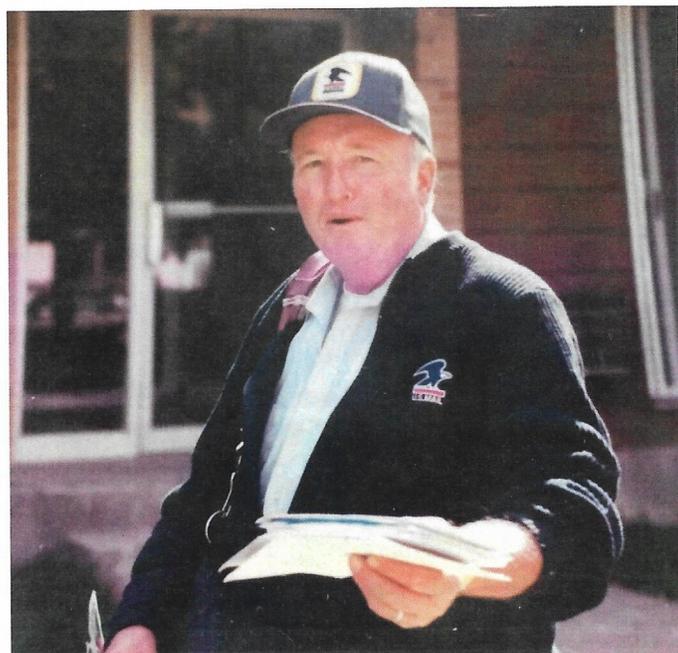
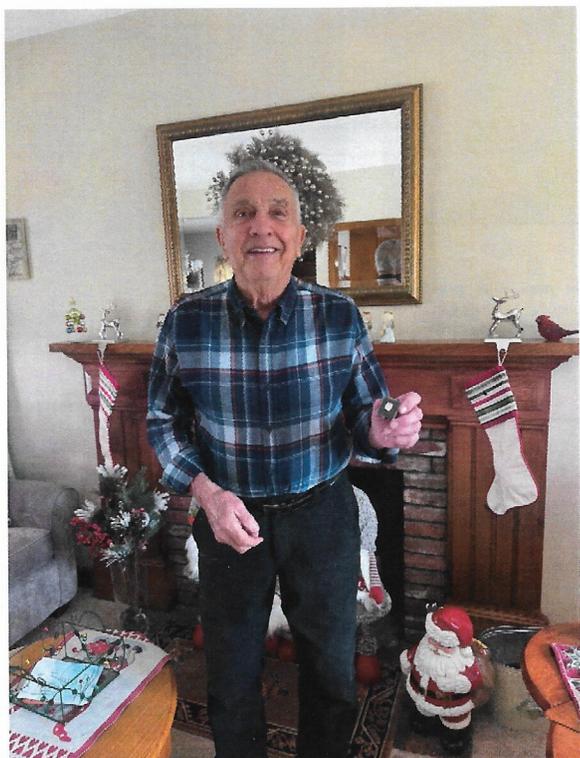
Branch 25 Recognizes Long-Time Members



Joseph Delorey Jr begin his Postal career in 1966 after service to his country in the Navy. Joe started at the West Concord Office when it was still separate from Concord. He moved to the Concord Office in 1970 and delivered the same route there for 30 years, retiring in 2002. At 83 years old Joe still looks like he could get the job done out there! Thanks for your 60 years of membership Joe!



Lawrence's Danny Lyons, pictured above with Branch 25 President Dan Wheeler and past Lawrence Branch 212 President Bob Dion started his Postal career all the way back in January of 1960. He delivered his whole career in Lawrence retiring in 1992 after 32 years. He was a past Branch President of Branch 212 and a long-time Union advocate. Congratulations on your 65 years of NALC membership Brother Lyons!



Membership Recognition

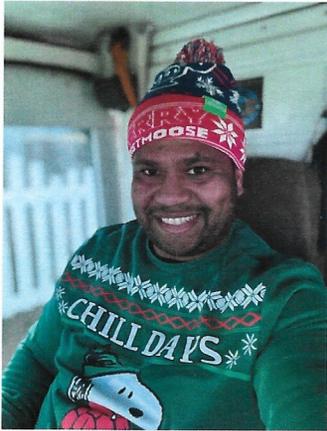


Current and former Dracut letter carriers were on hand at the December branch meeting to see retired carriers Eileen Nutter and Thomas Foley receive their 35-year NALC membership pins.



Salem's Peter Wallace receives his 40-year NALC membership pin at the December meeting.

Amesbury's Albert Terrazzano received his 35-year NALC membership pin at the December meeting as well.



WAKE UP

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I WANT YOU...

at the next meeting
January 13,
K of C Wilmington
8:00 PM



Branch 25 President Dan Wheeler, former Lawrence Steward John Bradley, and former Lawrence Branch 212 President Bob Dion present Danny Lyons with his 65-year NALC membership pin. See more on page 6.