





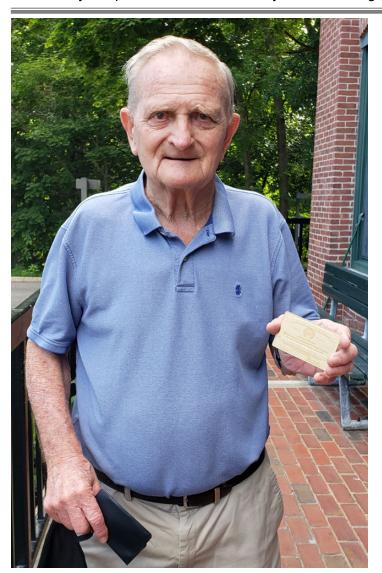
MAKE UP!

President/Editor Publisher

David J. Barbuzzi

Volume 44 Issue 9 September 2020

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



Over the course of the last month or so,
Branch 25 has sent out 50-year
Gold Cards to members who have achieved
the 50-year milestone with NALC.
Don Smith, "Smitty", is one such retiree
from the Reading Post Office.

We wish Don, and all retirees, many more healthy, happy years of retirement!!

President's Message

Man was August hot! Although I do love the summer, good riddance to the extended heat and humidity that August brought this year. In case you haven't been told by anyone else, great job keeping the mail moving under such adverse conditions.

Unfortunately, it seems as if there will be more adverse conditions but I'm not talking about the weather. I'm talking about the climate at the post office. I recently spent the better part of three weeks at the Beverly Post Office observing the ESAS program (only preferential mail is supposed to be sorted in the morning and then the rest of the day's mail is sorted when carriers return from the street at night). In my opinion, this was not the time to roll out a program such as First off, the later starting times during the heat of summer caused carriers to be on the street for more of the hottest part of the day. Next, this program is something that would have made more sense, say, 30 years ago. You see, back in the early 90's there was no dps, parcel volume was much lower, and mail volume was much, much higher. I can recall starting my day at 6:00AM and casing mail till 11 or even noon. If we had only cased preferential mail, customers may have gotten delivery possibly 2 hour or more earlier. Then, we would have cased bulk mail upon our return.

There is no benefit to the customer from this program. Even if the carrier spends less time in the office, the hour delay to start times ate that up. Simply put, there is not enough bulk mail to justify starting an hour later and not casing all mail in the morning. The problem now, just as has been for the past 30 plus years is the plant. Period. The plant is not accountable and every other operation, clerks and carriers, are slaves to the plant. If you really want to effect change, start there.

ESAS wasn't the only thing that carriers had to deal with. The mandate, real or imaginary, to eliminate overtime has been having negative impacts on carriers' lives and customer service. Local managers are not allowed to bring in overtime desired list carriers on their n/s days unless some ridiculous number of vacant assignments exist. You may have four vacant routes with multiple overtime desired list carriers sitting at home and carriers who are not on the overtime desired list are forced to carry these assignments. If the carriers that aren't on the list go into overtime, and they were forced to work off their assignment, this is a violation of the contract and a grievance must be filed. I recently met on and resolved one such grievance that covered two days' worth of violations. When I went to meet the following week, multiple carriers had reached 60 hours on THURSDAY, and more reached 60 hours on Friday. So, the postal service is going to have to pay penalty time grievance remedies, as well as overtime remedies. Can anyone explain to me how this mandate to not allow n/s overtime is a cost-saving measure?

Last month my article was titled "It Was Good While It Lasted". I have communicated with multiple carriers through text messages and social media. They feel betrayed by the postal service and rightfully so. For some five plus months, since mid-March, we have worked cooperatively with the service to do "whatever it takes" to get the mail delivered, to keep our work areas and our vehicles as clean as possible, to look our family members in the eye and tell them it will be

alright and to soldier on. I know there are carriers that strip out of their clothes in their garages or mud rooms and put their uniforms straight into the wash. I know carriers that have separated themselves from the rest of their family in their home. These are just some of the sacrifices that carriers are making "for the good of the service". The Union locally and nationally agreed to staggered start times in an effort to facilitate social distancing.

What has that good will and extraordinary effort and sacrifice produced? It's produced a great big "F U" from our employer. Start times are changing later. If you have a staggered starting time still, and the earlier time of the two times is before 8:30am, chances are your postmaster fought for that. The plan is to start everyone no earlier that the mail up time. Remember what I said about the plant earlier? Yeah, your quality of life will be dependent the plant. And if the slap to one cheek with the later start times isn't enough, turn your other cheek because a good deal of your casing equipment is about to disappear. The plan is to have all city carriers casing into only one letter case by October. I told you that I spent the better part of three weeks in Beverly observing. Well, my observation tells me that there's not going to be any improved efficiency by removing all this casing equipment. That office, and many others, receive far too many spr's to work into one letter case along with the other residual mail. Oh, I almost forgot (you're going to love this), management is going to sit down with you to get your input on how they can ruin your casing equipment. You can't make this stuff up.

It is disappointing to me that we have not been able to meet as a branch since the March meeting. Your executive council has been meeting each month via ZOOM. We also communicate as necessary when anything else comes up. But I do miss getting together in person as a branch. Should any group of employees, whether it be CCA's with questions or concerns, stewards, or just rank and file letter carriers want to have a ZOOM meeting, I would be more than happy to accommodate such a request. We can make it work into a timeframe that works for you.

The NALC recently endorsed the Joe Biden/Kamala Harris ticket. It's going to get even crazier in the coming months leading up to the election. I would simply ask that you vote your job. Politics has a way of bringing out the worst in people and quite frankly, I don't want to stoke any fires of acrimony. If you go to work each day, you see what the Postmaster General has already done in just over a month's time. If you don't vote your job, what you've seen recently will only be the beginning.

Stay informed!

Dave Barbuzzi

Executive Vice President's Report

The food drive conducted every May, unfortunately had to be cancelled by the NALC and the Postal Service this year, but there is still a way we can help the food pantries. The food drive is conducted every year when the pantries are at a point of needing to be replenished after the holidays and the winter months. It is usually the biggest event the pantries look forward to for help. This year the branch will be donating a small amount to the pantries that we normally distribute the food to on food drive day. Some stations have decided to raise money on their own to donate to their local pantries and I encourage any station or individual to do the same to the pantry either in the community they serve or the one in your home community. A little money from a lot of individuals goes a long way in a food bank. Believe me they appreciate it. You can always actually collect food as a group and drop it at a food bank also, but seeing there is no food drive a monetary donation is a good alternative.

We are coming into the Fall season which is usually very busy for parcels, but can't be much busier than it has been for the past 5 months. Even most managers will agree that it has been like Christmas season for parcels lately. If you feel that you can't complete your route in 8 hours, notify your supervisor and fill out a 3996. No argument is necessary but if your supervisor thinks this is a negotiation, it isn't. You are only required to notify them that you don't think you will be able to complete your assignment in 8 hours. management disagrees simply ask if you are to finish the assignment. Most offices will still be in prime vacation for a month or two, so they will likely be shorthanded carriers and you may be doing more than your own route. This doesn't mean you cut corners as far as safety is concerned, in order to finish earlier than expected.

Lately, we have been getting some calls that management is instructing carriers to deliver all their parcels and curtail delivery of mail. I'm sure some of this has to do with the installation of the new PMG and his will to curtail delivery in order to save OT. In some cases, entire routes or multiple routes are not being delivered, but anytime delivery is curtailed, the carrier needs to fill out Form 1571, identifying curtailed mail. You should always request a copy of this form also.

There are reports of heat illness throughout the branch, it has been a very hot and humid summer. Please follow the recommendations of OSHA and the Postal Service and take extra breaks if needed and drink fluids all day, not just when you start to feel dizzy or weak. Also do not skip lunch and seek shade or AC for breaks. It is up to the Postal Service to adhere to safety rules but it is up to us to know when the heat is too much and to take a break. Stay safe and healthy.

We have been notified that the North Reading station will be undergoing a full office route inspection in October of this year. The carriers in that station have been notified and I'm sure we will have a night of training if they desire. I'm not sure what good an inspection will do in the middle of a pandemic, seeing that volumes may not be representative of a typical day of either mail or parcels, but we will make sure the carriers are aware of their rights and responsibilities. As of today, this is the only station we have scheduled to be inspected but more could be added, or all inspections could be cancelled once again if the pandemic spikes again.

It is a very volatile environment right now. The Postal Service is in the middle of trying to reorganize and the election will be front and center, so anything is possible. So far the arbitration hearings are still scheduled for September and October for our national contract, but as usual these negotiations aren't done in public for good reason. There is nothing good that can come out of both sides badmouthing each other in public. More to come on that.

Keep your head up!

Paul Desmond

Calendar of Events

September 2	VJ Day, WWII
September 7	Labor Day
September 11	911 Remembrance
September 13	Uncle Sam Day
September 16	American Legion Day
September 18	Rosh Hashanah
September 21	International Peace Day
September 22	Autumn Equinox
September 25	Native American Day

Branch 25 Directory of Officers

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Dan Wheeler
Andy Coan
James P. Nutter

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Executive V.P.
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Kenneth Dusombre Health Benefits Rep.

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Bob Cronin MBA-NSBA Rep

Steve Pickett Assistant Safety Officer Richard Donlon Asst Health Benefits Rep Ron Noviello Workers' Comp Rep.

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

TRUSTEES REPORT

In accordance with Article 6 Section 9 of the NALC Constitution for the Government of Subordinate and Federal Branches, on Tuesday August 4, 2020 trustees Bruce Johnson, Daniel J Raske, and John K McNulty audited the financial books and found them in order.

Beginning balance as of \$365,329.66

June 30, 2019

Ending balance as of \$406,359.11

June 30, 2020

Board of Trustees

Daniel J Raske John K McMulty

Bruce Johnson

Just For the Health of It

Typically, when I write for the Wake-Up! the content in JFTHOI is on the patient side of the ledger. This month I want to take a different approach and explore your health care provider's perspective as he or she interacts with you. The following information is excerpted from an article entitled "What doctors wish their patients knew". It is the result of a survey of 660 primary care physicians.

- 1. Your primary care physician should be a partner in your overall health dental, specialty treatments, and yes, even mental health treatments.
- 2. Doctors and patients alike put a high value on mutual courtesy and professionalism. If you don't feel that is the case with ALL your providers, make the appropriate change(s).
- 3. Mindful of the above, the survey tells us that the most important thing a patient can do for better health care is to find and stay with the right primary care provider long-term.
- 4. Noncompliance with advice or treatment recommendations was the top complaint doctors had about patients. Be honest do you take your meds as prescribed and do you practice what your doctor preaches? Discuss treatment plans while in the office and then do your best to comply. If side effects result, let your doctor know immediately.
- 5. With today's technology it's quite common to keep

- track of your medical history. Often the provider performs this service for you.
- 6. Online research. Doctors are sketchy on this subject. Their advice is to be smart about online research. Be thoroughly aware of the sources and motivations regarding the information offered.
- 7. Doctors are pressed for time. The sad reality of America's health care system today is that two factors interfere with their ability to provide optimal care the volume of insurance paperwork and financial pressures. Neither of these factors is directly within the doctor's control. Don't allow yourself to be given "the bum's rush" but at the same time, do your part. Plan ahead and be well organized with your questions and concerns in preparation for your visit.

All of the above is but a synopsis of a lengthy but informative article about the subject matter presented. I hope you find it useful.

Keep on truckin'

Rich Donlon

Vice President's Report

This month I wanted to address the topic of Vote by Mail. This is a topic that has been getting a lot of attention lately. Vote by Mail has been around in some shape or form for over 20 years. The basic premise is simple; you receive a ballot in the mail, and you make your selections and put it back into the mail. The local election officials count your ballot just as they would if you went to a polling place in person and voted. Currently 5 states do most or all their voting by mail. Those states are Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, and Utah. Not all states using Vote by Mail have the same rules or procedures, 29 states and Washington D.C. allow voters to track their ballots and 14 states and Washington D.C. allow voters to turn in their Vote by Mail ballots in person.

president and other members administration have been very vocal in their public condemnation of Vote by Mail. President Trump has said Vote by Mail will be "a catastrophic disaster" and the election would be "inaccurate and fraudulent." Attorney General William Barr has stated that foreign actors mailing out fake ballots to voters could be an issue. While there have been some issues with Vote by Mail the fact is that voter fraud has been rare or nonexistent in the 5 states where Vote by Mail occurs. Recently New York had issues in counting Vote by Mail ballots causing a lengthy wait before the election could be called. In Wisconsin, thousands of ballots requested were never received. In New Jersey 10% of ballots had to be thrown out because they were received too late to be counted. To be sure, there can be issues with voting no matter how its done. Stories of people not being able to vote because of hours long lines at their polling places are common. In the 2000 presidential election between Al Gore and George Bush it took into the second week of December and a Supreme Court ruling for the election to finally conclude.

Stanford University conducted a study between 1996-2008. Researchers examined elections California, Washington, and Utah. They concluded neither party gained an advantage in Vote by Mail. A Brookings Institute Research Group study also concluded that neither political party gets an edge and Vote by Mail does not increase fraud. The conservative Heritage Foundation found only 14 cases of voter fraud out of 15.5 million ballots cast in Oregon since 1998. That comes out to 0.00009032% There is no substantial proof Vote by Mail increases fraud. It does increase participation. The State of Colorado showed an increase of 9% in voter turnout after adopting Vote by Mail.

In Massachusetts Vote by Mail is available to all voters. Vote by Mail applications went out to all

registered voters in July so if you are registered you should have received it already. If you need to register to vote the deadlines are as follows:

Primaries: August 22 State Election: October 24

You can register online at www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr or at your local city or town hall. In Massachusetts Vote by Mail application ballots must be returned by August 26 for the primary and October 28 for the state election although it makes sense to get applications in as early as possible. The actual Vote by Mail ballots must be received by September 1 for the primary and must be postmarked by November 3 and in the office by November 6 for the state election.

Current conditions at the USPS, brought on by new policies and orders from the new PMG have been cited as further reasons Vote by Mail will not work. Many believe that is one of, if not the main, reasons these directives have been given. Despite allegations to the contrary Vote by Mail is a safe way to vote, especially in a time where the pandemic has many voters concerned or unable to vote in a crowd as they have traditionally done in past elections. Although Vote by Mail is not perfect and there have been some issues there is no proof that it leads to widespread or willful fraud. The American people depend on the men and women of the United States Postal Service to deliver their checks, medication, tax returns and other important items. There is no reason that without interference from the new PMG and his unilateral measures that we cannot also safely and securely deliver the nation's election mail.

In Solidarity, Dan Wheeler

YOUR VOTE COUNTS

DiCecca's Digest from NBA Rick DiCecca

We are living in a very dangerous period in history. We must become active and vigilant to protect ourselves and our jobs.

To each and every person who is handling and delivering mail; I want to say thank you for your daily courage and commitment to our customers. Through these trying times you report to work, deliver your routes, and bring a sense of normalcy that is otherwise lacking to the American public. We have heard about the doctors, nurses, police, and fire departments as our first responders, and we owe them a debt of gratitude for their commitment. But we cannot forget about every employee of the postal service, especially the letter carriers.

The letter carriers go door to door each day with first class mail and parcels. We, too, are first responders bringing a different form of commitment to the American public. But there are those that question our ability, question our commitment, question our tenacity. There are those that want to break the service down, question its strength and destroy its credibility with the American public. They will persist, even though year after year the American public votes the US Postal Service as the most trusted government institution.

I need your help in maintaining that trust. I need your help when management makes decisions that directly influence and damage that trust we have with each and every customer. I need each and every carrier to take the time to report to their steward the non-delivery of mail in their offices on a daily basis. If a route or a portion of a route is not delivered on any given day report it to your steward or branch president. If you are told to deliver your route without DPS or FSS tell your steward or branch president. They in turn need to notify me of the non-delivery of mail. This information will help the NALC combat the incomprehensible, inexcusable actions of management. You are the key to winning this fight.

Many of you have read about or been told of a number of tests and initiatives the service is taking to measure the workload of carriers. In identified offices management has contracted with private firms to come into the office and observe letter carrier office functions for a one-week period. They are there to record our every move. To ease the tension fueled by management I want to clarify there is only one such office in the six New England states. That office is Scituate, MA. We will be visiting with the carriers in Scituate very shortly to discuss the process and be on hand to observe their actions.

There is also the consolidation of casing equipment currently being implemented by management. The service will or should be sitting with each carrier to discuss cell size and case size for the purpose of casing mail. Their goal is to reduce carriers' casing equipment to a single 6 shelf letter case. When this occurs, each and every letter carrier is going to need to take the time they need to properly case their assignments. If it takes two hands to place flats in that six- shelf case so be it. If it takes longer to case and pull down, then demonstrate that. There is no reduction in your line items, no increase in standards, and no magic fix to overburdened routes. Every carrier, doing the job right, will demonstrate the true value of the assignments they are working daily.

There are 18 offices within the six New England states that are in a test labelled Expedited Street Afternoon Sortation (ESAS). This is a form of EPM which consists of carriers reporting to work, sorting first class mail, pulling down and delivering. Upon return at the end of the day these carriers will sort mail for the next day. If management is attempting to implement this program and you have not been notified by your Branch President as one of the identified offices, please contact your Branch President.

I understand that you are being pushed to your limit, and that my request for your help may seem inconvenient. Perhaps you may find it unnecessary, or a waste of your time. To be clear, the only way we can protect our rights and our jobs is to be consistently diligent in our efforts to protect them.

"The future depends on what you do today."

Mahatma Gandhi

Be Sure to Catch Those Z's

"Did You Get Your 8 Hours?"

No, for once I'm not talking about a break day on your route, I'm talking about sleep. As we battle through the summer months, taking the necessary precautions to prevent heat illnesses, we must also remember to get a full night's rest. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) actually recommends adults aged 18-60 get 7 or more hours of sleep a night, adults 61-64 get 7 to 9 hours a night, and adults 65 and older get 7 to 8 hours of sleep a night. I'm sure many reading this can relate to me when I say a bad night's sleep leaves me irritable, drowsy, and prone to more mistakes. Not getting enough sleep is also linked to many chronic diseases, but a study in Massachusetts from 2014 showed the prevalence of the following conditions was significantly higher in adults with less than 7 hours of sleep a night compared to adults who had sufficient sleep: heart attack, coronary heart disease, stroke, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), arthritis, depression, chronic kidney disease, and diabetes.

Even if you're a night owl there are steps we can take to form better sleep habits. Try to make sure your bedroom is a comfortable temperature, and that it is dark and relaxing. Avoid large meals and caffeine before bed. A white noise machine or fan may help to buffer noise or relax you, but the CDC recommends removing TVs, tablets, phones, and computers from the bedroom. If you routinely have difficulty sleeping, you may want to create a diary of your sleep habits and contact your doctor. Try to get your 7, and go to cdc.gov/sleep to learn more and for tips on how to get a better nights rest.

Tony Bossi Assistant Secretary Z Z Z Z \mathbf{Z}



SIGN ME UP!

How to contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund using ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER

Through a **MONTHLY** Electonic Fund Transfer, NALC members can contribute directly from their bank account to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (NALC's PAC). On the 1st of every month, the Political Fund will automatically (and without a fee) deduct from your bank account the amount you choose to contribute (ex: \$5 donation each month for twelve months, totaling \$60 for the year).

Electronic Fund Transfer Authorization

Fill out and return this form with a voided check to the address below

I,	(your name) hereby authorize my bank to deduct from my checking
account the MONTHLY sum of:	
	PER MONTH and forward that amount to the mum amount per year is \$5,000). I make this authorization fying the Letter Carrier Political Fund in writing.
Signature:	Date:
Full Name (please print):	
Social Security Number:	_ OR Postal Record number:
Address:	
City:	State: Zip Code:

ATTACH A VOIDED CHECK HERE.

Please send this completed form and your voided check to:

The Letter Carrier Political Fund 100 Indiana Ave NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144



By making a contribution to the Letter Carrier Political 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 guideline amounts listed above are merely suggestions, and you may contribute more or less than the guidelines suggest and the union will not favor or disadvantage you by reason of the amount of your contribution or your decision not to contribute. The Letter Carrier Political Fund will use the 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 deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the Letter Carrier Political 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.



SIGN ME UP!

How to contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund using PostalEASE — ONLINE Enrollment

Through PostalEASE, active letter carriers can contribute directly from their USPS paychecks to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (NALC's PAC) by designating the Political Fund as one of the three payroll "allotments."

Online Enrollment

- Login to USPS's Postal Ease website at https://ewss.usps.gov
 You may also get to the Postal Ease website through the USPS
 LiteBlue website See the instructions below
- 2. Click "I agree"
- 3. Enter your Employee ID number and Password and click "Submit" If you have not yet set up a password click the link provided on the page or go to:

https://ssp.usps.gov/ssp-web/welcome.xhtml

If you forgot your password click the link provided on the page or go to:

https://ssp.usps.gov/ssp-web/einVerification.xhtml

- 4. Under Payroll click "Allotments / Payroll Net To Bank"
- 5. Click "Continue"
- 6. Click "Allotments"
- 7. Enter the 9-digit Financial Institution Routing Number: 0 6 4 0 0 0 0 1 7
- 8. Enter your 17-digit Account Number _ _ _ _ 0 0 3 4 9 5 2 5 3 5 See instructions in step D at right
- 9. Enter Account type as "checking"
- 11. Click VALIDATE
- 12. Click SUBMIT
- 13. Print or write down your confirmation number for your records

To get to Postal Ease through Lite Blue:

- Got to www.liteblue.usps.gov
- Enter you employee ID and Password and click "Log On"
- Click "My HR"
- Click "Employee Apps"
- Click "PoastalEASE"
- Begin at step 1 above

BEFORE YOU START, YOU'LL NEED:

- A. Your 8-digit Employee ID Number (on your paystub)
- B. Your USPS password
- C. Your Postal Record Number (Located on the back cover of your Postal Record magazine, above your name. Or call 202.393.4695 to get your Postal Record Number). See the example below.

******* AUTO** 5- DIGIT 54321 XXXXXXX89 LC 9876 W 13 08 Letter Carrier 1234 Main Street Anywhere, US 54321-9999

D. To create your personal account number, insert the seven digits of your Postal Record Number to the spaces below:

_____0034952535

By making a contribution to the Letter Carrier Political 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. Any guideline amounts are merely suggestions, and you may contribute more or less than the guidelines suggest and the union will not favor or disadvantage you by reason of the amount of your contribution or your decision not to contribute. The Letter Carrier Political Fund will use the 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 deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the Letter Carrier Political 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. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, name of employer and occupation of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.

Safety: Autumnal Carrier Hazards

Postal Finances

First of all, your safety team wants to congratulate all of the letter carriers in Branch 25 for surviving the struggles associated with Covid-19 that have challenged us these last few months. Also, kudos for staying well-hydrated during the recent heat-waves we have experienced through these "dog days of summer". We care about your safety.

Lately, there has been an increase in vehicle accidents between postal trucks and basketball nets. Our mirrors are snagging the nets and pulling them over onto the vehicles, especially on tight cul-de-sacs. So, please be aware of basketball nets while properly operating your vehicle.

Sooner or later, schools are expected to be opened. Please be extra careful while driving your postal vehicles around schools and groups of children, and remember that school buses stop suddenly and often, and always stop when near railroad tracks.

During this upcoming fall season, as we drive down the streets and walk across the yards on our delivery routes, we need to literally "keep our heads up" like Executive Vice President Paul Desmond constantly advises us to do. There are lots of things that are falling from overhead, especially during Autumn when nuts, berries, fruits and leaves are tumbling down from trees in great numbers, causing tricky, dangerous terrain for us "lawn crossers". Please be aware that when they fall in huge clusters, like acorns, chestnuts, grapes and cherries it can be like trying to walk on marbles, so pay attention and don't roll your foot. Also, dropping apples are similar in size to golf balls, and can cause twisted ankles when ignored. Loose branches falling down during severe winds have long been called "widow-makers", so keep a keen eye on these if there are fast-blowing winds. All of these Autumnal fallings can create letter carrier walking and driving hazards.

When all of these fallen leaves get wet, both the walking and driving conditions become slick, slippery, and hazardous. Allow yourself extra room to slow down or stop when operating around these fall hazards. Please watch out for your own safety at all times.

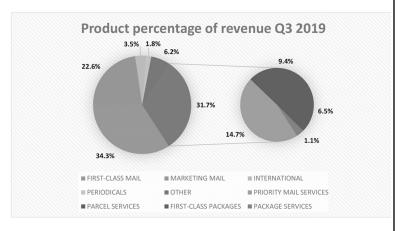
Again, we applaud you for your superior courageous daily service. After all, we are all public servants, are we not? So, let's be Postal Proud as we continue to do our jobs daily delivering the amil to our customers.

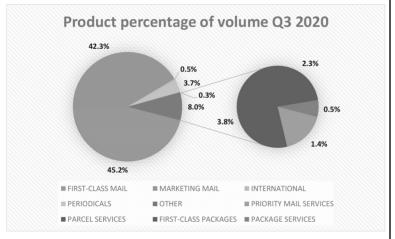
Cheers!

Stevie Pickett Assistant Safety Officer

Update On Quarter 2 USPS Financial Numbers

In the July Wake Up I wrote about the financial situation of the USPS. I shared some info from Quarter 2 of 2020, which covered the months of January-March, 2020. Q2 was immediately before the pandemic hit. Many people were asking about the increased parcel volume so I wanted to give the latest update on how that has changed since then. At that point parcels/packages were 4% of the total volume and accounted for 32% of product revenue. Here is the breakdown for Q3, which covers April to June, 2020.





In Q3 parcel/package volume saw a 100% increase, accounting for 8% of total volume. Parcel/Package revenue increased to 47% of total revenue, a 46% increase over Q2. In Q2 First Class Mail and accounted for about 57% of total revenue. In Q3 that number dropped about 21% to 45% of total revenue.

Dan Wheeler

NALC Br 25 Monthly Treasurer's Report James P Nutter, Treasurer

Total Beginning Balance as of June 30, 2020 Check Book balance as of June 30, 2020

390,717.27 133,810.51

Following Report is for the Month of July 2020

Money taken in during July 2020

23,821.50

National Dues

23,821.50

Retiree Dues

Transfer from Scholarship Ck# 9850 Voided

Money spent during July 2020

19,661.25

Breakdown Time on union business 10.323.29 Net 142.03 Mileage

Reimbursed Expenses

Per Diem

Payroll Taxes and W/H Transmittal 4,390.17

FICA Tax 833.29 Med Tax 194.88 Fed w/h 1,400.00 FICA W/H 833.29 Med W/H 194.88 State W/H 628.16 DUA 77.88 **FUTA** 34.98

192.81 MA PFML

472.50

Paid To Affiliates Mass AFL-CIO 472.50 **NSLC**

4,333.26

Operating Expenses Condo Fees 180.00 Copier Lease

NALC

795.69 Office Supplies 81.08 Postage 1,934.09 Taxes 687.44 335.04 Telephone Utilities 169.92

Website 150.00

Ending Check Book Balance as of July 31, 2020

137,970.76

Total Ending Balance as of July31, 2020

394.899.27

For Month

4,182.00

Salem Five Money Market Other Accounts

Beginning as of June 30, 2020 Interest For July 2020 (0.10%)

Ending as of July 31, 2020

256,906.76 21.75 256,928.51

Total All Accounts

Salem Five Money Market As of July 31, 2020 Salem Five Checking

As of July 31, 2020

Total Ending balance as of July 31, 2020

Salem Five Scholarship Acct

Beginning as of June 30, 2020 15,641.84

Interest For July 2020 (0.10%) 1.32 Ending as of July 31, 2020 15,643.16

WAKE UP

2500 Main Street Suite # 201

Tewksbury, MA 01876 Phone: (978) 658-5820 Fax: (978) 658-0888 Web: www.nalcbranch25.com



September meeting meeting cancelled.

I WANT YOU...

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Permit No. 409

TEWKSBURY, MA

First Class Mail

Veterans' Corner

Throughout my time in the military I quickly became color blind and not once did it ever cross my mind, nor did I question the race of the individual who worked beside me. We learned quickly the stereotypes, stigmas, and racial superiority are all myths. We learned to judge individuals off of their merit alone. "Can I trust you with my life? Yes you can...I call you my brother and I would gladly lay down my life for you, I wouldn't hesitate to make that sacrifice".

Only a small fraction of the world can read this and understand what it truly means.

Shared from a brother...

Semper Fi

Andie Coulter

(Shared from my good friend Chris Butler)

