



# B·Mike



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*"An Injury to One is an Injury to All"*

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## **In This Issue:**

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From The Officers

# Updates, Updates, Updates!

-David Norton, President

The year of 2020 has seemingly been one national crisis after the next. We started with the global health emergency of COVID-19, which then led into the economic collapse that it created. We are now seeing a nationwide uprising against the racial disparities that exist in America and the abuse that racial minorities face due to the systemic racism that permeates throughout our nation's institutions. Let me say that I, Branch 82 and its officers are opposed to racism and racist practices in our union, in the Postal Service, and every sector of public life. What happened to George Floyd in Minnesota and what has happened to far too many other people of color at the hands of the authorities is immoral and reprehensible. We stand with our members of color and their allies to demand long-overdue reform to prevent the recurrence of what happened to George Floyd, Rayshard Brooks, even our own Jason Washington, and to countless others from ever happening again. We also stand with the peaceful protest that has been ignited across this country because of these recent tragedies. The sight of Mr. Floyd crying out for his mother in the last moments of his life is something I personally will never forget, and the thought of it will probably always bring me to emotion. The idea that something like this could happen in this country in 2020 is shameful and needs to stop now.

Wherever you fall on the events that have happened this year, I think we can all agree that so far 2020 has been a doozy. Carrying on with everything while it's all so vastly different is something that I have yet to get used to.

We do have some updates from the Branch...

## Meetings and Cancellations

As we have announced in this issue and as we have done in past issues of the B-Mike, we are canceling the General Membership Meeting for July. We are probably going to do this until Multnomah County enters into phase 2 of opening up during the COVID-19 pandemic. That is when we can have up to 100 people in one location providing there is proper social distancing. With the amount of people that we normally get at a General Membership Meeting, that will not be at the Branch 82 union hall. We are currently looking at some other options on where we can hold a union meeting and maintain 6 feet distances from one another.

A couple people have suggested that we hold General Membership Meetings over Zoom. Right now we are not entertaining this option. First, we have 2000 members, and getting each one of them a Zoom meeting password would pose difficult. Also, voting over Zoom is very cumbersome, especially for the number of members that we normally have at a meeting. It is fine if it is with a small group, but it

gets challenging the more people you have. I was recently at an AFL-CIO Executive Board meeting on Zoom, and it took forever to get through a simple vote. I know that there are people who are anxious to vote on a couple of resolutions that were submitted. These will get voted on as soon as we start having meetings. With the State and National Conventions canceled this year, there is no other body to discuss or vote on a potentially passed resolution anyway. Furthermore, there are many members that may not have access to the technology necessary to take part in a meeting over the internet or the knowledge to do so. I don't want to discriminate against those members. I am having regular check-ins over Zoom with station shop stewards. This is how Branch 82 is getting information disseminated down to the workroom floor. As always, Branch 82 is fully staffed and is available to answer any questions or chat about what's new with any member. I thank everyone for their patience, and certainly, everything is subject to change. If we were having elections this year, we would be forced to figure out some alternative way to have nominations for office without having a traditional meeting. But for right now we are going to avoid the unpleasantness of having me scream "for the love of god, can everyone please mute!" during a virtual branch meeting.

There are several other events besides meetings that have been recently canceled. The Branch 82 picnic and softball tournament is canceled, as well as the Retirees Banquet, Starlight Parade and the Labor Day Picnic. As I write this, Pride week is coming up, and don't you know, the weather is going to be perfect for a parade. I encourage everyone to please still celebrate these times. Pride is still important. Labor Day is still important. Many of these organizations are having virtual celebrations. Don't forget to honor these times just because we can't get together as a group.

## Food Drive

This leads into my next update; we all know that the NALC food drive was postponed. With no telling if we are going to be able to have a food drive this year, the NALC is facilitating direct donations to your food bank. We all know that there have been so many families that are suffering in this economic environment due to the pandemic. The Oregon Food Bank and the local food bank in your area need funds more than ever. Go to [NALC.org](https://www.nalc.org) and right there on the front page is a link to donate to the 2020 NALC Stamp out Hunger Donor Drive. You can donate directly to the food bank in your area. I know the food drive was always such a point of pride for me as a letter carrier. Out of all of the events and functions postponed because of COVID-19, this was the hardest to take. Please give. Your donation is more important than ever.



## **Masks**

There are several installations, the City of Portland included, where management has issued the instruction that all carriers are to wear a mask in their office while they are outside of their cases. This instruction also applies to clerks. Regardless of what side you fall on in this new mask debate, Branch 82 is recommending that all carriers comply with the instruction. One, the CDC recommends wearing a mask when social distancing cannot be maintained, and that has been postal management's policy up until this point. The question then becomes whether you can maintain social distancing or not. Some may say that you can and others say that you can't, so management hasn't really enforced the wearing of masks. Until now. In most stations, I cannot see that anyone could truly maintain a 6 feet separation with their co-workers while they are walking around outside of their cases. To me, the instruction seems reasonable. Carriers are only in the office for a relatively short amount of time anyway. Maybe an hour and half, plus or minus? If we were delivering in Washington State, we would be forced to wear them out in public.

The Postal Service is providing everyone a mask. Please just wear it. I hear from many people on the mask controversy. Some want everyone to wear one and others want to refuse. Personally, I am happy that places are just making a policy and sticking with it. I am a big proponent for personal freedom, but a management instruction takes the guess work out of the whole debate. Wear it to protect yourself. Wear it to protect your co-workers. Or, if you don't agree with wearing a mask, at least allow your fellow carriers to have the sense of well being that they and their loved ones are a little bit less exposed and a little bit more protected from this deadly virus. Many carriers will say that this instruction doesn't go far enough and carriers should be required to wear them even if they are in their case. To those people I will say, this is better than nothing.

Oddly enough, the wearing of masks to stop the spread of flu also became political and contentious in 1918 during the influenza pandemic that infected a third of the world's population at the time and killed anywhere from 20 to 100 million people. With the cases of COVID-19 rising in most places, I would think that all of us would rather be safe than sorry.

## **Consolidated Casing**

I am happy to tell everyone that the Consolidated Casing "test" is now over. There was an agreement between the Postal Service and the NALC, and Kenton Station will be going back to the way it was before. In the agreement there were going to be 31 test sites that were going to go

back by July 31st, and the rest were going to stay as they were and go back on November 27th. Fortunately, Kenton is on the list to return by the end of July, and we are already working to facilitate that. I would like to thank all of those who helped out during this strange time. We filed many grievances and had many meetings regarding this Consolidated Casing plan, and I am thrilled to be moving on from it. Most of all I would like to thank the carriers at Kenton that had to work under these conditions. It was definitely not easy.

Lastly, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all of those parents out there who finally are done with this round of distance learning. I have two daughters that just "graduated" from middle school and elementary school. On top of a demanding job, being a single parent, and then the madness involved with the pandemic, throwing in being my children's teacher as well almost sent me over the edge. I know that many of you are in the same predicament, and it was definitely a huge added stress. It was terrible for my kids as well. When did they change math?!

I think that I can safely say that 2020 has been trying for all of us. We are all craving social interaction and the normality that we were all used to. We all want this to end. And it will eventually. We will have a vaccine at some point. We will get inoculated and then we can resume activities. Maybe we can start doing some of the things we were used to. But not everything is going to go back to the way it was, and I am not so sure that that's a bad thing. We are going to suffer, and we are going to hurt from all of these experiences from this year, but we have to grow from it and we have to learn from it. We have to do this as individuals and as families and as unions and as nations. We have to grow collectively.

As a union, we are all members contributing to a common goal. That common goal, traditionally as workers, is a fair share of the profits from the boss or the company for our labor. We as letter carriers have been pretty successful in this trade unionist model. Many unions have. Things aren't always perfect and sometimes things are difficult, but they are always better when we are united together.

We can learn from the issues of 2020 and be better- for ourselves, our children, our fellow humans, and this world. Problems can be solved, even when we are talking about major issues like health and safety, the economy, or racial justice, when we are all committed together.



# Caution Fatigue

-Jim Baxter, Vice-President

Caution Fatigue? I don't know exactly what that is, I read about it in a news article. It seems people are getting tired of being cautious when it comes to trying to be safe to prevent the spread of the COVID virus. I spoke to a young sister the other day, and she told me that she can't wait to be able to go to a bar or restaurant and have an adult beverage and just talk to people. Personally, I don't understand that. For me, I just want to go home to peace and quiet. But this is the United States of America, and we have the personal freedom to do either.

As letter carriers we could have caution fatigue all the time. Every time you move the vehicle you put on your seatbelt. Is that tiring? Heck yes. But we do it. Not just because it's a rule and if we don't do it we will get in trouble, but because we are far less likely to be hurt in an accident if the seatbelt is being used. How about dogs? I was on the ODL for many, many years. Every house that I went to I would make sure I watched out for those nasty creatures. I would carry the spray and my bag. Did I have caution fatigue because of dogs? You bet I did. It got so that when dogs came after me my heart didn't beat fast anymore. I got so I didn't want to see a dog. Yes, I had caution fatigue, but I did what I was supposed to do.

I know we get tired of doing all the safety rules that we are trained to follow. We don't just give up and say 'well I don't care, nothing is going to happen to me' or worse, 'I don't care anymore.' I'm not going to get bit, I'm not going to fall out of the vehicle, or I'm not going to fall off a porch. No, we follow best practices to keep safe.

So I understand that people are getting tired of hearing about the virus and doing what it will take to keep from getting it. People are tired of social distancing and people are tired of hearing about masks and that they should wear them. I know it's a pain, but we need to do the right thing. We have not had large outbreaks in any of our offices. Where have there been large outbreaks in our area?

Besides senior centers, the biggest outbreaks for workers have been in food processing plants where people are working side by side in very close quarters for long periods of time. We work close to one another like that. So what's the difference? The difference is the NALC, nationally and locally. Our national officers have made sure that there are rules in place for gloves, hand sanitizer, face masks and better cleaning of our work areas. Plus signing enforceable agreements about leave and staying home if you feel sick. Your local officers have made sure that all the necessary stuff is in the offices. President David Norton made sure that there was hand sanitizer for every carrier. He found a local business that makes the stuff and worked with the postmaster to purchase it. The cost was thousands of dollars. I have a contact here in Port-

land that when asked can get the safety stuff to any office that needs it by the next day. Believe it or not, Postal management has done a pretty darn good job to have the PPE on hand.

I don't know if you pay attention to what is going on around the state or not. A church in LaGrande, Oregon had a church service, and now that county has the highest infection rate of any other county in the state. Hundreds of cases were traced back to that one service. Pictures of that service were posted online. They did not practice social distancing, and I didn't see anyone wearing a mask. We have protests going on all around the country. Many of those folks are wearing masks but they for the most part are really close together. In a week or so we should start to see if those protests were safe or not. I am writing this Saturday, June 20th. The president is having a political rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma. I watched the folks waiting to get into the arena today on the news. No masks and no social distancing. Oklahoma is a hot spot right now for the virus. I think that is going to be a real mess, but time will tell.

The virus is not republican or democratic. It doesn't go after one political group or another. As a country we didn't politicize the polio vaccine or the smallpox vaccine. The country and the world wanted to get rid of those diseases. They worked together and did a pretty good job of getting rid of them. The same thing has to happen with this.

So what should we do now? I think that we should all be wearing masks in the office not because I'm a democrat or a republican but because it makes sense. I had a brother tell me the other day that he was young and healthy and if he got it, it wouldn't be too bad. That's probably true. However, the CDC says that 35% of the cases are transmitted by people who have no symptoms or haven't gotten them yet. We are brothers and sisters, and we can limit the spread of the virus by doing just a couple of different things.

Wearing a mask is not hard. Standing away from each other a bit is not hard. These are simple things. How would you like to be the one that brought the virus into your office and passed it around and made a bunch of people sick? As things open up, we are going to be exposed to more people. The possibility of getting sick and spreading it to others is going to increase.

I know people are experiencing caution fatigue, but please be vigilant. Keep each other and our families safe. Do the simple thing, don't make a big deal out of it. Don't make it political. Don't just think of yourself. Other people or their loved ones have real and serious health issues. Wear the mask for them.

Good Luck  
Jim



A New York letter carrier wearing a mask for protection against influenza. New York City, 1918.



Adam Magana, Collections, working through the COVID-19 pandemic.

## INJURED AT WORK?

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Mike O'Connor

Wednesdays and Thursdays  
503 493-5903

### Branch 82 Monthly Meetings

General Membership 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 7:00PM

Retiree Luncheon 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 11:30AM

Stewards Council 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 7PM

Executive Board 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, 6PM

All members are welcome, unless otherwise noted.

All meetings are held at the NALC Branch 82 Office,  
5265 NE 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

Retiree Luncheons are held at  
Izzy's EastPort Plaza, 3846 SE 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue



**B·Mike**

# Change.....

-John D Kunz, Chief Steward

The United States has changed in the last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As of the writing of this article, approximately 120,000 people have died, millions infected, schools closed, many businesses have closed, and unemployment has skyrocketed. Social distancing, masks, and hand sanitizer have become a part of our daily routines. Prior to February I was attending my kids' school functions, sporting events, and concerts. As of right now none of these events exist in their previous form. My son is an MMA fighter and we watch UFC fights on TV with no audience, which is very awkward to hear no cheering. I imagine this will be the reality for the NBA, NFL, NHL, and MLB. Our job is changing too.

Due to the pandemic, our current mail volume is the huge increase in parcels. The break rooms are no longer full with people due to social distancing. Many carriers and clerks are wearing masks and some stations have staggered start times. The USPS Main Office at Cornfoot has many of their employees working from home. The NALC and the USPS have signed many MOUs addressing issues related to COVID-19. How long these changes will last is anyone's guess. The Union is changing too.

Due to the pandemic all local union meetings have been canceled. The office until recently was running on a skeleton crew with only me and President Norton visiting offices. The only other people working out of the office were Vice President Baxter and Secretary/Treasurer Pierce. The Business Agent's office is closed with everyone out of that office working from home. The NALC Oregon State Association has canceled its annual state convention. The NALC at the National level has canceled the National Convention being held in Hawaii. Branch 82 has started doing zoom meetings with stewards to update them on current issues and to get feedback on what is going on in each station. The zoom meeting can be very challenging when people unmute themselves because the feedback and background noise really interrupts the sound. But overall zoom meetings serve their function. When everything goes back to normal is unknown to me. I am changing too.

Every day I wake up and do my morning routine which includes looking in the mirror, especially when doing my personal hygiene. I am getting grayer and older. My body hurts more easily and it takes longer to heal. My kids constantly call me old man and try to outdo me in sports. My career as a letter carrier is in its last 10 years, which means I can see the finish line. As I write this article, I have been serving in the union since I became a letter carrier in 2003. I was a clerk prior. That means I have been serving in this union for 17 years. I can't and should not do this forever-

we as union advocates must teach others what we have learned. If I do not do this, all my knowledge dies with me. This would be incredibly selfish of me. I want to someday return to delivering mail and end my career where it began. I encourage everyone to express an interest in doing my job. It is not easy, I constantly clash with people and everyday brings a new challenge. Sometimes I lose sleep, sometimes I'm angry, sometimes I even want to cry. I try not to bring my work home with me, but my wife can always tell when I'm bothered. Is it worth it? I think it is, but only you can decide that for yourself.

I guess change is inevitable, so we must embrace it. I am willing to teach anyone who wants to learn. If interested please contact me or President Norton.  
JKunz

## Branch 82 Officers

President	David Norton	503.493.5903
Vice President	Jim Baxter	503.493.5903
Sec/ Treasurer	Matt Pierce	503.493.5903
Rec. Secretary	Ken Wilson	503.493.5903
Editor	Suzanne Miller	503.493.5903
Dir. of Retirees	Sam Smith	503.493.5903
Health Benefits	Eric Matras	503.706.8717
Chief Steward	John Kunz	503.493.5903
Sergeant At Arms	Chuck Solomon	503.493.5903
Safety Officer	Don Cadwell	503.493.5903
LCPP Rep	Joe Fruichantie	503.493.5903
Veterans Rep	Bruce Hall	503.285.8468
MDA Rep	Abe RedCloud	503.493.5903

### EXECUTIVE BOARD AT LARGE

Jon Cabral	503.493.5903
John Kunz	503.493.5903
Betty Nash	503.493.5903
Jamie Partridge	503.493.5903
Abe Redcloud	503.493.5903

### TRUSTEES

Lois Brumfield	503.493.5903
Casey English	503.493.5903
Julius Fildes	503.493.5903
Sallie Green	503.493.5903
Ted Lulich	503.493.5903







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**B-Mike**

# EDITORIALS:

## No Class Traitors in the Labor Movement

-Chandler Hull, Rose City Park

Police have never been friends of the labor movement, and to allow their “fraternal orders” into the spaces of organized labor is a betrayal of the very foundations of our class interests. It is to allow a viper in our midst, and is deeply perverse for an institution like the AFL-CIO to stick its neck out in defense of these organized gangs of class traitors.

Following the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer, while several other officers looked on, the AFL-CIO had been pressured by various movements for social justice to no longer affiliate with police unions, the bare minimum in this time of public accounting against the police, but the AFL-CIO decided to maintain “solidarity” and not expel these “unions.” What solidarity can we have with those who’d have clubbed us when we stood up for the forty hour work week? Perhaps the same solidarity we’d extend to our black, indigenous, and people of color members should we not take a staunch stand against these institutions involved in their oppression.

Some members may question why we cannot extend solidarity to police, they are after all workers with a wage and a boss breathing down their neck. This is a mistake, because a police union is first and foremost to protect the officers in carrying out the violence and cruelty imperative to their job

description, protectors of private property. For every Derek Chauvin there are hundreds of cases of police excessive force and murder that is protected by these institutions, in the same way we are protected from the occasions we make mistakes. However, the difference when we make mistakes as letter carriers is maybe we bang-up a van or take a bit too long at the case, often no one is harmed. When a police officer “makes a mistake” someone, most often a BIPOC, is hurt, imprisoned, or killed.

Cops understand solidarity in their own twisted way. Those officers who looked on as Derek Chauvin murdered George Floyd, kneeling on his neck for nearly nine minutes, were acting in “solidarity” with Chauvin. Close ranks, keep cameras off the violence, and protect your racist brothers no matter what. I ask you comrades, is that the kind of solidarity we’d like to foster?

With this I encourage every member of our branch to read our proposed resolution for supporting the defunding of the Portland Police Bureau.

In solidarity,  
Chandler Hull, the weird wobbly

## Don’t Call Me a Hero

-Chandler Hull, Rose City Park

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began to be taken seriously within the U.S. there has been a trend to thank “essential workers” for their labor in this time of personal risk. Many times on the street I have been personally thanked, called a hero, and exalted when I drop a Geico standard letter down a mail slot. Now I am not one to reject admiration and praise, it is only natural to want and enjoy it. It is, however, the identification of us and other workers on the “front lines” of COVID as heroes that has disturbed me.

In this time my mind has been inextricably drawn to Umberto Eco’s seminal essay “Ur-Fascism,” in which he defines 14 characteristics that encompass fascism. Most specifically to my point is characteristic 11:

“11. In such a perspective everybody is educated to become a hero. In every mythology

the hero is an exceptional being, but in Ur-Fascist ideology, heroism is the norm. This cult of heroism is strictly linked with the cult of death.”

COVID-19 is a serious fatal risk to many of our members, and we, as well as many other workers from grocers to nurses, are let out to continue working with inadequate safety measures and material. We are the sacrifices our society has willingly made, and such a feeling makes one feel the opposite of heroic. It makes one feel insignificant.

This one point does not make a fascist society, many other cruel and dark aspects of the modern U.S. can make that case filling up more points of Eco’s Ur-Fascism. We are not “heroic sacrifices,” we are people with lives and loved ones, and should expect more than empty platitudes, but safety and fair compensation. Hazard pay would be a nice start.





# No Union Contract is a Shield for Police Brutality

*So many police officers are in agony over George Floyd's tragic death. It should not be used as an excuse to bash unions or undermine worker rights.*

**Lee Saunders, AFSCME president**

As an African American man who lived through the 1960s and now has two sons and three very young grandsons, the specter of systemic racism keeps me up at night. I can't tell you how many times I've called my sons during the past week — just to know where they are, to hear their voices, to make sure they are safe. Unless things change, my sons will have the same conversations with my grandsons when they are older. There should be no controversy in declaring that the lives of my sons and grandsons matter. Black lives matter.

And as a union leader, I know the agony so many police officers feel when yet another senseless tragedy occurs. In denouncing the murder of George Floyd, Sgt. Jeffrey Reimer, who leads 2,000 AFSCME-represented police officers in Connecticut said, "What happened to Mr. Floyd was an absolute misuse of force. It never should have happened. The Minneapolis police officers involved in this heinous action put the rest of us at risk. There is no justification for what they did."

## Floyd killing no excuse to bash unions

Let's be clear:

► No union contract is or should be construed as a shield for misconduct or criminal behavior. In fact, the four officers in Minneapolis were fired the day after George Floyd was killed, and now they've all been charged.

► While union contracts do not shield police brutality or other criminal behavior and while most officers understand that their sworn oaths demand a higher standard of conduct, it is incumbent upon law enforcement officers to work within our communities, along with politicians, prosecutors and police chiefs, to stamp out a culture among some that "anything goes" on the streets.

► And ugly rhetoric from a labor leader, such as the opinions expressed by the president of the independent Minneapolis police union, who is a disgrace to the labor movement and should resign, does not provide an excuse to bash unions.

Everyone should have the freedom to join a union, police officers included. Period. The tragic killing of George Floyd should not be used as a pretext to undermine the rights of workers.

## Enough with words and task forces

More than half a century ago, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. declared that labor rights are civil rights. The 1.4 million members of the union I lead, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees — which includes thousands of law enforcement officers — feels unique kinship with Dr. King and his mission. He was assassinated while helping 1,300 striking black sanitation workers who had formed an AFSCME local union and carried signs in Memphis that declared, "I am a man."

Black people and our allies across America are outraged at the betrayal we have experienced. We have been told, since the founding of our nation, that we're all created equal. We have been told that if we obey the law and play by the rules, the American dream will be attainable. But this promise is never realized.

While the peaceful protests must continue, enough with the rhetoric and the blue ribbon commissions and the task forces. We know what the problems are. We need to implement real solutions that people see and feel on their streets and in their communities. Just as it was wrong when racists went out of their way to exclude black people from unions, it is wrong to deny this freedom to police officers today.

*Lee Saunders is the president of the 1.4 million-member American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, which represents 90,000 sworn and non-sworn officers across the country, including corrections officers.*

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**B-Mike**

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**Dear fellow workers and members of Branch 82,**

Like most of you I have been working through the COVID-19 pandemic, doing my best to stay safe and feeling proud of providing an essential public service as a letter carrier. Just as many of us were gradually getting used to this New Normal yet another black man was gruesomely killed. George Floyd was murdered by police in Minneapolis. George's hands were tied and the knee of a cop crushed into his neck. It should be painfully obvious to all that we face not only the COVID -19 pandemic but the generations-long pandemic of police violence, institutional racism, and oppression that is taking the lives of black people across the nation. I stand with the Black community against these horrible inequities and in calling for justice for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Eric Garner, Philando Castile, Sandra Bland, Tamir Rice, Trayvon Martin, Aaron Campbell, Quance Hayes, Kendra James, Keaton Otis, and many more whose lives were ended by police violence.

Since George Floyd's murder by police, people have come together around the world to demand things change. And while marches and demonstrations against police violence have happened countless times in the past, somehow, this time, it does feel different. The past week and a half of demonstrations against police violence have been a sight to behold. Working out of Waterfront Station affords me a close up view of the gatherings and marches. Thousands of men, women, and children of various ethnicities and skin colors peacefully protest (yes, demonstrators are **OVERWHELMINGLY** not destructive- they are peaceful and non-violent) daily against oppressive and deeply entrenched police violence against black people. It feels cathartic, revolutionary, and inspiring. I hope very much that some real, lasting reforms come from all this. And I hope that our local NALC Branch 82 leadership will consider a resolution showing support for the various BLM movements and calling for an end to police violence against black people.

Of course, the demonstrations do cause some minor inconveniences for workers including letter carriers. There are deliveries that cannot be made due to boarded up shops, usual travel routes that cannot be accessed. And of course, too, we should remember that the daily disruptions will eventually come to an end. When they do we should not and cannot return to the status quo. Simply defending the broken system by saying not all police are violent bigots is not doing anyone any good. We must ask why the so called good cops let this violence and murder continue to happen. Simply assuming if you yourself are not a racist then it is not your problem is not enough. We must all strive to recognize our own learned racism and prejudices so that we might eradicate them within ourselves. We can and should try to be people that are focused on healing and learning from our divisive and brutal history. We must, in short, not simply be "not racist". We need to strive to be Anti-Racists. To always be on the side of justice, to always stand up against the oppressor. As union members it is our duty.

Always in union solidarity,  
Thomas Friesenhahn, Waterfront Station

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# Hello From the Desk of Your Secretary-Treasurer

-Matt Pierce, Secretary-Treasurer

I hope this finds you all well. I'm sure that you, like most of us, are getting quite tired of "living in interesting times." I highly recommend that you read both our National president Fred Rolando's Statement on justice for George Floyd and the ongoing civil unrest and his statements regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on NALC.org. They contain not only a lot of valuable information and a nuanced view of our union's position but also recommended action or actions that letter carriers can take. Also please continue to check the national website often for further updates and information since by the time you read this, many things may have changed or been updated.

This month let me focus on another aspect of our current predicament and people's reaction to it: the stock market and how it affects people's retirement. Again let me state that, as you already know, I am not a professional financial planner, nor do I ever make specific investment advice. Anyone who tells you that they "know" or "have a system" on when to sell one fund and buy another is either misguided, lying or wrong. Or possibly committing the felony of insider trading if it's about a specific stock. There are no exceptions to this rule.

Whenever there's a shock to the economy, there's a temptation to sell when the markets go down because you've lost money in the short run. That temptation may be particularly strong if lots of other people are selling, and there seems to be a stampede for the exits. But as we've just seen there was a very big drop in stock prices at the beginning of the crisis and also a rapid return. If a carrier had transferred all their holdings at the bottom into the G-Fund, they have now locked in those losses. If you follow others' examples and sell, there is no chance you'll ever make back the money you lost by selling. Understand, you have a loss on paper, in your account, but it is not realized until you sell it or cash it out.

Although it's impossible to predict the future, if the past is any indication, an investment in a fund that tracks the S&P 500, an index made up of hundreds of the largest companies in the U.S., would have made an average 9.7% return per year over the last eight decades, 1928-2018. Of course, that stretch of time contains some very bad years, including the Great Depression, several recessions and the more recent financial crisis of 2008. But if investors sell their stocks on the dips, they have no chance of earning back those losses over time.

When it comes to retirement and investing, the vast majority of people focus on the things almost completely outside of their control such as housing prices, the stock market, their health etc... instead of focusing on the major aspect

of a financially sound retirement that is almost completely inside of their control. Namely, how much of their current income, no matter what it is, that they save every month. Fortunately for us, there are a lot of smart people working on the problem, with math and over 140 years of market history to be their guide. The hard science suggests that a retirement will be feasible at the planned retirement date as long as one saves consistently from their salary in a way that gives a sufficiently high probability that they will be able to meet their spending goals regardless of the wealth accumulation at retirement and the withdrawal rate actually needed to meet the spending goals. Or to put it simply, you need to save (x)% of your current salary for your retirement plan to be sufficiently sustainable. The science shows that this aspect that is within our control can go a long way towards giving us the retirement that we all desire: happy (hopefully), healthy (hopefully), and able to maintain a lifestyle that we enjoyed prior to retirement.

So for all of you new employees out there, here's what the hard science says. Wade D. Pfau, CFA and professor of retirement income at The American College used historical market data going back to 1871. His goal was to give a savings rate with a greater than 90% chance of success. For all of you that have 30 or more years to retirement, the answer is 11.6% of your current income. This number assumes the 5% USPS match, and that the baseline retirement saver wants to replace 50% of their pre-retirement income, which would give them almost 100% of their pre-retirement income with their Social Security or bridge payment and annuity. It assumes they will spend 30 years saving and investing and will spend 30 years in retirement. It also assumes their investment allocation will remain steady at about 60% stocks and 40% bonds. It also assumes that you never take the money out and that you never change the allocation. So is that a guarantee of success? No, but 90% is still pretty dang good. Certainly better than just guessing at the ups and downs of the market. Even for those getting close to retirement it is a good idea to become more risk averse but it's usually a bad idea to avoid it all together. It's not like on the date that someone retires all of their monies in the TSP are converted to cash and are "locked in." This is almost never true; most retirees leave some or all of their money invested to some degree or another. This would allow for them to enjoy the upside potential of a rebound if they retired during a period of time when the market fell well below its historical average. There's a lot of things to worry about and focus on during this pandemic but making rash decisions with your TSP and future retirement isn't one of them.

I look forward to when we can all be together again. Until then, I remain faithfully yours in solidarity, Matt.



# Independence

**-Bruce Hall, Veterans Rep**

We celebrate the Independence of the United States of America on July 4th. Our independence was gained in 1776 at the cost of 25,324 lives. Our great country has gone through several wars and a great number of our military people have given their lives.

This year as we celebrate our nation's Independence, I would like to mention some events of national importance for us to remember as we consider the sacrifices that were made so we can celebrate our freedom.

1. The 244th anniversary of our Independence!!
2. The 208th anniversary of the War of 1812.
3. The 155th anniversary of the Civil War (1861-1865).
4. The 102nd anniversary of World War I (1914-1918)
5. The 67th anniversary of the Korean War (June 25, 1950-July 27, 1953).
6. The 75th anniversary of World War II (1941-1945).
7. The 57th anniversary of the Vietnam War (1958-1973).
8. The 25th anniversary of Gulf Wars (1990-1995)
9. The 9th anniversary of Iraqi Freedom (2003-2011)
10. The 6th anniversary of Afghanistan War (2001-2014)

The Afghanistan War has the distinction of being America's longest war. It lasted 13 years. We still have troops in Iraq and Afghanistan in training and support rolls.

As we consider all the Veterans involved in these wars and remembering that "All Gave Some and Some Gave All," we see that the cost of freedom is high!

The cost doesn't stop with the soldiers that were killed. Many veterans were not killed, but did sustain injuries and illnesses. Our country has committed to caring for these veterans. However, it seems to be a continual battle for many veterans to obtain the care that they need. The VA is still in a critical condition but is improving. It's a big job, but hopefully, veterans will receive the care they need and deserve in a timely manner.

There are a couple of major bills affecting veterans health care that have been passed by Congress in the last couple of years: the VA Mission Act of 2018 and the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019. The VA Mission Act of 2018 improves the care that Veterans get through the VA by utilizing the capabilities of the private sector when needed. It helps recruit the best talent for the VA, which veterans deserve, and it also extends caregiver benefits to every veteran that needs it. The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 gives benefits to tens of thousands of Vietnam Veterans, and also expands benefits to military dependents, Veterans of the Korean DMZ, and those exposed to toxic hazards in South-west Asia.

This legislation sounds great, but many labor groups believe it is a step towards privatization that will result in more costly, less effective care, and will bleed veterans' facilities of patients and resources. The bill also creates a commission to look at closing VA facilities and gives the Secretary of Veterans Affairs the authority to close facilities without consulting congress. So we need to monitor this bill closely. We need to continue to petition our legislators to provide the care to our veterans that they deserve for the price they have paid to fight in the wars that the legislators have authorized over the years. **THE COST IS HIGH, BUT IMMEDIATE CARE IS NEEDED!!!**

The VA has made adjustments to provide care during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many services are provided online. They allow veterans to receive their care without exposing them to COVID-19. Our main concern is about the care of veterans; however, another great concern is for our great country, which is in a state of unrest and discord with protests and civil disturbances. Everyone is looking for answers, we need to review our history and not try to eliminate it, but learn from our mistakes, and make changes under the auspices of our initial Declaration of Independence which says that all men are created equal, that they are endowed with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. To secure these rights, governments were instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the people. We need to work together to come to a just and peaceful solution. We need to do unto others as we would have others do unto us. As another great man said, ask not what my country can do for me, but what can I do for my country.

**REMEMBER** the freedoms we have gained; **RECALL** the sacrifices made in obtaining these freedoms; and **RESTORE** meaning to Patriotism as we celebrate our Independence!!

As we move into summer, many of us will be taking vacations. If you travel along the highways in Oregon, you might note the signs that Honor Veterans, I'll list a few you might look for:

WWI Veterans Memorial Highway: US Hwy 395  
WWII Veterans Memorial Highway: US Hwy 97/SR 126  
Korean War Veterans Memorial Hwy: I-5  
Purple Heart Trail: I-5  
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway: I-84  
Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, Iraq Veterans Memorial Highway: US Hwy 101  
Sunset Highway: US 26 (Honors 41st Infantry Division)

As we celebrate our INDEPENDENCE and travel on vacation, let's **REMEMBER FREEDOM IS NOT FREE** and honor those who have made these things possible! Celebrate your independence by not being Apathetic, rather be Active and show Appreciation.



Safety Officer Don Cadwell presents a poster to highlight pandemic safety measures.

## ACTIVE IDUTY

ROBERTO JIMENEZ, (Creston) Army, Qatar

CASEY JAMES, (Waterfront) Army, Jordan

NOAH DUARTE, son of Ricardo Duarte (St. Helens) Army, South Korea

DARREN CRUZ, son of Gary Cruz (River District) Army, Ft. Lewis

BILL QUIGLEY JR, grandson of Ken Quigley (Gold Card Member) Army, Iraq

CHRISTOPHER MANIVANH, son of Simang Manivanh (Hillsboro) Army, Iraq

GREG GERARD, son of George Gerard (Beaverton) Navy, Virginia Beach

ZACHARY PADACA, son of Eleanor Padaca (River District)) Navy

JARED SZAROLETA, son of Donna Szaroleta (Oak Grove) Marines, Camp Pendleton

DEAN SCHUCHARDT, son of Patricia Schuchardt (Multnomah) Army

TOM TOTTEN, son in law of Lee Travis (retired) Army, S. Korea DMZ

CONNOR SHEEHAN, son of Pat Sheehan (retired) Army, Ft. Houston

MATTHEW UNDERWOOD, son of Rick Underwood (River District) Marines, Camp Pendleton

# FOOD DRIVE UPDATE

-Abe RedCloud,  
Oregon Food Drive Coordinator

Hello everyone, It's Abe RedCloud, your Oregon Food Drive Coordinator. I have an exciting update about what the NALC is doing for the 2020 Food Drive.

First off, the NALC has not determined when the best time would be to have an official food drive yet as the pandemic is still in high effect. We have a teleconference nationally about the food drive about once a month, so I will update you as soon as I have new info about it and an official date.

Meanwhile, the NALC has put together an exciting event to help all the food banks in need right now! It's the NALC 2020 DONOR DRIVE. Nationally anyone can go online to [www.nalc.org/food](http://www.nalc.org/food) and donate online to the food bank in or nearest the town/ city that they live in. Here are the steps to follow:

- 1: Go to [www.nalc.org/food](http://www.nalc.org/food)
- 2: Scroll down and click on "Select your state food bank".
- 3: Choose your state or the state you want to donate to.
- 4: Look at the list to find the food bank nearest you and click on the web address for it.
- 5: This will bring you to the food bank's own website where you can donate.

Easy peasy! Food Banks are in desperate need as they have more people than ever that need food due to being out of work due to the pandemic. So please spread this info on all of your social media that you participate in and tell your friends and family. Let's get the word out everywhere nationally!

This event started on Monday June 15th with no end date. So by the time you get this it might be almost over, therefore please get the word out asap. Thank you all so much and stay healthy!

In solidarity,  
Abe RedCloud



**B·Mike**

# MDA Report

-Abe RedCloud, MDA Rep

## EVERYONE PLEASE READ

Hello everyone. So there's a few changes and updates with our events that are happening now or coming up. It's very unfortunate that we haven't been able to have a big event yet because the MDA NEEDS our help more than ever right now. Most of the events they run and other organizations run to raise NEEDED funds have been canceled due to this pandemic, so we need everyone to please step up with more donations for any event that we are able to run like:

## CURRENT MDA EVENT= MDA Raffle:

Final dates for the raffle are below. Please get your tickets before it's over and help MDA as much as you can. Tickets are with your steward or at the hall.

## Ticket Prices:

\$5 a ticket or for \$20 you get 5 tickets.

## Prizes:

1st Place = GoPro Hero 7

2nd Place = Ipad mini 4

3rd Place = \$50 Visa card

## Ending Date:

Sunday July 31st

## Drawing date:

Wednesday, August 5th

Please please spread the word and buy some tickets and/or tell everyone you know, including family members. MDA needs your help.

## BRANCH 82'S ANNUAL LABOR BOWL:

Canceled.....that's right. We have VERY UNFORTUNATELY canceled this event this year as we don't see it being safe for over 100 people to come to an event at this point. #1 is everyone's safety! We will bring this event back in 2021, and hopefully it will be the best we have ever had before after skipping a year.

## NEXT MDA EVENT:

At this point we are talking about 3 possible events to run that will not require any public gatherings. Hopefully next month's B-Mike will have details and dates of what we have chosen.

Besides that, we are still planning on having the Annual FILL THE SATCHEL event in October. So plan ahead for that and please start saving some money to donate to one of these upcoming events. Saving \$5 a paycheck or pulling out \$20 once a month and saving it in an envelope for an

MDA event are a couple of ideas that might not hurt your budget or even be noticeable. WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!

## RHYME TIME:

I haven't heard any feedback on if anyone likes the rhyme I've been making, so I decided to skip this month. But if I hear around that people are reading and want it back, I'll bring it back with a double verse in August! If you missed my info earlier in the year, I promised to sing this in front of everyone at the January 2021 meeting if we raise more than \$27,500 this year for MDA. Since it's not looking like we will make that goal due to COVID-19, I'm going to lower the goal to \$17,500 if the rhyme time is wanted back. Here is what I have had so far after adding to it once a month:

"In 2020, we made the most money. For MDA, let's all say Hooray! Raffle came first, along with this verse. Aiming super high, higher than the sky. Fingers are crossed tight, hopefully this soars to a new height! Tickets are being sold, and everyone has been told. COVID-19 has hit us, getting TP is a big fuss! Self quarantine is in effect, stay 6 feet away to not infect. Masks here and masks there, there are masks everywhere! Some bought in a store and some homemade, wonder if this fashion will ever fade? Events are being canceled and postponed, a lot of our lives are being forced to stay home. The date had to be changed for our Labor Bowl, I really hope it works out with all my soul!"

In closing, I appreciate all of you and really hope that you can reach into your hearts and wallet for MDA. Take care everyone and stay safe!

In Solidarity,  
Abe RedCloud

*In Memoriam*

Robert Davis Jr  
Gerald Heckamon  
Robert Modesitt





# Proposed Resolution: Defund the Police, Fund Social Services

WHEREAS, historically police were established within the United States for the purposes of cracking down on the activities of organized labor, and repressing black, indigenous, and people of color positioning them in opposition to our union and its BIPOC members; and

WHEREAS, police continue this tradition of violence, most recently in the murder of George Floyd, and show no restraint in attacking protests, often instigating violence up to the use of illegal chemical weapons; and

WHEREAS, police unions style themselves as fellow trade unions, but they represent a distinct class interest contrary to the interest of this union and its members, and cannot be shown the same solidarity offered to other trade unions; and

WHEREAS, city and state resources allocated to the police could be better appropriated into public services and social welfare; and

WHEREAS, a coalition including the Portland African American Leadership Forum, Unite Oregon, Portland Metro People's Coalition, Portland Jobs with Justice, and Portland's Resistance have been agitating during the current popular uprising for the defunding of Portland Police Bureau special

units, and the refunding of their budgets into important social programs for the city and its residents, as well as more community control over the PPB;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NALC Branch 82 join the coalition and add its endorsement for the policies of police defunding and refunding, releasing a public statement in solidarity with the action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NALC Branch 82 encourage its members to partake in the letter writing campaign for police defunding and engage in demonstrations in its support; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NALC Branch 82 bring forward to the Oregon AFL-CIO a recommendation for the expulsion of any union locals representing law enforcement, and for the Oregon AFL-CIO to attempt to expand this policy to the national AFL-CIO; and  
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the Oregon Association of Letter Carriers and the national NALC for concurrence.

SUBMITTED BY:

Chandler Hull, Jamie Partridge, Omar Ortega, Tom Richardson, Mark Flegal, Benjamin Stutz, Dave Medford

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**15**

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

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## **UNCLE FRED'S IFFY ADVICE FOR NEWBIES**

*It kind of makes sense if you squint.*

*Hey kids! Uncle Fred here with some tips for those of you who may be new to this gig. Yeah, I've been packing a satchel since before some of your mothers made that special delivery at the hospital and I'd like to share a few handy dandy ideas that I've picked up over the years that may make your day at the P.O. just a little bit easier. Check 'em out! Collect them all!*



1. If it doesn't move, scan it.
2. Technically, your casing partner's rubber band stash is the company's. Sharing is caring.
3. It's OK to accidentally take your vehicle key home sometimes. Preferably not on the day before you leave for your Hawaiian vacation, though.
4. If there's only a 90% chance of rain, the odds are good that you can leave that parcel on top of that rural box without its getting wet.
5. Don't report a slip, trip or fall if you can still move without crying. The pain pales to all the paperwork.
6. Don't ever let the boss tell you that you're too slow. Slugs are people, too!
7. "Commitment" isn't about justifying your existence.
8. You can claim full coverage if you happen to spill a tub that spreads across the floor.
9. Remember, words like "commitment", "credit" (for mail counts) and "penalty" (overtime) are twisted terms when coming from management.
10. Unfortunately, federal, state or local stalking laws don't apply to street observations.
11. Sometimes a COA can be DOA.
12. It's bad luck to put your hand in a pit bull's mouth.
13. Use your own judgement. (Ha! Just kidding!)
14. Murphy's postal law: The smaller the mailbox, the greater the chance that it's still crammed full.
15. If you get down in the dumps about the job, just remember, you're a pre-retiree!