



# B·Mike



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

*The Official Publication of Branch 82*

*Portland, OR*

Beaverton·Canby·Clackamas·Forest Grove·Gladstone·Happy Valley·Gresham·Hillsboro·Lake Oswego·McMinnville·Newberg·Oregon City·Portland·St. Helens·Troutdale·West Linn



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# You May Have to Dig Deep

-David Norton, President

At a family get together back in 2008, I remember meeting my cousin's then fiancé for the first time. He was a nice guy and we chewed the fat about our interests, sport teams, and the usual stuff one fills a conversation with when meeting someone for the first time. He told me about his hobbies: travel, pickup basketball, and hanging out with friends. He asked me what I liked to do in my spare time. Uhhh... It wasn't an easy question to answer.

At the time, it had been a year since the Postal Service decided to quit hiring career carriers and switched only to sparingly hire Transitional Employees. The economy was in a tailspin due to the housing market collapse and the postmaster general was beating the drum of going to only five day delivery. First class was plummeting, and postal employees were legitimately scared about the future of the organization. The Postal Service was a different looking place; the boom in ecommerce was still in its very infancy, and Jeff Bezos hadn't implemented his plan of world domination. What was similar, however, was that the staffing was atrocious. The Postal Service had implemented a hiring freeze, and carriers were forced to perform all the work being severely understaffed. On a daily basis we would go into the day at Rose City Park Station being 10 routes down. I made a lot of money in those days, which was good for my young family, but I didn't have much time outside of work. To answer the question about my spare time: I got used to enjoying putting my feet up at the end of the evening. That was about it.

That is where carriers are at right now. If you are saving up for something, or trying to pay off some debt, this is a great opportunity to make a lot of money. I hear stories about how much some of the ODL carriers are making, and it blows me away. I also heard that the highest paid carrier came out of Texas, and he made something like \$209,000.00. That's crazy, and at the same time completely believable. If you are on the side of the coin, and you either don't need or don't want to work a lot of hours, this is a very, very tough time. Even if you don't mind a little extra here or there, most carriers don't have the option. With the current state of staffing levels in Portland and surrounding associate offices, carriers are getting mandated every day, there is no end in sight, and (rightfully so) everyone is getting sick of it.

As Branch 82 President, staffing is what I spend most of my time dealing with, thinking about, and stressing over. It affects almost every aspect of letter carriers' jobs. It makes everything harder when staffing is poor.

As part of CCA orientation, I usually talk to new carriers about the struggles that are currently going on as relating to staffing. I also try to point out the good aspects of the job. The things that being a letter carrier and a Postal employee can offer you: paid holidays, retirement and a pension. There are a lot of positives. Those things were always easy to think about when times had gotten tough. Pouring down rain: well, at least I have healthcare. Summer heat: I love my customers. Crazy packages: the holidays will be over soon. The mail is really heavy: hey, I just have to make it to Sunday. Now, in the current state of things, carriers are left to really dig deep. Those great reasons to stick with this job are still out there, and believe me this can be a great job, but if the only thing you have to look forward to is putting your feet up at the end of the day and turning around and working an insane amount of hours the next day, there is a problem. That isn't a formula for long term success.

It isn't as if there are a lot of other great things going on around us to distract us from our busy, busy jobs. Between COVID raging, partisan bickering, extreme climate and the crisis of human suffering happening before our very eyes, not even the rekindled romance of J Lo and Ben Affleck can save us from all of the swirling negativity, doom and gloom.

So, what is a letter carrier to do? Like I said before, you're going to have to dig deep. The job of a letter carrier has always been one that you had to really love to do and do well. It has always been physical, demanding and frustrating at times. That is never going to change. But the staffing eventually will. When, you may ask? That is a good question. If I could raise the starting wage to something high enough to peak people's interests, I would. If I could end COVID and alleviate people's fear of returning to the workforce during this pandemic, I would. If I could force people to work for the post office right now, I probably would. But other than having a crazy union president drag private citizens in by the ear, people are going to have to want these jobs.

We are trying to hire. Back in those dark times in the mid to late 2000s, the Postal Service was refusing to hire employees. This time around they are actually trying, and eventually we will get enough people to stay on and make things better for everyone. I know that the current reality we are living in at the post office for many employees is the only thing that they know. Staffing is terrible right now in most places, but it has been terrible before and it has gotten better. We at Branch 82 are doing what we can to try and help with the problem, but



getting people in the door isn't easy. There are currently many problems; staffing is just one of them. Sometimes it seems insurmountable. But we are dealing with each one of those problems as they come up, and we will continue to do so. This still can be a great job. Our customers love and appreciate us. This is still an important job to the American public and we have proved that over the last couple of years more than any ever. It is just very hard right now.

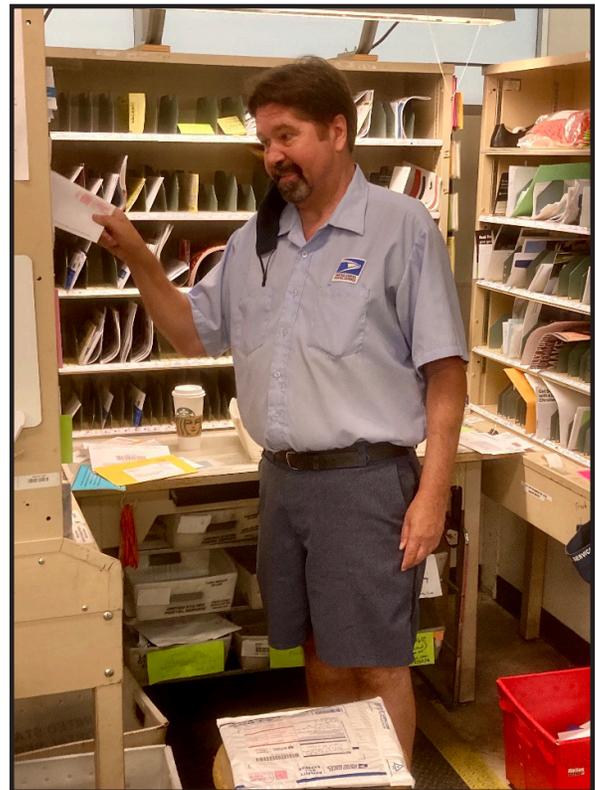
As far as the rest of the world goes, life is still amazing. There is so much to be thankful for even after the last couple of crappy years we have had, and in many ways, this pandemic and the fallout due to it, has shown me what is really important in my life. It has really challenged me, but it has brought me and my two daughters

closer together. Online school was one of the hardest things I had to do, but I basically learned math again. It has made me appreciate what I have and enjoy the little things in life more than ever. The flora and fauna around me, listening to music, time with my dog and shows on TV have even more meaning now. Did you see the Summer of Soul? It was fantastic. I still get to enjoy a glass of wine (not that I advocate turning to alcohol in tough times), enjoy raising my children through their teenage years (ugh), and I still get to get up every morning and go to a job that I believe in.

In dark times, we all have to rely on each other to get through them, and we as letter carriers should all be able to rely on one another to get through this staffing crisis we are experiencing right now.



Rick Lieb, Waterfront



Kris Kellogg, Waterfront

# Hello Again From The Office Of Your Secretary-Treasurer.

-Matt Pierce, Secretary-Treasurer

Due to the hard work of our national union on our last contract, many of us received substantial back pay, and we are now earning one of the largest COLAs in NALC history. A newly converted Step A letter carrier just got a COLA (Cost of living adjustment) raise of \$1189 a year. That's well over the yearly cost of Branch 82 union dues. It should now be impossible for anyone to say they can't afford or need what the union has done for them. Sadly, upon reviewing the non-members of our Branch I found that over half of our non-members belonged to the union at some point. People used to think, and many people still do, that a union is primarily something like an insurance policy for workers. Members pay dues, and in return they can call on their union representative to handle their grievances, if they ever have any. People who think about their union in this way rarely have any feelings of commitment or concern about it. After all, do you feel committed to your insurance company or care about what its goals are, as long as your agent takes care of your needs? But as you can see on your paycheck, the union does a whole lot more than that.

So I humbly ask all members: if you know a non-member, ask them why they don't belong. If it helps, our Branch offers \$200 to members who sign up non-members, but I think it's most important that we find out why they quit or failed to join. Maybe they feel like they had a great idea no one listened to, and just maybe it was a great idea, in which case I'd love to hear it. Maybe they feel wronged by a representative of our branch, in which case I'd love to have a chance to apologize to them. Maybe they feel like they can't afford it, in which case please let them know that almost no other workers have an unlimited COLA like letter carriers have, and that the last COLA, the NALC won was more than a year's dues. That's just one of the seven COLAs guaranteed by the latest contract. So clearly the union more than pays for itself.

If you're feeling a little intimidated about talking to them, you don't need to be. They're your fellow co-workers. You don't have to set out to make them join, just ask them why they haven't joined, listen to their answers with patience and respect, and be kind and open to their responses. If you want you can say something like the following.

Dear non-member,  
I ask at this time to urge you to reconsider your decision not to join the Brothers and Sisters of NALC Branch 82. Regardless of any justifications you may have developed, there are no legitimate excuses for reaping the benefits you just received, paid for and protected by others. I'm sorry if you feel the branch screwed up your grievance or if you hate the station steward. But the NALC is and does so much more than that.

Since 1889, the NALC has helped win every pay increase and improvement in benefits Letter Carriers have gained; sick and annual leave, paid holidays, paid breaks and the forty-hour work week included. In just the most recent contract you have received raises of at least \$2,500 and up to 4,100!

In case you were unaware, the NALC and its associate postal unions are the last major organizations to have the benefit of an uncapped COLA which protects employee earnings from inflation. The USPS has consistently tried, since the 1970s, to take back this benefit in contract arbitration. Their efforts have only been rebuffed by the dues paid by your fellow letter carriers. You have just received an uncapped COLA of more than the cost of yearly dues with plenty left over. I ask that you sign up to contribute to the cost of maintaining this and future pay raises.

Moreover, the NALC today continues to press its fight in both the workplace and the halls of Congress to enhance the competitiveness of the U. S. Postal Service and to improve the economic and social well-being of the nation's city letter carriers.

No one is claiming this or any organization is perfect. But nothing has done more to contribute to the pay and benefits you currently receive than the people of the NALC. All we ask is that regardless of our differences, we all chip in equally and contribute to maintain and improve these for ourselves and future letter carriers.

Again please be kind and understanding of what they say. The NALC should be seen for what it is- a positive thing in the lives of letter carriers.

Until next time I remain yours in solidarity,  
Matt

## Branch 82 Non-Members

Neville Chambers, Beaverton  
Steve Dean, Beaverton  
Steven Eldridge, Beaverton  
Robert Gardner, Beaverton  
Michael Porschien, Beaverton  
Kristyann Stafford, Canby  
Keith Wery, Canby  
Jeffrey Maloney, Evergreen  
Richard Roberts, Evergreen  
Wei Wu, Evergreen  
Thomas Breadon, Forest Grove  
Emilia Brodeur, Forest Grove  
Daniel Ford, Forest Grove  
Sheila Root, Forest Grove  
Mary Bobnick, Gresham  
Marc Detweiler, Gresham  
De Bui, Lake Grove  
Albert Chan, Lents  
Ronnie Lewis, Lents  
Jeffrey Smith, Lents  
Christian Strong, Lents  
Elizabeth Krieger, McMinnville  
Mikka Vironen, McMinnville  
Brandy Bosnar, Newberg  
Robert Kahl, Newberg  
Benjamin Siefken, Newberg  
Kenneth Boettcher, Oak Grove  
Rex Paschall, Oak Grove  
Jared White, Oak Grove  
Shawn Graham, Oregon City  
Eric Ridley, Oregon City  
Billy Sapp, Oregon City  
Mona Zirkle, Oregon City  
Robert Hawkins, West Linn  
David Rheume, West Linn  
Patrick Dyche, West Slope



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\*1.99% APR is an introductory rate for 12 months (12 billing cycles). After the introductory rate, any balances that have not been paid off will revert to our regular rate of 12.9% APR. Account must remain in good standing throughout the promotional period to continue the promotional rate. Offer valid on non-NWPCU Credit Card balances only. The total amount of outstanding transfer requests cannot total more than your available credit. \*\*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Restrictions may apply. Subject to credit approval. The promotional offer is effective August 10 through October 31, 2021.



**B·Mike**

# From the Desk of the Chief Steward

-John Kunz, Chief Steward

As I look back over the last year I can't believe what we have been through as a country, state, city, and branch. Forest fires, record heat waves, snow storms, elections, riots, and COVID-19 are just a few of the issues letter carriers have experienced. To top it off the country is currently going through another wave of the pandemic called the delta variant of COVID-19. This pandemic has been raging around the world since late 2019, and this new variant is raging across the country as I speak. City letter carriers at the post office have been coming to work every day and have been on the front lines since day one. I want to personally thank you for your hard work and perseverance.

The delta variant outbreaks have occurred sporadically at different offices. These stations have all gone through deep cleanings, and employees quarantined for their and your safety. On a personal level, my wife's whole family in California has gotten COVID in the last month. This issue is still real and front and center and is killing people. Please take the necessary steps to protect yourself. As I write this article vaccinations are widely available to everyone but children. We in Portland are back in masks to stop the spread. Gloves, masks, and hand sanitizer are available for your use. Wash your hands regularly and social distance if necessary. These are the tools we have, please use them.

In Portland we have staffing issues at the post office. Every craft and management is short of employees. The problem gets worse when people take annual leave or call in sick. Due to shortages of CCAs to cover the vacant routes, regular carriers not on the OTDL are mandated to work. This in turn has pushed people to get medical profiles to prevent them from being forced to work mandatory OT. This in turn forces the few CCAs we have and the left over non-medical regular carriers to work even more hours. This in turn has pushed CCAs and even regular carriers to resign from the post office. I don't know how to fix this issue. We are not getting many applicants applying for the post office. It seems of the few that do apply, half resign fairly quickly after being hired. The long hours and possibly not getting days off is driving this trend. Maybe we need to hire straight to career or offer hiring bonuses. Any way you look at it, something has to be done by the national parties to fix this issue.

At Branch 82 we lost our Vice President James Baxter. This was completely unexpected and shocked us all at the branch. I literally talked to him and had a good laugh at 5pm the last day

he left work to go home. Little did I know this would be the final time I would talk to him. James Baxter was your advocate until the end. He believed in every single carrier and worked tirelessly day in and day out for letter carriers. I did not always agree with him on his arguments or theories, and there were times when I would get into it with him. He never held a grudge, and I always knew he came from a place of caring. People would call and yell at him for whatever reason and he would let it slide off him day after day. He always treated everyone with dignity and respect no matter how bad he was treated. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Since I became chief steward of Branch 82, I have only worked with one vice president. That was James Baxter. Every morning at 8am he would drive past my window in his silver Toyota pickup truck. One of the first things he would do when he entered the union hall was come to my office and say good morning and inquire how I was doing. Even now I sometimes think Baxter should be pulling up anytime now. I will never forget him.

We are reaching the end of summer and fall is approaching. We have had record heat waves of up to 115 degrees and letter carriers in the city of Portland came to work and did their job. Thank you to all for your sacrifice and hard work during this past year.

JKunz



# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Safety or Liability?

Submitted by Steven Hecht, Sellwood

The National Weather Service issued its highest heat warning “Excessive Heat Warning” for the days of June 26, 27 and 28. Portland recorded all time record highs on each of these days. All carrier units in Portland delivered mail all three days. According to the NWS, under such conditions, one is advised to “take action,” “you may become seriously ill, or even die.” The high temperature in Portland on Monday, June 28 was hotter than the highest temperature ever recorded in Dallas, Los Angeles, Sacramento, or New Orleans, to name a few cities. The carriers known to have died from heat illness all died at lower temperatures.

These were only the official temperatures. Dr. Vivek Shandas, who studies climate change, recorded an air temperature of 124 degrees at 4pm on June 28 at the intersection of 92nd and Woodstock, and a sidewalk temperature of 180 degrees. The National Institute for Safety and Health recommendations for employers advise 45 minutes of rest to 15 minutes of work before they advise no work of any kind (111 degrees). With the heat index factored in, Portland letter carriers were over this threshold most of the working day all three days of the heat wave. At no time were we advised to take such an aggressive work/rest schedule. The rest periods were left up to the employee, instead of being based upon the advice of medical professionals.

According to the USPS' own materials, management is to “Review the National Weather Service for Heat Warning/Advisories.” If anyone in management was unaware of the conditions, it shows negligence. If record breaking heat and the NWS warning is not enough to cause the curtailment of mail, what is? Mail is curtailed for Sundays, holidays, and for national mourning when a president dies. Pay for Performance is not affected in some cases. In the case of safety it is. There is no monetary incentive for safety. To the contrary, during a time of excessive heat, safety is effectively disincentivized.

The USPS has no standard to deal with excessive heat. There are dangers and these can be quantified. The human body has limits. The NWS, NIOSH, and OSHA have all charted various levels of heat danger. Under the OSHA guidance, the heat levels Portland letter carriers were exposed to are graphed in the risk categories as “very high/extreme,” “very high to extreme,” and “extreme danger” respectively. The NWS website that management is supposed to monitor had Portland in a magenta colored area on June 28. The chart on the site reads: “Magenta means... Very high risk- entire population at risk to the heat.” The NWS heat warning is issued for “extremely dangerous heat conditions.” Under common law, a person, and for these purposes, the USPS is a person, who knowingly endangers another person is liable for the damages caused.

Common law, the law that fills the gaps where the laws aren't written, is the legal application of common sense and precedence. Because OSHA has not established standards for working in heat, any injury caused falls under the jurisdiction of common law. If OSHA had standards, an employer would simply have to meet the standard, and would not be liable for injuries if the standard was met. Not having a standard can work to employees' advantage. Unfortunately, this advantage can only be obtained after an injury and a lawsuit.

USPS materials list one of the symptoms of heat exhaustion as confusion. All employers are expected to provide a safe workplace for employees. The USPS wants its employees to report symptoms of heat exhaustion. It does not monitor the symptoms (as recommended by OSHA). Expecting someone who may be confused, that is, lacking in judgement, to report a condition causing confusion, is in a word, confused. In another, it is negligent.

To wait until carriers are injured, in a situation in which carriers are likely to be injured is a low bar for safety. Expecting carriers to work in the same conditions that have caused injury to other carriers is a bad policy. Self reporting of subjective symptoms leads to carriers subjectively withholding actual symptoms. There are many reasons employees do not report injuries. Fear of retaliation, pride, and loss of income among them. As long as other carriers are delivering routes, we feel it is our duty to deliver our routes. If we don't deliver our routes, someone else will, putting that person at risk.

USPS has shut down delivery due to snow and ice. It was the correct decision, however, death data for the latest period I could find, 2017-2018 showed that seventeen deaths were attributed to cold weather over the two year period in Multnomah County. So far, seventy-one deaths are likely from hot weather in Multnomah County over the three days June 26, 27, and 28. If risking our lives is a measure of safety, then the USPS falls short.

Injuries from slips and falls are easy to see and verify. Those from heat are not. At least several employees experienced the effect of the heat for days. Some of us didn't know until after our return from tour. Because these injuries are hidden, and usually unreported, they do not show up as a safety issue. Because these injuries, in the absence of monitoring, are unverifiable, they are not a liability for the USPS. The injuries from slips and falls are a liability. If the USPS is more concerned with liability than safety, then it should not hide behind a safety program that is really a liability program. For the USPS, death and hospitalization are liabilities in a heat wave. More carriers should not die before the USPS does the right thing.





David Buss



Tom Crews and his cake



Chris Nizinski

# CONGRATULATIONS to all the newest retirees!



Dan Smith



Steve Weaser with President Norton



Theresa Wilhelm



# *Last Punch Bunch*

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**David Buss - Oak Grove**

**Richard Chamberlain - Hillsboro**

**Thomas Crews - Evergreen**

**Salvador Luna - East Portland**

**Brian McNealy - Beaverton**

**Chris Nizinski - Rose City Park**

**Patricia Saeland - Multnomah**

**Pat Schartz - Oak Grove**

**Dan Smith - Evergreen**

**Steve Weaser - East Portland**

**Teresa Wilhelm - Tigard**



# Channeling Baxter

## or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Buckled Up

-Jon Cabral, Parkrose Steward and Executive Board Member

Serving as the acting vice president after losing a pillar of our establishment, our own Jim Baxter, has been a humbling experience to say the least. Jim was a friend, brother, counselor, advisor, and more to everyone in Branch 82. When I first sat down at his desk, I didn't know how I was ever going to be able to fill in the space he left behind, but knew that I had to figure it out, and that I needed to figure it out fast. From the very first moment I started, there were messages, calls, and grievances starting to quickly pile up. I did my best to channel Baxter in every capacity when it came to speaking on the phone and offering advice.

Giving others the space they need to feel important and cared for; this was something that Jim always provided for me, and I know he provided to many others as well. Being there for anyone who needed an ear to bend, or someone to vent to, and to do that in a calm and relaxed manner, in the hope the person on the other end was left feeling better than when the conversation began. It's obvious to me now that all of the many phone calls with Baxter over the years that I knew him helped shape how I interact with others as a steward and made it much easier for me to fall into that role. I am forever grateful for how he approached communication with others and the knowledge and comfort that came along with it.

When it came to filing away or appealing incoming grievances though, that was much more of a challenge. Trying to figure out another person's filing system is no easy task, regardless of how many broad stroke rules are in place. Like anything else in life, these rules are still interpreted by an individual who has their own unique view of the world, thus creating minor variances throughout the intended process. Baxter was a Cubs fan, so we all know he had a very unique view of the world. I spent a lot of time trying to figure out what Jim's shorthand was. Thankfully, our Secretary Brad was there every step of the way to help me, otherwise I would have been lost. It took a few days, but eventually I fell into a rhythm that was efficient enough for me to get through the incoming workload, though there were still days that felt like I was running in circles. Brad liked to remind me how Baxter would sit down with a plan for what to do on any given day, then would inevitably be bombarded with questions and phone calls, and would end the day saying, "I didn't get anything done!" Brad would reassure Jim by simply telling him that he got a lot done, and that there was just no quantifiable way to measure how much.

One, if not the most important aspect of Jim's role as vice president in our union, was his care for CCAs, the most vulnerable group of people working at the Postal Service. He went above and beyond for CCAs, and it all started at the CCA academy, where he would get the chance to introduce

himself and our union in their first and second weeks. Jim would go in and explain what the union's role is and how it operates, along with all the benefits of being in a union and how important working in solidarity with one another is. He also explained many of their basic rights, and how working conditions are getting better for them, and that the union's ultimate goal was to have a 100% career workforce. Knowing all the facts and figures though, which many of us do, is not the same as being able to succinctly and effectively relay that information in an impactful way, something that Jim could do without breaking a sweat. He had nearly a 100% sign up rate, and it was all due to the amazing qualities that he exuded at every moment of every day.

Like how Brad would tell Baxter... there is no quantifiable way to measure how much Jim did for all of us. He did more than any one person should have been capable of doing, and yet he did it with a grace and ease that will never be matched. Jim played a key and vital role in maintaining the strength of our union and ensuring its success into the future. We should all be forever grateful.

I don't think Jim would let me get away with not at least mentioning one current problem running throughout the stations in our branch, the biggest one right now being seatbelts. Management is going to be out on the street watching all of us with a much closer eye for the foreseeable future. It doesn't matter what they let you get away with before, or what they turned a blind eye to, they are now focused on disciplining to the most severe degree any carrier caught not wearing their seatbelt. Being put on an emergency placement 16.7 is extremely harmful to oneself, you don't get paid, and it is for an undetermined amount of time. Even if we are successful in grieving the 16.7 or other discipline related to not wearing a seatbelt, there will still be a period of time where you are going without pay, which most of us can't afford. To avoid this, I implore every carrier to follow the rules regarding wearing a seatbelt, that being to have both your shoulder and lap belt fastened if the vehicle is in motion. The only time your shoulder belt can be removed is when you are at a mailbox you can't reach. After you have delivered the mail, it is to be refastened before moving to the next box.

I would just like to say that I am thankful for the opportunity to have been able to walk in Jim's shoes these past few weeks. It is an experience I will cherish forever and will never forget.

Signing off from the desk of Jim Baxter,  
In solidarity,  
Jon Cabral



## 100% ORGANIZED OFFICES

Aloha  
Collections  
Creston  
East Portland  
Forest Park  
Gladstone/Happy Valley  
Holladay Park  
Hillsboro  
Kenton  
Lake Oswego  
Midway  
Multnomah  
Parkrose  
Piedmont  
River District  
Rose City Park  
Sellwood  
St. Helens  
St. Johns  
Tigard  
Troutdale  
Waterfront

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Representing Oregon Unions

And Employees in

Matters of Collective Bargaining

And Civil Rights

(Law Firm retained by NALC Branch 82)

## INJURED AT WORK?

Call BRANCH 82 OWCP REP  
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, 6:30PM

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

The B-Mike is the official publication of Charles N. Coyle Branch 82 National Association of Letter Carriers, affiliated with Oregon AFL-CIO and Northwest Oregon Labor Council (OLC), 5265 NE 42nd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97218. Phone 503-493-5903. Office hours: M-F 8:00am-5pm, Sat 8:00-11:00am.

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**B-Mike**

# POW/MIA REMEMBRANCE

-Bruce Hall, Veterans Representative

POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday of September each year. This year it is September 17, 2021. This is a day that we remember the loved ones who have been left behind, and reach out to honor our nation's unaccounted for Prisoners of War and Missing in Action.

There are some basic ceremonies with various modifications used at banquets, dinners, and other events by veterans' organizations and at military installations, especially in conjunction with POW/MIA Recognition Day. We use them to remember the persons unaccounted for, represented by the following statistics. The latest updated numbers I have are from August 20, 2021. At that time, there were still 72,404 Americans listed as missing in action from World War II, 7,555 still missing from the Korean War, 1,500 still missing from the Vietnam War, 126 from the Cold War, 5 from the Gulf War, and 1 from Eldorado Canyon, Libya, 1986. These numbers are still changing because we have the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) continually working to locate and identify the remains of Americans who have been Prisoners of War or have been listed as missing in action.

We must insure that our government continues to fund the DPAA. Their work has been so rewarding in identifying remains and bringing closure to families who have loved ones who served and are still missing.

Our country has done some things to help us remember POW-MIAs. There is an impressive National POW Museum in Andersonville, Georgia, and the POW/MIA Recognition Day was established in 1998, which is the 3rd Friday of September. President Donald Trump signed the National POW/MIA Flag Act into law on November 7, 2019. Law now requires the POW/MIA flag to be displayed whenever the American flag is displayed on prominent federal properties, including the White House, U.S. Capitol, World War II Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, every national cemetery, the buildings containing the official offices of the Secretaries of State, Defense, and Veterans Affairs, office of the Director of the Selective Service System, each major military installation, each Department of Veterans Affairs ;medical center, and each U.S. Postal Service post office.

Remembrance services are held including the Missing Man Table and Honors Ceremony which is used to honor missing loved ones or comrades-in-arms. It can be done with a large table with six empty place settings representing Americans still missing from either the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, or civilians. There is a smaller ceremony focused on the individual missing soldier. The moderator calls attention to the table and explains the meaning of the items on the table. The roundness of the TABLE stands for our everlasting concern for the missing. The whiteness of the

TABLECLOTH symbolizes the purity of the motives of those who answered the call to duty. A solitary CANDLE burns to represent the upward reach of their unconquerable spirit. The single RED ROSE in a vase is there as a reminder of the lives of each of the missing and their loved ones who keep the faith, still waiting for answers. The RED RIBBON tied around the vase shows our continued determination to account for the missing. A LEMON SLICE on the bread plate is to remind us of the bitter fate of those captured or missing in a foreign land. A pinch of SALT recalls the tears endured by those missing and their families who seek answers. The BIBLE represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country, which was founded as one nation under God. An INVERTED GLASS symbolizes their inability to share in the day's toast. The CHAIR stands empty to express their absence. Each symbol expresses both our grief and our hope. The Ceremony ends with a toast to the missing and to the success of efforts to account for them.

As we remember POWs and MIAs especially on National POW/MIA Recognition Day, try to imagine what it's like to have a loved one who is a POW or is MIA. It is a daily nightmare with no closure. As we fly the POW/MIA Flag, remember those who we fly the flag in honor of and pray that they will be accounted for someday.

My VFW Post 1325 is having a POW/MIA REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM on Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at 7:pm, at the Eagles Hall at 7611 N. Exeter Ave. We will have a shortened program with updated information from Dick Lovegren, Oregon Coordinator of the National League of POW/MIA Families. We will have the POW/MIA Missing Man Table Ceremony. Due to COVID-19, attendance will be restricted. If you would like to attend or want additional information, contact me, Bruce Hall, at 503-285-8468 or email me at [vfwbruce@gmail.com](mailto:vfwbruce@gmail.com). Hopefully, it will be a meaningful time as WE REMEMBER OUR POWs AND MIAs.

## ENDING OUR PRESENCE IN AFGHANISTAN

After 20 years of war in Afghanistan, where we tried to provide a better life for the people of Afghanistan, President Biden is withdrawing all our personnel from Afghanistan. We need to remember and thank all our troops that served; those who lost their lives, and those who were injured over the last 20 years. The happenings in Afghanistan have greatly affected the physical and mental health of our Military so we need to continue to support them as they deal with the effects of war; PTSD, suicide, etc. All these things need to be dealt with as we move forward. Remember and pray for our Military!

Thankfully, we have no POW/MIAs after 20 years in Afghanistan.



*In Memoriam*

Francis Ellmers  
Don Stevenson



Jeff Summers, Waterfront

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# ACTIVE DUTY

**ROBERTO JIMENEZ**, (Creston) Army, Qatar

**CASEY JAMES**, (Waterfront) Army, Jordan

**NOAH DUARTE**, son of Ricardo Duarte (St. Helens) Army, Ft Hood, Texas

**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

**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

## Branch 82 Officers

President	David Norton	503-493-5903
Secretary- Treasurer	Matt Pierce	503-493-5903
Editor	Suzanne Miller	503-493-5903
Chief Steward	John Kunz	503-493-5903
Health Benefits	Eric Matras	503-706-8717
Dir. of Retirees	Sam Smith	503-493-5903
Sergeant At Arms	Chuck Solomon	503-493-5903
Safety Officer	Don Cadwell	503-493-5903
LCPF Rep	Sue Canfield	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 Williamson	503-493-5903
Ted Lulich	503-493-5903



**B-Mike**

**13**

# MDA Report

By Abe RedCloud, MDA Rep

Hello everyone! Abe RedCloud here with a few MDA updates. We have two events coming up in the next month!

## NEXT EVENT: REGIONAL RAFFLE

At the NALC Regional Assembly in Alaska at the end of September, I will be selling raffle tickets for some AMAZING prizes! Hopefully I can do as well as in years past and raise at least \$2,000 for MDA! Wish me luck everyone!

## NEXT LOCAL EVENT: FILL THE SATCHEL

During the month of October, NW Priority Credit Union will be hosting our annual Fill The Satchel event. If you're new to Branch 82, you might be wondering, "what is Fill The Satchel"? It's as simple as stepping into any Branch of NW Priority Credit Union and making a donation! Haven't heard of NW Priority Credit Union? Please use this as the best opportunity to go check them out and what they can do for you as letter carriers, your hard earned money, and your family! And while you're there, make a donation to MDA! Here are the details that I have now:

Event: Fill The Satchel

Date: During the month of October

What: Go to any Branch of NW Priority Credit Union and make a donation.

Already a member? Well, when you go to deposit your check, withdraw money, or anything else, please consider making a donation to help those in need living with Muscular Dystrophy.

That's all for now, everyone. Next month I will include the exact dates of Fill The Satchel and any other updates regarding the Regional Assembly Raffle as well as other events for Branch 82 for this year.

Until next time, take care and be safe!

In solidarity,  
Abe RedCloud



## MAIN OFFICE BRANCH

12630 SE Division  
Portland, OR 97236-3132  
503-760-5304  
800-331-0968  
Fax: 503-760-4939  
Mailing Address  
P.O. Box 16640  
Portland, OR 97292-0640

## HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9:00 am - 5:30 pm  
Drive-Up: 8:00 am – 5:30 pm

## VANCOUVER BRANCH

11215 NE 28th Street  
Vancouver, WA 98682-7736  
Fax: 360-449-3994

## HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9:00 am - 5:30 pm  
Closed for lunch from 1:45 pm to 2:30 pm.  
Email: [vancouver@nwprioritycu.org](mailto:vancouver@nwprioritycu.org)

## POST OFFICE BRANCH

7007 NE Cornfoot Rd, Room A12  
Portland, OR 97218  
Fax: 503-223-1579

## HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9:00 am - 5:30 pm  
Closed for lunch from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm.  
Email: [postoffice@nwprioritycu.org](mailto:postoffice@nwprioritycu.org)

## BEAVERTON BRANCH

14193 SW Millikan Way  
Beaverton, OR 97005-2307  
Fax: 503-643-7576

## HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9:00 am - 5:30 pm  
Email: [beaverton@nwprioritycu.org](mailto:beaverton@nwprioritycu.org)

## MILWAUKIE BRANCH

18821 SE McLoughlin Blvd  
Milwaukie, OR 97267-6735  
Fax: 503-656-5816

## HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9:00 am - 5:30 pm  
Closed for lunch from 1:00 pm to 1:45 pm.  
Email: [milwaukie@nwprioritycu.org](mailto:milwaukie@nwprioritycu.org)

## AIR BASE BRANCH

This location is temporarily closed. We will re-open in the fall of 2021, at a new location on the Air Base.



**NALC Branch 82  
Membership Meeting  
July 14, 2021**

**Call to Order:** 7:06 PM

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Bruce Hall

**Members Deceased:** Jim Baxter-Vice President, Don Stevenson-Piedmont, Ken Yoho-Holladay Park.

Moment of Silence. Norton said the officers are in the process of putting together a Celebration of Life for Jim Baxter. We will let everyone know when it takes place.

**Roll Call of Officers:** President David Norton, Secretary/Treasurer Matt Pierce, Recording Secretary Ken Wilson, Chief Steward John Kunz, Beaverton Chief Steward Betty Nash, Director of Retirees Sammy Smith, B-Mike Editor Suzanne Miller, Director of Health Benefits Eric Matras, Safety Officer Don Cadwell, Executive Board Members Jamie Partridge and Jon Cabral, Trustees Lois Brumfield, Casey English, Julius Fildes, Sally Williamson and Ted Lulich; Sergeant at Arms Chuck Solomon, LCPF Representative Sue Canfield, Veteran's Representative Bruce Hall, MDA Representative Abe Red Cloud.

**Officers Absent:** Brumfield

**First Time Members:** Jillian Andreason -St. Johns, Will Arrowsmith-Parkrose, James Bryce-Parkrose, Josh Burdette -Rose City, Kayla Hinkley-River District, Jose Jimenez-Smith -Lents, Eric Pottenger- Parkrose and Lindsay Pottenger-Rose City

**Reading of the Minutes:**

Motion: Move to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve them as printed in the B-Mike.  
Seconded: John Kunz.  
Carried.

**Communications**

**Membership Report:**

Active: Regular- 1177, CCA- 186, Management or other crafts- 34  
Retired- 521, Gold Card- 70  
Total- 1982  
Non-members: 38  
New Members: 1 Active, 32 CCAs  
Newly Retired: David Buss-Oak Grove,

Richard Chamberlain-Hillsboro, Michael Hughes-Kenton, Terry Lewis-Sellwood, Salvador Luna-East Portland, Brian McNealy-Beaverton, Kristen Moon-Evergreen, Patricia Saeland-Multnomah, Daniel Smith-Evergreen, Steve Weaser -East Portland.

**Secretary-Treasurer's Report**

**Financial Transactions Report/Review**

**Budget Report:**

Motion: To pay the bills,  
Seconded: Multiple, Carried.

**Executive Board Expenditure**

**Recommendations:** None.

**Unfinished Business:**

The Oregon State Association's plan for elections of officers is to mail nominations and then ballots to all delegates to the 2021 convention. The problem is there were no nominations for this since there was no convention. Norton said one idea was to roll the nominees from the 2020 convention to 2021, so they could vote.

Motion: Use the nominees from 2020, and any other members at this meeting who want to be a delegate. (Cook)  
Seconded: Multiple. Unanimously.

**New Business**

**Trustees Report:**

They are meeting regularly and everything is good so far.

**Resolutions and Bylaws:**

Nash read "Check-in on Frail and Elderly."

"PMG Louis DeJoy Should Resign or be Removed." The Resolutions and Bylaws committee recommended approval  
Carried

"Fire the Postal Board of Governors and PMG DeJoy", Motion: To postpone the resolution until it can be rewritten.  
Seconded: Multiple members.  
Carried.

**Picnic/Softball:**

There will be no softball tournament this year. The picnic originally scheduled for August 1 at Cook Park was canceled due to lack of interest and volunteers. The Labor Day picnic was canceled.

**Judith Hyde Scholarship Committee**

**Report:** The scholarship was awarded to Violette Miller, the daughter of Suzanne Miller.

**Health Care for All Oregon Representative:**

Fildes spoke about a rally for Medicare for All on July 24 at Shemanski Park.

**Labor-Management Report:**

There are currently 4 removals before the branch.

Staffing is terrible all around.

**Chief Steward's Report:**

Kunz spoke about the recent removals and some of the details of them.

**Health and Safety Report:**

Cadwell spoke about COVID and recent heat events.

**Legislation Report:**

Postal Reform is waiting for a vote from the house.

**MDA Report:**

Red Cloud reported \$5,464 was raised for the MDA during the recent raffle.

**Retiree's Report:**

Not meeting due to COVID.

**Veteran's Report:**

**Labor Solidarity:**

Partridge spoke about a rally celebrating Postal Heritage Day, July 26, at noon at the East Portland Post Office.

**Good of the Association:**

Cook spoke about the passing of a past president, Nate Grey, who presided back in the 70's. Cook asked for help with the gardening at the hall.

Motion: To cancel the August meeting and B-Mike.

Seconded: Multiple.  
Unanimously.

**For the Betterment of the Service:**

Kitty Award: Casey English won \$77.00.  
Jackpot: \$555.00 was unclaimed by David Knapp-Oak Grove.  
Treasure Chest: \$325.00 was unclaimed by Douglas Rachal-Beaverton.

**Adjourned:** 8:57PM



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**The next General Membership meeting will be held  
Wednesday, September 8 at 7pm.**

This will be an in-person meeting at the Branch 82 Union Hall. (We will not be serving dinner at this time.) You must be fully vaccinated and register in advance. To register, please call the hall with your name, station, and email address. If anything changes due to COVID restrictions, Branch 82 will contact you.

# BAD BATCH OF BOSS BOTS

**In April of this year, the Postal Service began pilot testing the new AEIOU, (Artificial Egghead Intelligence Oversight Unit) technology. Unfortunately, all bots have been recalled from the field until further notice because of unforeseen erratic and frankly, rather unprofessional behaviors such as:**



- Excessively generous with compliments
- Tendency to use unauthorized term “guestimate” instead of “commitment”
- Easily rolls out of jump seat during ride-alongs
- Frequently plays Nickelback through internal speaker system
- Rages against Mobile Delivery Device updates
- Takes too many restroom breaks
- Indulges in cheesy jokes like sticking “Rattle OK” sticker on head
- Often invents and throws around silly acronyms, as if we need more
- Wants to know what carriers really think
- Too liberal with Name in the Hat
- Knows where the rubber bands are but won't tell
- OK with carriers calling in lovesick
- Thinks handing out Letters of Warning equals carrier experience
- Flirts

BR 82'S PUSHING THE ENVELOPE 7 BY KERRY WAITE & TERRY KNOTT  
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