



Branch 11's Headquarters: James E. Worsham Bldg.

CHARLES D. DUFFY

BRANCH 11 NEWS

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS
AFL-CIO CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

Today's Favors Are Tomorrow's Assignments



JUNE 2023

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BRANCH 11 GOES TO WASHINGTON DC



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Branch Meetings
James E. Worsham Bldg.
3850 S. Wabash Ave 7 PM
or via Zoom #999 2375 2183

September 14 October 12 November 9

LeRoy S. Nelson Retiree Club Meetings
James E. Worsham Bldg.
3850 S. Wabash Ave. 11:30 a.m.

June 23

July 28

August 25

2023 Upcoming Events

IL State Convention
June 15-17

Crosstown Classic
White Sox vs Cubs
July 25

Retirement Seminar
June 25

Branch 11 Labor Day
Family Picnic
September 3

Carriers' Ball
July 9

Retirees Day
September 24

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In Memoriam

In memory of these Union men and women who have been called by their Creator, we join their families, friends, and fellow workers in prayer for their everlasting souls.



Darryl L. Arnold
Jesse J. Blue
James H. Cade Jr.
Benoit J. Jefferson
Mary L. Knight
George Morrison
Aleema Nodu
Gregory L. Sizemore
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CCC, Section 6
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Evanston
Henry McGee
Loop, Section 2
Ashburn
Willye B. White
James E. Worsham
Ashburn

President's Report

Priority #1: Safety



As you all know, the safety of workers is Priority #1. Safety on the Job! Who watches out for us? With the random attacks on letter carriers across the country and especially within Branch 11, I ask the United States Postal Service, "what are you doing to keep Letter Carriers safe?" I want to be honest with you as I go from meeting to meeting and talking with various leaders in law enforcement, the Office of the Inspector General, the Chicago Police Department, and the Postal Police. We are working on something, but we can't discuss what it is we are doing. However, let your members know that their safety is our #1 Priority, as well as the Postmaster General's. We have been in communication with our elected officials seeking help from the federal level as well.

On April 17, 2023, I visited Washington DC along with State President Tony Bultinck, Secretary Tim Brucker, Treasurer William Bean, Jr., and liaisons from eighteen congressional districts. We met with the Congressperson and/or their aides who work on postal issues. We were there to discuss two main bills that are key and would benefit a lot of carriers. There was also a reception at Hutchinson Hall at NALC Headquarters. The bills are: **H.R. 82/S. 597**, which would eliminate the GPO and the WEP titles of the Social Security Act for benefits payable for months after December 2023 and **H.R. 4268**, which would allow certain federal employees to make catch-up retirement contributions for time spent as non-career employees after December 1, 1988, thus making such time creditable service under FERS.

We also had a meeting with Senator Dick Durbin on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, to discuss issues we are facing here in Illinois, especially the robberies and assaults on letter carriers. With the help of everyone who took the trip to Washington D.C. to help convey our message to Senator Dick Durbin that **"SOMETHING NEEDS TO BE DONE"** to protect letter carriers while performing their duties, the Senator responded with two press conferences at our Union Hall. Assistant Legislative Director Luis Rivas reiterated his support for letter carriers and he will push legislation and ask the Department of Justice to get involved. Senator Durbin is introducing legislation asking for more postal police on the streets instead of guarding buildings. As soon as more information becomes available, I will let the membership know. We all have been working on this issue because it is Priority #1. Safety for letter carriers is a must. While we were making the call asking for help, Branch 11 created a text alert system to notify carriers in their respective zip codes in real time. If anything happens, we want to alert you all so you can be aware and know what is going on around you. You must opt for this program, and if anyone is interested, please feel free to contact your shop steward or your Vice-President, Ronald Morgan. I will not stop advocating for the safety of letter carriers, that is my #1 Priority to make sure **ALL** Letter Carriers deliver themselves home.

Congratulations to all our recent members who converted to Full-Time status on May 20, 2023. We are working on getting more full-time promotions, but we must notify the shop steward when a route is vacated so we can get it posted within the guidelines set forth in our LMOU and our contract. This helps us with conversions as well as those carriers on holds downs under Article 7.3 Maximization/Full-Time Flexible of the National Agreement.

If you didn't know about HIP (Heat Illness Prevention Program), you will now. It's simple. The USPS and NALC rolled out a nationwide training program that mandated management to train every employee in the Chicago District on how to protect themselves while working in the heat. This training is to be done by April 1 of every year. Well, in Chicago, that did not happen. We discovered that instead of giving this important training, manage-

ment went into each individual employee's training records and falsified that training was completed on various dates before April 1, 2023, just to say they complied. Members, this is very serious. Heat stroke is real, and working in these elements can be dangerous. This training will help everyone understand the dangers they face while working in the heat and alert you to protect yourself. This training could possibly save lives and it wasn't given to the members. We have lost letter carriers because they did not have the information to identify the warning signs and to seek help. This information is good for management to receive as well because it will help them understand and identify the signs to seek medical attention for the carrier instead of sending us back on the street to only succumb to symptoms of heat. We are filing grievances on this issue and ask that you speak with your steward if you did not receive any training on heat illness. Please take this seriously, it can help save lives.

The 2023 Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive was on May 13. We collected over 200,000 pounds of food, in addition to the monies collected that converts to poundage. I thank everyone for their participation, however, we need to do more and make sure we are delivering the cards. We are working on getting bags donated. We know that bags help increase our pounds, but this also lets our customers know about the Letter Carriers Food Drive that we have every second Saturday in May. If anyone has any suggestions or ideas, please let me know. We can always help the communities that we deliver to every day. Thanks to Mildred Cross, pictured right, for always coming out to help support the food drive and giving us that history lesson on how it all started.



Please be looking out for the Branch 11 Speak Out forum. We will be launching in June 2023. This will allow the members of Branch 11 to speak with the officers about your issues and concerns. More information will be provided as we get closer to the date.

The Annual Membership Appreciation "Sneaker Ball" Night is July 9, and I look forward to seeing everyone there. Please get your tickets. We will be having upcoming fundraising events for MDA, so stay tuned. I really missed our Annual Day at the Ball Park on Memorial Day weekend. The White Sox were not in town on Sunday, May 28. Vice-President Ronald Morgan will be looking into getting a date in August. We still have tickets for our Inaugural Great America Day on July 23. Tickets are still available. Contact Recording Secretary Yolanda Cavett for more information.

I ask that everyone take their health seriously. Please visit your doctor's office to get regular checkups. Whatever you are going through, remember, early detection saves lives. If you are a career employee and do not have any health insurance, please reach out to your Health Benefit Representative Dominique White so she can assist you with becoming a member of the NALC Health Benefit Plan. CCAs, if you need any assistance, contact any officer and we will assist with getting you signed up through the USPS Portal. Get involved with your union and help get the younger members involved, because they are the future. Make sure you give to IPALC and LCPF because it is worth our jobs.

In closing, as we head out to our annual Illinois State Convention in Oak Brook from June 14 through June 18, safe travels to all the delegates, and let's have a great and informative convention. Everyone have a safe and happy summer and enjoy your holidays. Branch 11, there will be NO branch meetings in July and August. I will see everyone back here in September.



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From the Desk of the Vice-President

Latest Developments

Food Drive in a Challenging Environment:

Despite the challenges posed by increasing crime rates, the dedicated letter carriers of Branch 11 refused to be deterred as we carried out the annual Stamp Out Hunger food drive. Amidst a backdrop of rising crime statistics in the city, Chicago's letter carriers fearlessly pressed forward with humanitarian efforts. For years, the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) has organized the Stamp Out Hunger food drive, a nationwide initiative that takes place on the second Saturday in May. This year, despite our unprecedented challenges, the event was a resounding success, exemplifying the indomitable spirit of the letter carrier.

The annual food drive (started here in Chicago) aims to combat hunger by encouraging community members to leave non-perishable food items in their mailboxes. The increased crime rates all over the city and surrounding suburbs had led to concerns about the safety of letter carriers but our unsung heroes demonstrated their unwavering commitment to their community by collecting and delivering vital food supplies to those in need.

I'm thrilled to share that no incidents were reported during the food drive and by all accounts everyone returned safely. Branch 11 letter carriers collected more than 200,000 pounds of food on May 13th.

Contract Negotiations:

As contract negotiations loom between the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) and postal service management, letter carriers nationwide, especially Branch 11 members, are eagerly awaiting an agreement addressing our key priorities. Representing the backbone of the United States Postal Service (USPS), letter carriers play a vital role in ensuring the efficient delivery of mail and packages.

Our contract expired on May 20, 2023, it's safe to say that working conditions have degraded significantly to levels not seen since the 1970 wildcat strike which gave us the right to collectively bargain. We desperately need a contract that addresses staffing shortages, excessive overtime, safety concerns, and routine mistreatment on the workroom floor among other key issues; however, in whatever we negotiate, contract compliance must be

addressed as well. What good is the contract language we agree to if postal management refuses to abide by it? We are closely watching what comes out of the talks and stand ready to engage with all levels of leadership to ensure we're seizing the opportunity to better the lives of our members. No missed opportunities this time around, the stakes are too high.

MDA Update:

NALC Branch 11 recently organized a series of successful events in support of the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). These events showcased the generosity and compassion of the branch members as they came together to raise funds for individuals and families affected by muscular dystrophy. The efforts of NALC Branch 11 exemplify their commitment to making a positive impact in the community they serve.

I am proud to report we've donated \$11,238.04 to MDA this year which was enough to gift a weeks-long stay at camp for three kids. We accomplished this even without our annual day at the ballpark we would normally hold on the Memorial Day weekend. As it happens, we were unable to continue that Memorial Day tradition this year as the White Sox were away on the Sunday before the holiday. Worry not, a plan is forming to move the game to another night to keep the tradition alive. More details will be shared soon as to what day can make this happen. Until then stay tuned!

Get involved:

As the Vice President, I've had the privilege of speaking to newly hired letter carriers at orientation many times this year. As these new letter carriers also become new NALC members, I engage with them about what the union is. We talk briefly about the history of the NALC and then more about what we're doing right now to give the best representation. This is usually when I encourage them to get involved. Branch 11 has a multitude of opportunities for members to use their skills and talents from life before the Postal Service and even the education we earn while working for this employer. We want you to bring those skills to the NALC. We have space for people that enjoy debating or arguing, writing, creating content, and party planning just to name a few. Maybe you're the person we've been waiting for to propel us all forward. Think of this as a recruitment message or casting call and please reach out if you're interested in getting more involved with your union.

In Solidarity,
Ronny L. Morgan Jr.

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From the desk of the **RECORDING SECRETARY**

The Privileges of NALC Membership

Being hired by the United States Postal Service as a City Letter Carrier, was and still is, very rewarding. I am proud of being a Letter Carrier. Along with said pride, I gladly opted to join the NALC immediately. Yes, of course, I didn't know much about the union. I came from a postal family (mother, grandfather, and more) who were adamant about belonging to the union, and I'm glad they instilled the importance of unionism in me. The NALC is not a "pop up shop". It is a great organization that has been in existence since 1889. Being a member of this union makes us a part of an elite society built on nationwide solidarity with a lot of moving parts. From the beginning to present date, there's a statement that will always reign true; "membership has its privileges". Members have a wide range of advantages and services at their fingertips. One may take advantage of any of the following resources offered: NALC HBP (Health Benefit Plan) is comparable to what some may believe are good health plans simply because of their name(s), MBA (Mutual Benefit Association) has various life insurance plan options, OWCP and Retirement assistance, guidance and representation when needed, CCA retirement savings plan options, a mobile app with a plethora of updated information at your fingertips, Postal Records mailed to your address

of record monthly, voting rights, a \$5,000 accidental death policy, Disaster Relief Foundation, option to participate in state &/or national conventions, opportunities to learn as much as desired, the right to run for any union position, \$750 Death Benefit Plan that is exclusive to Branch 11 members, and much more for both active and retired members. Membership is a big deal. One should understand that there is power in numbers and being a "part of" for the greater good in the workplace is essential. I'm not claiming that everything in your atmosphere is perfect, sometimes we must step up and be the change we would like to see. In the event grievances need to be filed, one should much rather have someone with the fighting drive of an attorney rather than the laze fair demeanor of a public defender challenging management on their behalf when representation is needed. For members that are not in pay status (LWOP or AOL), rather receiving OWCP, or not for more than 30 days at any point of employment, should be contacting me at the branch so the subject of union dues can be discussed. Our goal is to keep the lines of communication open when needed. Maintaining you as a member is very important to us, hopefully your views are aligned as well. We have arrived at Summer 2023! When temperatures are high, listen to your body, stay hydrated, eat small healthy snacks, and take necessary comfort breaks in cool areas. Well wishes for you and your personal safety always! May this season be pleasurable for you and yours!

In Fellowship,
Yolanda R. Cavett



From the desk of the **Health Benefit Representative**

Where's the Love?

Good evening Brothers and Sisters! I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits. First, I would like to send love to the families and friends of our fallen brothers and sisters who are no longer with us. May God wrap his loving arms around them and provide comfort through this difficult time. By the time you read this, the 31st Letter Carrier Food Drive will have taken place and I would like to thank everyone for their participation. You can never give too much or too often, and I know the communities in which we serve greatly appreciate you. It was not long ago that the letter carrier was looked upon with admiration and beloved by the public. Our customers depend on us to deliver those special things, from birthday cards and presents from Grandma, much needed medicine, and those important documents that can't be emailed. We do not just deliver the mail, we provide a service. Our customers expect to see us daily with that cheerful smile and polite conversation. As a letter carrier for almost 28 years, I can say that by being on a route for a period, you develop good relationships with your customers. You felt safe knowing that the customers watched out for you and were always willing to give cold water in the summer and hot chocolate in the winter. Letter carriers care for their customers and don't mind going the extra mile to provide that service we are well known for. During the Pandemic, dedicated letter carriers pushed through and did what we are best known for, "delivery of the mail", despite going through their own personal challenges with COVID. Now after getting through the pandemic, letter carriers are being attacked and robbed while performing their

duties. When did the public lose respect for the letter carrier? We were once revered, now we are targeted. The letter carrier is an essential part of society today and we must get back to the way things were before. The USPS still has dedicated letter carriers that continue to go above and beyond for their customers despite the current obstacles, and as the mailman creed goes, "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds". This still holds true.

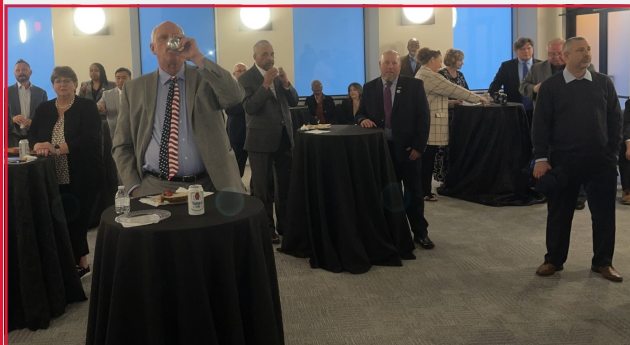
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Dominique White



2023 FOOD DRIVE



BRANCH 11 IN DC



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- Charles



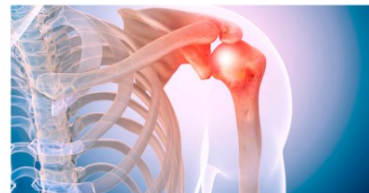
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Shamika Banks	Cinita Franklin	Jaylen Lewis	Uri Samson
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Niya Barnes	Juan Garcia	Faith McGee	Amaya Scott
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Breanne Carlson	Jamarcus Higgenbottom	Moses Odeh	Elizabeth Thomas
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Mikel Clark	Andrea Honey	Dazjah Patton	Jamecia Ussery
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Maxwell Farina	Alphonso Lee	Freddy Ruiz	

Letter Carrier Spotlight

Congratulations to Maritza Villarreal (Elsdon), Latonja Williams (Evanston), and Yolanda Jennings (Cesar Chavez) recent graduates of the Regina Polk School. Branch 11's Director of City Delivery, Tyrone Valdez (Roberto Clemente Station) is the latest Branch 11 graduate of the NALC Leadership Academy in Maryland. Tyrone is pictured along NALC Assistant Secretary-Treasurer and former Branch 11 President, Mack Julion, and Stephen Stewart, former shop steward at Rogers Park and currently the Assistant to the Director of City Delivery Chris Jackson.





*From the desk of the
Director of Retirees*

**“ANNUITANT 2025
HEALTH PLAN CHANGES”**

Due to the Postal Service Reform Act, retirees' health insurance coverage will see current providers' plans incorporating Medicare A & B into their policies. It is to reduce costs of coverage for the USPS and the retirees. In November of 2024, annuitants will have to choose which plan they want for 2025. I recommend staying with, or signing up for, the NALC High Option Plan. Below is an excerpt from USPS "fact sheet" that you may find to be informative:

Program for current annuitants:

1. You are required to select a health insurance plan in the PSHB Program during the 2024 open season period, from November 11, 2024 – December 9, 2024.

2. PSHB plan options and premium information will be available in October 2024.

3. OPM will launch a new enrollment platform for health insurance. Information on how to make elections using the new system will be available prior to the 2024 open season.

4. If you are an annuitant as of January 1, 2025, and not currently participating in Medicare Part B, you ARE NOT required to enroll in Medicare Part B to continue your health insurance coverage in the new PSHB Program. Participation in Medicare Part B is voluntary; however, enrollment in Medicare Part B may reduce your overall costs for health care-related expenses and may provide greater value. a) Your covered spouse and eligible family members will also not be required to enroll in Medicare Part B even if they are age 65 or older; however, enrollment in Medicare Part B may reduce overall costs for health care-related expenses and may provide greater value. b) Note: If you are an annuitant as of January 1, 2025, and are already enrolled in Medicare Part B, you ARE required to remain enrolled in Medicare Part B to continue coverage under PSHB.

5. If you are an annuitant entitled to Medicare Part A (typically at age 65) prior to January 1, 2024, and have not enrolled in Medicare Part B, you and your covered, eligible family members may be able to participate in the special enrollment period (SEP) for Medicare Part B that starts on April 1, 2024. Those who enroll during the SEP will not need to pay the late enrollment penalty. Eligibility letters will be sent to annuitants and eligible family members in early 2024.

6. If you retire between October 31, 2024, and December 31, 2024, and are entitled to Medicare Part A (typically at age 65), you will have the option to enroll in Medicare Part B during a specific eight-month special enrollment period immediately following your retirement date. If you wish to enroll, you MUST contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) to initiate enrollment if you are over the age of 65.

7. As a general rule, spousal and family member PSHB coverage is based on the primary subscriber's eligibility. If the primary subscriber is not required to join Medicare Part B, neither will dependent family members. Likewise, if you qualify for the SEP, so will your covered family members."

Exceptions, as explained by our NALC HBP Director, Stephanie Stewart are as follows:

"There are some individuals who are exceptions to the rule: 1) Any postal employee who is retired before Jan. 1, 2025; 2) any active postal employee who is 64 or older as of Jan. 1, 2025; 3) any postal annuitant who can prove that they do not reside in the United States; or, 4) any postal annuitant who receives benefits provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs or Indian Health Services. If you meet any of these criteria, you will not be required to enroll in Medicare; however, if you were previously eligible and chose not to enroll but now

wish to, there will be a special enrollment period in the spring of 2024 allowing Postal Service annuitants to enroll without paying the Medicare late enrollment penalties."

*Fraternally,
Pete Skrzypczynski
pete@nalcbr11.org*



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From the Desk of the M.B.A. Representative

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

Did you know there are multiple options for you regarding MBA? Take a look!

City Carrier Assistants - NALC CCA Retirement Savings Plan that pays you during retirement.

5-year Renewable & Convertible Term Life Insurance - Our most affordable protection for when you need it most.

Independence Single Premium Whole Life - A secure, single-payment life insurance plan ideal for your children or grandchildren.

MBA Individual Disability Income - Disability income insurance helps cover you when the unexpected happens.

New Term to Age 65 Life Insurance - This insurance plan offers the protection and convenience of having a life insurance policy until you reach the age of 65.

20-year Term Life Insurance - The long-term coverage you

need, locked in at the affordable rates you want.

Whole Life Insurance paid up at Age 65 - Lifelong insurance protection without lifelong payments.

Whole Life Insurance - Life insurance that protects your loved ones - plus a growing nest egg available in an emergency or help pay for college or retirement.

Family Retirement Savings Plan - The MBA family retirement savings plan is designed to allow the family members of Letter Carriers to plan for a secure financial future.

The enrollment process is seamless. Please be assured that it is affordable, and you can depend on the service. Plan for the unexpected, join the **MBA**, and don't make the mistake of being uninsured when you have multiple programs designated to meet most of your needs in the event you sustain incapacitation for duty.

I am available to visit your in-station meetings if you require additional assistance. Feel free to visit the union hall to retrieve a brochure or one can be mailed to you. You may also contact me by calling the union hall.

*In Solidarity,
Sheila Hudson*

LAST PUNCH BUNCH



Carmen A. Parker
Mount Greenwood

*Michael C. Blocker
Harvey Boddy Jr.
Jimmie R. Bournes
Stanley E. Brookins
Gwendolyn J. Daniels
Sherman H. Fason
Carolyn "Peaches" Hodges
Gwendolyn Jackson
Joseph L. Jeron
Ronnil E. Johnson*

*Terese Johnson
Brenda Jordan
Christina Lopez
Richard Mendez
Eliana P. Micolta
Alvin J. Murphy Jr.
Deadrick E. Teague
Joyce L. Walton
Connie T. Washington
Mark A. Whitfield*



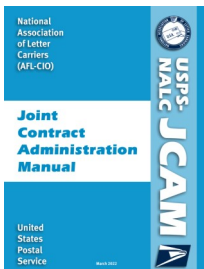
Sherman Fason
Harvey



From the desk of Auditor

Grievance? What's that?

You have been aggrieved. Perhaps you're an OTDL carrier who wasn't assigned overtime today, but you saw a non-list carrier performing the overtime work. Maybe the hours that you worked didn't quite add up when you got your paycheck. Or maybe you were issued discipline for some new made-up rule such as "stationary time". Whatever the circumstances may have been, the solution will remain the same. You file a grievance. Well, what is a grievance? According to Article 15 of our National Agreement, a grievance is defined as a dispute, difference, disagreement, or complaint related to wages, hours, and conditions of employment. Article 15 then goes on to explain that any employee who feels aggrieved must discuss the grievance with the employee's immediate supervisor within fourteen days from the date on which the employee or the union became reasonably aware of its cause. Oftentimes, we notify our shop stewards that we would like to file a grievance and leave it in their hands, and all too often, we don't have a clue of what's going on with our



grievance after that. We fail to realize that it is OUR grievance, and we have a right to not only be involved but to be notified of the status of our grievance at every step of the dispute resolution process. Many of us don't understand that we can, and in fact should, be present at the Informal Step-A meeting for our grievance because no one understands how we've been aggrieved and how it has affected us better than we do. We owe it to ourselves to participate in our own grievances so that we can get the best outcome. That also means that we will ensure that we include all documents or information in our grievance file to support the fact that we were aggrieved. Those documents could include paycheck stubs, statements, medical records, etc. The point is that we must make sure that we are doing what we can to substantiate our claim so that our grievance has the best chance at success. What if I don't know what I should include in my grievance file? Please don't hesitate to ask your shop steward or a branch officer. Your branch officers are here to answer your questions and are happy to assist in any capacity. We understand the importance of building a successful case and will certainly steer you on the right track. Don't forget, we have fourteen days!

*Respectfully,
Shayana Benson*



From the desk of the Treasurer

Repetitive Motion

As spring starts to bring warmer and dryer weather, it can be tempting to wear those new gym shoes or your favorite sandals to work. However, you need to save that footwear for outside of work activities. Let's discuss postal approved footwear. Yes, we have required standards. To meet the postal approved standard, start with the green tag. What are green tag shoes? Here is the direct quote from USPS Vice-President Douglas Tulino in August 2017, "To earn the green tag, shoes must be slip-resistant, built with water-resistant black leather uppers and waterproof lining, and go through independent testing at the U.S. Navy Clothing and Textile Research Facility. Now that we know what the green tag on our shoes represents, why would we want to

wear anything with lower standards. Our livelihood depends on our feet. We can average over 20,000 plus steps delivering mail in all types of elements. Yet many of us still wear non approved footwear, putting us at risk for injury. The approved footwear for uniform program employees must have SR/USA green tag labels (See ELM 939 for exceptions).

The official requirement from USPS is straight forward and the guidelines require a leather upper or substantial material, slip resistant, black in color, closed toe and US made. Additional examples of what is non approved footwear are shoes with cloth, nylon, or mesh-woven tops, such as tennis shoes, athletic, or jogging shoes, except those with leather or leather like uppers, moccasins, etc. Please comply with wearing the proper shoes.

Protected feet are happy feet!

*In Solidarity,
Robert Fuentes*

TREASURER'S REPORT MAY 11, 2023

ON DEPOSIT APRIL 1, 2023

\$161,283.0

RECEIPTS FOR THE MONTH

\$133,203.42

TOTAL RECEIPTS

\$294,486.42

DISBURSEMENTS (VOUCH # 83872-83923)

-\$111,027.02

AMALGAMATED GENERAL APRIL 28, 2023

\$183,459.40

CHASE—3658 GENERAL APRIL 1, 2023

\$15,574.37

RECEIPTS FOR THE MONTH

\$11,790.42

TOTAL CHASE GENERAL FUND

APRIL 28, 2023

\$27,364.79

TOTAL GENERAL FUND APRIL 28, 2023

\$210,824.19

CONVENTION & DELEGATE FUND

\$95,960.77

CONVENTION DEPOSIT & INTEREST AS OF
MAY 1, 2023

3578—\$10,605.81

TOTAL \$106,572.81

BRANCH # 11 BUILDING FUND

\$525,669.02

DEPOSIT & INTEREST

\$122,500.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS: \$648,169.02

BRANCH # 11 BRICK FUND (14.64)

\$36,715.69

BRANCH #11 CHASE SAVINGS -0633 (.16)

\$20,508.09

BRANCH #11 BOA SAVINGS -4347

\$30,000.00

BRANCH #11 RECREATION ACCT #4375

\$10,657.22

BRANCH #11 AXOS BANK

\$3,677.09

AMALGAMATED BANK (COMMON
STOCK) \$25,013.38

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
STAFFORD D. PRICE JR.



From the desk of the Sergeant at Arms

Fill the Seats

Hello Branch 11! Let me introduce myself to those who are wondering where I came from. I'm Brina, letter carrier for 23+ years, current steward for four years at 22nd Street Station, Formal-A Designee, and appointed Sergeant-at-Arms an by President Elise Foster. I was a steward under President Jimmie Canada at Uptown Station in the mid-2000s and worked under the Julion/Caref administration. During our monthly meetings, there's usually a number of us that stand along the wall, congregating during the meeting, which can and has been a disturbance

to those that want the plethora of information that our branch is offering. Yes, I know, we're just getting off work, trying to wind down, wanting to laugh at what management had done that day. However, I ask that you **FILL THE SEATS** and be respectful to those that are conveying beneficial information as well as those that are here for knowledge. See you soon at the next meeting!



Respectfully,
Brina M. Archie
Sergeant at Arms



From the desk of the **REGION 3 BUSINESS AGENT**

Contract Negotiations Ongoing

Let me get right to it! Every letter carrier is anxiously awaiting the results of discussions we are having with USPS on our national contract. As of the expiration date of the last contract on May 20, 2023, the parties had made enough progress that we decided to extend discussions. However, there is still no indication that the other side has the resolve to work with us to make this job desirable again and put the Service on solid footing. If we don't have an agreement with them after the 60-day mediation period, we will proceed to binding interest arbitration. If we do come to an agreement, that contract proposal will be sent out to the entire membership for an up or down vote - this is known as the ratification process. The terms of the previous contract remain in effect until we get a new contract, and also once that occurs, the terms of the new contract will be in effect retroactively to May 20, 2023. As I laid out in the From A to Arbitration podcast back in February (episode 88), the current contract doesn't work! The Postal Service, due to poor management plus their hiring and retention problems, is having a hard time meeting service standards guaranteed to the American people through

the Postal Reform bill we got passed last year. They are also paying out a "shit-ton" (this is a technical term that means "many dollars") of money in grievance settlements and penalty overtime that postal rate-payers have to absorb. Having a dedicated workforce of letter carriers – the face of the company – has always been the secret to the Postal Service's success. This model is in serious jeopardy now as people with a long-term career mindset (think young people coming out of the military, e.g.) are not applying for the job, or are quitting the job in record numbers. The current contractual terms are not acceptable to us as letter carriers, and we are demanding drastic changes in pay, working conditions, and work rules. The Postal Service has added hundreds of offices (Glenview is still the only Branch 11 office) into the "all-career model" around the country in an effort to make the job more desirable for new applicants. The starting PTFS pay of \$22.13 is better than \$19.33, but it still isn't enough. In addition to low pay, the frustrations of the job – daily harassment from management, constant changes to the work schedule, and work rules that just don't make sense – make matters worse. Even carriers that achieve career, full-time regular status and have moved up the pay scale are quitting the job at an alarming rate! We'll see what the next few months bring. For now, let's stay vigilant – we need a better contract!

In Solidarity,
Michael Caref



Branch 11's Inaugural Great America Family Day Event

Date: July 23, 2023



Cost: \$50 per ticket

Tickets are limited to four (4) per member.

Includes admission the Amusement Park, Hurricane Harbor, Thrill Pass, General Parking and Meal (served 1:30 - 3:00 pm).

Contact Recording Secretary Yolanda Cavett for more information.

BRANCH 11 TRIVIA CONTEST



In which Article of the JCAM will you find a union member's right to annual leave or leave without pay at the employee's election, to attend a national, state, or regional NALC convention? Call the Hall with the correct answer to be entered into a raffle. The winner will be selected on July 14. Prize will be determined soon. Good luck!

CHAS. D. DUFFY, BRANCH NO. 11
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS
3850 S. WABASH AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60653-1542

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ANNIVERSARY

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Ball

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JULY 09

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Dress to Impress with Sneakers
3:00-4:00 COCKTAIL HOUR
4:00-5:30 DINNER SERVED

Best dressed contest
FREE PARKING
OPEN BAR

TICKET
\$75
Per Person

