



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·McMinville·Newberg·Oregon City·Portland·St. Helens·Troutdale·West Linn



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A Very Unmerry Covid Holiday

-David Norton, President



2020 has been a year like no other. For us as letter carriers and also for us as Americans.

We have all had to give things up because of COVID-19. Special occasions or momentous events have come and gone by without the proper celebration of recognition. Birthdays and anniversaries have come and gone. Kids have missed graduations, senior proms, and college game days. In my life, my daughters have graduated from elementary school and middle school and have started middle school and high school. This year marked the 20th anniversary of the death of my mother. I was planning on taking the day off from work and getting together with my father and brother and sister. Just to remember that day that changed my family when we were all still young. That was March 20th, and right after Oregon's first stay at home order went into effect. I didn't take the day off and never ended up seeing my family with everything that was going on. I ended up spending the evening in my backyard by myself having a little camp fire, wondering what the rest of this year was going to have in store. You can try and celebrate, and you can try and do the normal things people do over the computer. Get together, anniversaries, weddings, funerals, baptisms, birthdays. Virtually, it all seems weird and difficult. Humans need that personal interaction that you just can't get over Zoom. Nevertheless, we have to try and adapt to this new (hopefully temporary) reality, and there are things to celebrate and remember out there, things that we can't give up on. We have realized what is important in our lives and what is worth altering the way we do things, or what things we are fine with holding off on

until this is all over. That brings us to the holidays. With Oregon and Washington (and other states) in the middle of a stay-at-home order, what do you do? For me, this year's Thanksgiving is going to be just me and my two daughters. Christmas is going to be the same. Sorry extended family. Unless you are happily using COVID-19 as an excuse to get out of seeing other humans, everyone is going to have to figure something out, or go without. Either way, the status quo is not going to work.

We all have to remember why we are doing all of this. COVID-19 is raging across this country and things are also getting worse in Oregon and within the Postal Service.

When things first started with this pandemic, the Postal Service's main problem was getting the proper PPE available to their employees. This was solved by the union thinking outside of the box (like finding a company to make hand sanitizer), and using the Postal Service's vast network to get the supplies we needed. We are now at the point where our supply levels are normal and every station should have all the PPE that letter carriers require. Now the biggest problem we have, other than a lack of enforcement of the rules from time to time (which varies from station to station), is employees doing what they are supposed to. Out of every letter carrier that has gotten COVID-19, there has been only one case where that carrier was infected from a co-worker at their office. In that case, a carrier went on vacation to Mexico, at the time a level 3 country (now a level 4), and instead of quarantining like they should have, went to work while their spouse was at home exhibiting symptoms. This carrier, of course, had COVID and was in close contact with other employees at their office. One of those carriers also got COVID. Had that vacationing carrier quarantined like they were supposed to, or, like so many others, postponed their trip abroad, one less letter carrier would have been infected, and many others would not have been forced to quarantine over the incident. Every other letter carrier that has contracted COVID-19 has done so outside of work. I am all for personal responsibility as well as personal freedom, but we have to do the right things for ourselves, our families, and also our co-workers. As essential employees, in order to fulfill our mission to the American public, we also have to do what is right for our customers.

In this country we have seen that most people have a limit to what they are willing to put up with. COVID-19 cases are spiking across this country and those spikes are directly related to times when people like to get together, long weekends like Columbus Day, Halloween, and Veterans Day. Where people may have been good at first, many

have started to fudge on the conventional understanding of prevention methods. Maybe you decide to visit some family, maybe go to a bar, or maybe even decide to attend a wedding. Maybe the mask comes off. Maybe we all give hugs before we leave. I get it, I miss doing things the way we used to, but we have to commit ourselves to help stop the spread.

I am on a weekly COVID-19 meeting for the entire Portland District. For quite a while, COVID-19 numbers were stagnant. Things were so stable at one point that we all collectively decided to meet bi-weekly instead. There were a few cases, and then a few months later, a couple more. We were sitting at six cases district wide for a long time. Now, however, every day we are getting notified of positive cases. Numbers have swollen to close to 100 cases of postal employees over Oregon and SW Washington. That isn't just in Portland or larger metropolitan areas. Every corner of this state has been touched by this pandemic. It is starting to get scary going into the time of the year where people traditionally get together more than other times during the year.

Almost all of the hardships we have faced this year as letter carriers have been due to the COVID-19 pandemic; the long hours, all of the parcels, the lack of staffing, lack of training, and the list goes on. This has been a terribly depressing year, and one that I'm sure most people are ready to be done with. Going into peak season, we still all need to do our part. All of this will come to an end eventually. Years from now we will be looking back on this time and remember what we all had to go through. It will be an anniversary like so many others that we have. I think most letter carriers will be remembering the hardships that we faced on the job. Most of us will be remembering what the pandemic did to the country and the world. Some people may be thinking back to the loved ones that they lost. There will be documentaries on the issue and it will be a featured story on every news station going forward. We may decide to celebrate it with family and friends, the very thing we were denied during the time, or it might be spent alone in your backyard in quiet reflection. Whatever the case is, the time will come when this is all part of our shared experience. We just all have to get there as safely as possible.

To every hard-working letter carrier out there, thank you for your work this year. I have always been proud to be a letter carrier and during this time, I have been extra proud to represent you. Nothing has been easy, and it is only going to get harder before the end of the year. Please be safe and happy holidays to you and your families



Last Punch Bunch

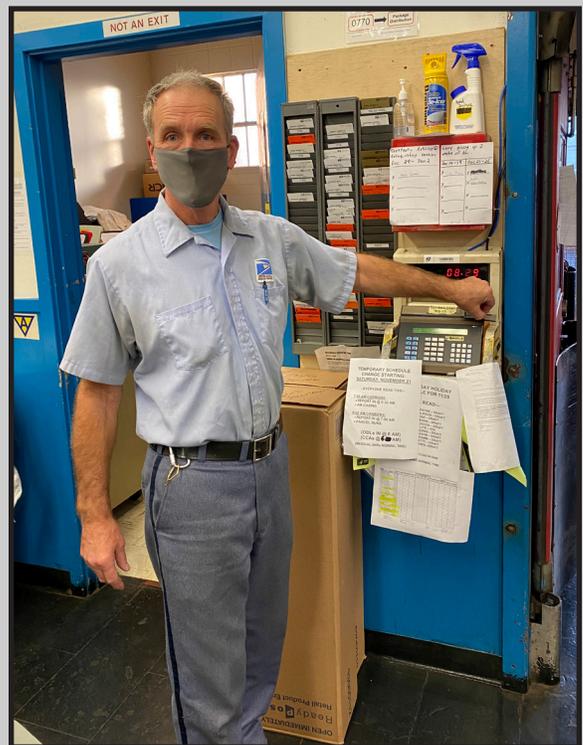
Roger Blair - Creston

Hueiling Chang - Creston

Larry Constantin - Kenton

Darren Heacock - Gresham

Cliff Ryan - Gresham



Larry Constantin clocks outta Kenton.
Congrats to you and all the new lucky retirees!



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INJURED AT WORK?

Call BRANCH 82 OWCP REP
Mike O'Connor

Wednesdays and Thursdays

503 493-5903

Branch 82 Monthly Meetings

General Membership 2nd Wednesday, 7:00PM

Retiree Luncheon 2nd Tuesday, 11:30AM

Stewards Council 3rd Wednesday, 7PM

Executive Board 4th Wednesday, 6:30PM

All members are welcome, unless otherwise noted.

All meetings are held at the NALC Branch 82 Office,

5265 NE 42nd Avenue.

Retiree Luncheons are held at

Izzy's EastPort Plaza, 3846 SE 82nd 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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Some Things to Remember

- Jim Baxter, Vice President

I don't need to tell you this has been a crazy year. We've had to deal with wildfire smoke, the election and the crazy mail, and of course the virus. All of you have dealt with those things with the same professionalism that letter carriers have shown for many decades. I know the hours have been unbelievable. Dozens of you have been working more than 80 hours a week, and many of you have worked more than 90 hours in a single week. I remember delivering the ballots for the first all mail-in election back in the 1980's. It was nothing like now. We all know it was not the ballots, it was the political advertisements that were the real killers. There was so much scrutinizing going on that we couldn't roll a full coverage. It had to go. Really, what difference would it make if a mailing was delivered two weeks before the election or thirteen days? It could have been cased up at night and delivered the next day in the daylight. We couldn't do that because there were too many eyes on us. You guys did great. I want you all to know how much I appreciate what you all have done this year. Hopefully, 2021 will be a bit saner.

Enough of that. There are things as union letter carriers that you need to remember. The first and most important is your time limits. You only have 14 days from the date of incident to have a grievance filed on your behalf, not 15 days or six months but 14 days. So if you are in an after dark office and you work after dark, don't wait and save up the forms. Fill them out that day or the next and get them to your steward. I spoke with a carrier the other day; he turned in a dozen at one time. Several were untimely. I called him up and asked why. He told me he had been too busy. I told him he had lost out. When he heard that, he assured me that he would not do it again.

The same goes for discipline. You have 14 days from the incident date to file a grievance or have one filed for you. The incident date is not the day you had an accident or missed an express, the incident date is the day they hand you the letter of warning or whatever. Remember, management is under no obligation to tell your steward that they gave you something. Think of that piece of discipline as the first step towards removal because it is. How would you like to go home and tell your family that you no longer have

a job because you were too busy to get steward time and work to file a grievance.

Great, you are not going to miss any time limits. So what else? Safety. We all know that safety is about job 7 in the post office unless someone sees you doing something wrong or you get hurt. Then all of a sudden it's the most important thing that we do. So follow the (expletives deleted) safety rules. We all know what they are. I am amazed at the heavy discipline that is currently being issued because a carrier drives through an intersection with their door open. Some of our brothers and sisters think they are doing a great job by going fast then they find themselves off work

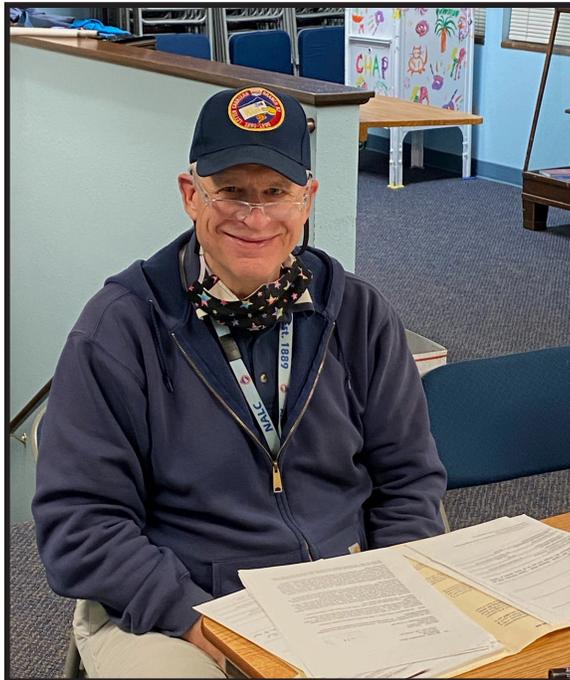
on a 16.7 emergency suspension without pay. Close the (expletives deleted) door. I don't care if it takes you an extra hour to do your route. I have been doing this union work for over 25 years, and during that time no one has been disciplined for not going fast enough. Yes, the supervisor may complain or even roll their eyes at you. Follow the (expletives deleted) safety rules.

You are going to follow all the safety rules. Great, believe it or not that simple thing may actually keep you from being hurt. But if you are hurt, file an OWCP claim. There are two types of claims. You file CA-1 for traumatic events. Traumatic events are things like falling

down stairs or getting bit by a dog. You may also be able to claim an industrial event. That would be something like carpal tunnel or knee or back problems and you need to file a CA-2. They are a bit more complicated. Please make sure you talk to Mike at the union office before turning in a CA-2. It very well could mean the difference of having your claim accepted or not.

Hang in there. By this time next year 2020 will be just a bad memory. There won't be any elections and we will all have access to a reliable and safe vaccine. Remember, the longer you stay in this job, the better it gets. I will be starting my fortieth year on March 21st.

Hang in there,
Jim



B-Mike

Hello Again From the Office of Your Secretary-Treasurer.

-Matt Pierce, Secretary-Treasurer



By the time that you read this, 2021 will almost be upon us. Like many of us, I can't wait for it to no longer be 2020. It seems now likely that due to the incredible hard work and determination of many scientists and institutions, 2021 may be the year that a safe and effective vaccine finally returns things to normal. When that happens, all of our union meetings, events, etc. will return with it. So while I'm not normally one for New Year's resolutions, I would ask that you consider making one of yours, if you are so inclined, be to take a larger role in your union.

Whether you're a new NALC member or a longtime veteran, there are always plenty of opportunities for you to get involved. Always remember the NALC isn't some large, impersonal organization; it's you. Your union needs you to stay strong. The stronger the NALC, the better off all letter carriers are! For some members, all they see of the union is what the shop steward does on the workroom floor. But that's just scratching the surface of what the union is all about.

Our Branch is very proud to have the former national MDA Coordinator Jim Williams as a branch member and are extremely proud that we have won awards in multiple years for the largest fund raising in our

category. If you'd like to help us out, we're always looking for people to help us in our collections for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

The local food drive coordinator is responsible for everything involved with the food drive, from promoting the event to organizing delivery of the collected food. If your office has a food drive coordinator, they would appreciate any assistance you'd like to give. If your office doesn't have one, you could take on that role and give back to your community.

If you like to write, our branch newsletter is always looking for articles with a new or unique perspective.

If you're handy, we're always in need of help building our float for the starlight parade and with various projects to maintain and update your union hall.

If you're technologically savvy our branch is engaged in the long and difficult task of digitizing both our grievance and historical information as well as always looking for more efficient ways to better serve our membership.

If politics is your cup of tea, there are many opportunities to come face to face with your legislators and tell them about the importance of letter carrier and worker issues.

If you're tired of the way you and other carriers are treated on the workroom floor, maybe you're ready to start gaining the knowledge and skills to serve as a future shop steward. There's no better way to know what is going on in the union and play a role in how the union operates than by becoming a steward. These are just a few of the many ways you and your family can get involved.

All you need to do is ask how I can help. For tens of thousands of letter carriers, participating in the NALC is simply a great way to help strengthen the one organization dedicated solely to protecting carriers' interests in the workplace and in the halls of Congress. Find out how you can get involved. Let that be next year's new normal. I hope to see you all at one of these future events when we can again gather in the new year.

Until then I remain yours in solidarity, Matt.

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

MDA Report

-Abe RedCloud, MDA Rep

HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE!!!

This is going to be a short and sweet update to just let you all know how Fill The Satchel went. Once again NW Priority Credit Union has done an AWESOME job for MDA!! They reported to me that the volume of people coming into their lobbies is down by at least half of what it usually is. Even with that they were able to raise:

\$6,045.85!!

That would be \$12,000 if the same amount of people came in as they usually get, so this is AWESOME!!!! If you go into a NW Priority Credit union, please thank them for their effort for the Fill The Satchel event. I will update you next month with our current total that we have raised for MDA this year.

Well, like I said this is a short update, hope all of you are doing well, Happy Holidays and take care!

In Solidarity,
Abe RedCloud

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B·Mike

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WHO'S OUT ON SUNDAY?



Omar Ortega, Sellwood



Brett Schwartz, Lents



Massimiliano (Max) Bruschi, Creston

Love Your CCAs

-Suzanne Miller, Editor

Just over a year ago when I was running my campaign for B-Mike editor, I began to get very nervous- what if I won?! I knew I could do it, and I knew I would love it, but it had been awhile. I would like to take this moment, almost one year from my first issue, to say thanks and give credit where it is overdue.

I asked Nick Weston, my fellow RCP carrier and steward, to design a new masthead and overall look, and he did so excitedly, and I think successfully. Beyond that, he took a whole bunch of hours out of his life to hold my hand as it were, so I could dip my toe in the waters and eventually dive in (where I'm happily swimming today). My first issue was really our first issue. I wanted to thank him in person during a branch meeting, but those early 2020 meetings were rather overrun with other topics, and then there were no more meetings.

Jon Cabral, Parkrose steward, has been my "oh crap, what the heck is this??" InDesign assist. In the beginning, we shared some last-minute working out of my car "let's get this to the printer now" time together. I whole heartedly appreciate you both. Thank you.

In that vein, the B-Mike belongs to all of us. Please reach out to me or the union hall with any ideas. Please (pretty please) send in pictures from the happenings at YOUR office like retirements and service awards and regular in-the-moment letter carrier antics. I had a nice talk with Jim Cook about celebrating our 130th anniversary. He reminded me that we are all making history every day, and we are. I've been through many of the pictures in bins at Branch 82- pictures of carriers and stations throughout the decades. They are important and enjoyable and historical. Please add to that history. Send me your photos.

I've been thinking a lot lately about our CCAs. I have never been one to think that I had it harder than anyone else, and I think it's inappropriate and disrespectful to think that way. (Well, if you never suffered through a peak season before conversion, I definitely would keep that to yourself.) We all did our time, and it was different for each of us. Whether you were a PTF or CCA, the job itself has not always been exactly the same, and we all have our own challenges in our personal lives, so I have always rejected the notion of comparing one's hardship to another's. That being said, I'm starting to feel differently about our current group of new employees.

I keep telling them that it won't always be this crazy, but they have no reason to believe me. Some of our CCAs have been here since spring, and it's been nuts the whole time. In all

those months, there hasn't been one of those classic easy days where everything is light and easy, and we all go home early. (Okay, Waterfront, I'm not talking to you.) Instead, things seem to be getting progressively worse (loads of parcels, long hours, working in the dark, no SDOs). Meanwhile, many of their fellow coworkers are either quitting or getting fired. On top of that, regulars like me keep telling them that things are about to get a lot worse.

Keep in mind, many of our new workforce has never even been seen without a mask on. We don't really even know what each other looks like. In the past, our office has regularly gotten together to vent and enjoy some camaraderie. None of that is happening. I remember going to my first union meeting. It was such a revelation to be in a room full of like-minded people who understood my day! With no management around! It was such a positive and useful experience for me, and we are all missing that, but our new people don't even know what that's like. They just have to go on, day after day, trusting that it won't always be this demanding.

Please, look out for the CCAs in your office. Remember that although they are new, that doesn't mean they're 18 with no responsibilities. They have children and families and commitments outside of a new job that can be incredibly stressful. Try to remember what it was like for you when you were new. Now imagine that you were 9 months into a global pandemic, and everyone on your route expected you to deliver not just the checks, but also the toilet paper and the cat litter. Things are just different now, and we all need to look out for each other the best we can.

You also need to look after yourself. Be kind and forgiving, and remember to do some stretching! None of us has experienced a pandemic peak season, but I think we can all agree it's going to be arduous. Find time for yourself.

I wish for you all to find your light. (Beyond the light of your headlamp as you deliver in the dark.) Maybe it's a house lit up with Christmas lights that is reminiscent of that classic Chevy Chase moment. Maybe it's the light from your lamp as you find time to read from (or write!) that great book you've been working on before sleep takes you. The light emanating off the screen from your favorite video game. The oven light shining on the pie you found time to bake. The glow of the streetlights as you find it in you to take your dog for a walk even though you've logged 12 miles already. The pretty menorah in the window. The night light you switch on as you kiss your babies goodnight. Find your light. Love your people. Be well. I'm pretty sure it will be better in January.



NALC Branch 82 – 130 Years Representing Portland Area City Letter Carriers

-Jim Cook, Retiree / Past President

Who knew? Our local union has its 130th anniversary during December, a month already filled with religious and secular holidays. Chartered December 15, 1890, NALC Branch 82 is one of Oregon's oldest union locals.

Branch 82 has a treasure chest filled with precious old photographs and books of meeting minutes of the past century and more. Thankfully, over the years many prior and current members insured this by valuing, preserving and passing along these historical documents.

Many of our historical artifacts are displayed in cases at our union hall in NE Portland. On a prominent wall is a large, framed document. It is an official national NALC charter dated 1895. This led many to believe it was the date to remember.

Thus, in 1945 the members of "Multnomah" Branch 82 marked the 50th anniversary with a "Jubilee Celebration." A souvenir booklet is among the historical items in the large display case below the impressive 1895 charter.

Branch 82 delegates to the 1984 national NALC convention lobbied successfully to be the host for the 1988 NALC convention. Branch 82 had hosted the 1905 NALC convention coinciding with the Portland Exposition. Fortunately, there are many materials from this historic gathering of letter carriers from throughout the nation. Our NALC Auxiliary #1 and others were created during the 1905 convention.

As the newly elected Branch 82 president in 1988, I worked with the NALC national office preparing for the August convention. It was only one of many tasks. Many Branch 82 members volunteered to help. It's hard to fathom how many Branch 82 members have volunteered their time, talents, and energy through these 130 years.

Prior to the successful 1988 convention, the NALC research department sent us a letter containing a photocopy

of an index card verifying December 15, 1890 as Branch 82's original charter date.

In August 1989, Milwaukee, WI hosted the NALC's Centennial Celebration. A delegation of Branch 82 members participated in the gathering, including a march through downtown Milwaukee. The NALC booklet, "Carriers in a Common Cause," has more on our union's founding and its

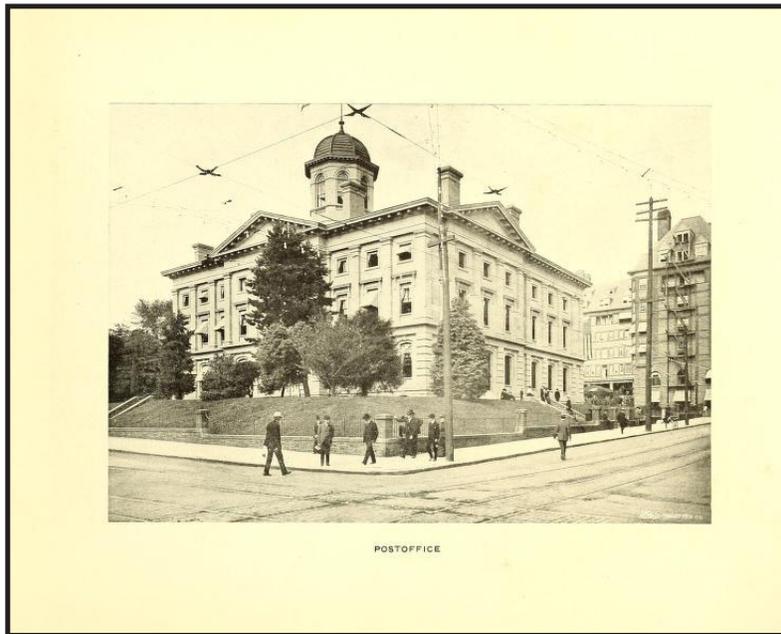
national history. Energized and inspired to celebrate our Branch 82's centennial, we held a gala at the Portland Hilton in December 1990. We expanded upon the annual Stewards' Appreciation Banquet, extending invitations to not only Shop Stewards, but their significant other, and other members.

A keepsake is the NALC Branch 82 Centennial booklet. It was researched and produced by Linda Smith, past Vice President, Sec.-Treas., and OWCP Rep. Past-President

Peter Cherkes, then Vice President, along with Northwest Labor Press Editor Michael Gutwig. They traveled to every Portland station and Associate Post Office photographing Branch 82 members for the booklet.

For the 125th anniversary, we held a celebration at our current union hall. Again, the Northwest Labor Press Editor Michael Gutwig documented the celebration. He published an excellent article in the December 18, 2015 issue of the Labor Press, reprinted in the B-Mike January 2016.

During the COVID 19 pandemic of 2020, we cannot gather to celebrate Branch 82's 130th anniversary. However, we can reflect on the past year and beyond. In addition to the many usual challenges delivering mail, determined, courageous letter carriers – You All – persevered through an ongoing pandemic, extremely bad management directives, and a hostile political environment. Thank you all for ensuring 2020 to be in a special category, a year when local heroes like YOU made history daily.



AUXILIARY #1

This year we celebrated the 100-year anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. Finally enfranchising all American women with the right to vote and declaring for the first time that they, like men, deserve all the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Women have always been an important part to the NALC and specifically Branch 82. Even before they earned the right to vote.

In 1902, then President Theodore Roosevelt issued a “gag order” against postal unions. Prior to 1970, letter carriers did not have full collective bargaining rights and instead had to ask Congress for any pay raises and increases in working conditions. Under this presidential order, letter carriers had no way of advocating for themselves. Not to worry. In 1905 during a National Convention held here in Portland, OR, the wives of letter carriers (at the time only men were letter carriers) banded together to create the first Lady’s Auxiliary, Auxiliary #1. If their husbands couldn’t ask for a raise, they would do it for them. In 1907, their lobbying efforts achieved that goal.

So, along with celebrating the right to vote, we at Branch 82 also celebrate the 115th anniversary of the Branch 82 Auxiliary.



LADIES' AUXILIARY, BRANCH NO. 82, N. A. L. C.

From the Desk of the Chief Steward

-John Kunz, Chief Steward

This year has hopefully been a once in a lifetime year.....

We are in the middle of a pandemic which caused business and school closures. Forest fires ravaged parts of Oregon during the summer. The air quality was at unhealthy levels. Letter carriers were forced to evacuate their homes. Whole towns were burned to the ground. We have had many protests and riots on both sides of the political spectrum. The outcome of the 2020 election, depending on who you voted for, has caused extreme anger or joy about the results. Package volumes due to the pandemic have increased substantially all year. Staffing shortages have caused drafting, mandating, and over-time issues across the city. Many carriers are delivering in the dark every day. On top of all of this we are getting ready to go into peak season.

THIS YEAR HAS BEEN CRAZY!

Letter carriers, let's all take a deep breath.....

In my lifetime, nothing like anything we have experienced this year has happened before. Like all of you, this is all new to me, and I struggle everyday with how to deal with it. Sometimes putting my head down and putting one foot in front of the other is what gets me by. I do not have the answers on how to deal with all of this stuff. I come to work, wear a mask, social distance, go to stations to file and settle grievances, and I try to do what is right. When I enter stations, some carriers are really angry about many things. I listen to them and try to help them the best I can. Many times I can't tell them what they want to hear. I am an honest person, and I don't feel that lying to them about their situation will do them justice. In these situations I tell them the truth whether they like it or not. Some people hate me for it. Unfortunately people are really angry right now. Due to the anger and fear, there are a lot of issues within the city.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a lot of attendance issues in every station which creates mandating and after dark grievances. The Family First Act has given leave to deal with some of the COVID-19 issues carriers are

dealing with. This leave has helped a lot of carriers who have had or have been exposed to COVID-19. This leave has also helped families with young children who have child care issues due to the pandemic. This law was a godsend to those that needed it. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has not gone away and until the vaccine is distributed to the population, the attendance issues it causes will continue in the city.

This year's fire season caused catastrophic destruction across Oregon. The fires destroyed farms, homes, and whole towns. Many people including carriers were forced

to evacuate. Due to these evacuations, many stations were short of employees, causing late delivery of mail. Along with the fires came air quality issues. The post office was somewhat prepared for this because they had a supply of N95 masks on hand. This supply was actually for the plant maintenance employees. The fires and air quality issues generated a lot of anger from people that believed we should not be delivering, period. The truth of the matter is we are essential employees, not unlike paramedics, fire department, hospital, military, and police. We are mandated by law to deliver the mail in good and bad times. There was a time when everything was done through the mail. When the mail stopped, the country

stopped. This is not the case with today's mail, but the law is still in effect, meaning we have to deliver. The post office followed OSHA guidelines and provided the N95 masks to every carrier in every station. This was the best that could have been done under the circumstances.

This election season generated insane amounts of election mail. Due to the post office's media exposure along with increased mail in voting, all election mail was mandated to go out for delivery every day. Whether it was 5PM or 11PM, letter carriers were out delivering until every last piece of election mail was delivered. These late nights generated so much anger that some people quit their jobs. Whether they were career or CCA did not matter. They resigned from



the post office. These resignations created huge staffing shortages in almost every station. On top of that, people just don't want to work for the post office. We are hiring, but people are not applying. With the lack of employees, carriers started being mandated on their days off.

We get people calling us angry that the ODL is not being maxed prior to mandating. I will tell you for the most part the ODL is being maxed. They are working consistently between 65-80 hours a week. Most ODL carriers are even working 7 days a week. The most maxed out ODL'er I saw was 96 hours in a week. Unfortunately when the ODL is maxed, mandating is necessary in order to deliver the mail. In order to stay on top of carriers working over the maximum numbers of hours, the branch is grieving city wide for these violations.

With all of these issues comes anger and exhaustion. Some carriers blow up on the workroom floor. This has manifested itself in the form of yelling and cursing at their coworkers or supervisors. If it gets that bad, go cool down, call the hall and yell and scream at us. DO NOT DO IT ON THE WORKROOM FLOOR. You could be disciplined or

lose your job. We will try to do all we can to assist you to cope or deal with the issue that is bugging you. We might not have the answer you want, but we will give you the answer you need.

Peak season is about to start and with that the penalty overtime exclusion period starts. This means carriers will be working lots of hours and late nights. This peak season hopefully will come and go without incident. We could all use a break.

This last year has been hopefully a once in a lifetime year. I hope and pray we do not experience another year like this one. Think about what we have been through together: a pandemic, fires, bad air quality, protests, riots, an election, and insane amounts of packages. We will get through this and come out stronger in the end. Let's take a deep breath.....

Happy Holidays.

Your Chief Steward,
JKunz



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Meaningful Holidays

-Bruce Hall, Veterans Representative

The holiday season is upon us. We want to remember all the significant reasons for the holidays. The celebrations are related to thanking, remembering, sharing, giving, receiving, and celebrating.

This year has been a year that sort of makes us think of holidays and celebrations through pandemic vision. The Veterans Day Parade on November 11 was canceled, and most festive events have been canceled or gone virtual. So, we must adjust in order to make the best of the situation. We think we have everything under control, but then we have things that happen that make us realize that we are not invulnerable but might need help from others. I speak from experience, because November 1, 2020, I had a stroke and on November 3, 2020, I had carotid artery surgery, so I am presently in rehabilitation at RIO (Rehabilitation Institute of Oregon). I will probably be here a couple of weeks, but I've so much care and concern from so many people that I'm thankful that I am not alone. Hopefully, I will recover and be able to return to my activities of helping and serving others.

Thanksgiving Day is always a day of being thankful for all that we have and for sharing with family and friends as we celebrate.

Another day of remembrance is Pearl Harbor Day on December 7th. This is the 79th Anniversary of this "Day of Infamy" which we will never forget. Remember all those who made the ultimate sacrifice so we can have our freedom.

As we look at other holidays: Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, we see that they each have their special meaningful ways of being celebrated. Many people think of this time of year as a time of giving and receiving gifts. However, there are deeper aspects that each of us need to think about as we celebrate these holidays.

As a veteran, I usually talk about helping and giving to veterans at this time of year. We need to do this, but at the same time, veterans need to give and share with others. We often think of gifts as material things, but we need to expand our thinking. Gifts can be love, time, assistance, consultation, remembrances. Remember the saying, "It's more blessed to give than to receive." If we want to experience real joy during this holiday season, try to think of ways you can give to others. (It's hard to do since we live in a society where we are usually looking at what others can give to us.) Go ahead and try it, and I'm sure you will experience joy and satisfaction.

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

One more holiday is New Year's Day. Many people make resolutions which are deciding with determination to accomplish certain things through our actions during the New Year. Let's all resolve to carry on the holiday experience by resolving to help one another. If you are not sure where to start, you can get assistance by joining a veteran's organization. These organizations are formed to help veterans, but also to serve their communities. There are great needs throughout our communities, so there are endless opportunities to help throughout the year. We need to resolve to serve and honor veterans, but also veterans need to be reciprocal in helping others.

**LET'S MAKE OUR
HOLIDAYS MEANINGFUL!**



The Postal Service: What now?

	Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's vision:	A public vision:
Delivery	Reduce door-to-door delivery. Push more customers into "cluster mailboxes." To cut costs, delay the mail more and more.	Defend our commitment to deliver on time to every household. Maintain the service standards that seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, and millions of other Americans depend on.
Post offices	Reduce window hours at post offices, creating even longer lines for customers. Lease space to private companies, inviting privatization of postal work.	Expand service into the evenings. Open more windows to reduce the wait during peak hours. Add services such as free broadband access, fishing and hunting licenses, document shredding, driver's license renewal, and census support.
Postage	Charge higher prices for postage to Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico. Then raise the rates for rural areas too.	Maintain universal service and universal rates for every corner of the U.S., including for the "last mile" of delivery.
Banking	Do nothing about "banking deserts" where check cashers and payday lenders extract \$100 billion a year in exorbitant fees from low-income residents.	Allow post offices to offer basic financial services such as low-cost checking and savings accounts, ATMs, and mobile banking, creating \$9 billion a year in revenue, by enacting the Postal Banking Act sponsored by Senators Gillibrand and Sanders.
Network	Close and consolidate post offices and mail plants, breaking up a valuable infrastructure and delivering a blow to communities.	Preserve the network of 31,000 post offices and hundreds of mail processing plants. Use them to aid emergency response in crises, as well as to deliver the mail.
Jobs	Cut jobs and services. Expand the lower-paid part-time workforce. Bust the postal unions. Disregard worker safety. Force mandatory overtime, speedup, and after-dark delivery—with some carriers working up to 16-hour days and going weeks without a day off.	Hire more postal workers, at full union wages and benefits, to alleviate the severe understaffing. Go back to reasonable work hours. Defend good jobs in every neighborhood. The Postal Service is the country's largest union workforce, and an important source of livable-wage jobs for Black workers (21 percent of the postal workforce), veterans (18 percent), and women (40 percent, compared to 20 percent at UPS).
COVID	Make no serious plan for the coronavirus surge. Keep cases and exposures secret. Don't enforce masks. Tell people their paid leave is all used up, even when they need to quarantine or take care of their kids.	Provide fully paid COVID leave for as long as it is needed. Mandate masks. Improve contact tracing. Allow those who can to work from home. Do better deep cleaning. Provide clear info when workers have been exposed or put at risk.
Climate	Ignore climate concerns. Keep using decrepit 30-year-old delivery vehicles that sometimes burst into flames.	Invest in a greener Postal Service, with a fleet of electric vehicles to deliver the mail. At post offices, add solar panels and electric-car charging stations.
Finances	Cut costs to maximize profits. Sell off resources and services piece by piece.	Focus on public service, not profit. The Postal Service is guaranteed to the people by the Constitution. Save \$5 billion per year by repealing the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, which created a fake budget crunch by requiring extreme prefunding of retiree health benefits. Pass Medicare for All, alleviating the health care cost burden on the Postal Service.
Accountability	Answer to no one. Unilaterally dismantle sorting machines, remove mailboxes, close facilities, reduce hours, change policies, and delay the mail.	Establish a public commission to study innovations, welcome suggestions, and make recommendations. Examine creative ways to serve communities and build local resilience.
Trust	Sabotage the Postal Service from within. Erode the public trust. Pave the way for privatization.	Maintain confidence in the Postal Service to do what it has always done: deliver medicines, Social Security checks, ballots, business mail, and packages on time.

For more information and to help: bit.ly/SaveOurPostalService

(Shared by Jamie Partidge, Retiree)



B·Mike

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

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Happy Holidays and Stay Safe!

SUPER CARRIER
the magazine for runners

ISSUE 5 - DECEMBER 2020

Having a Safe Day
Out There In a
Hazmat Suit and
Still Making
Fabulous Time

How to Subtract a
Full Five Seconds
from Your
Street
Time

I WAS A SLUG!
THE AMAZING TRANSFORMATION OF
TERRY "BULLET" KNOTT

**COFFEE vs RED BULL,
YOU BE THE JUDGE!**
Plus the Mountain Dew Advantage

**I CAN DO THAT
HOUR IN 30
MINUTES,
BOSS!**

Case Twice as Fast With
Our Double Thumb Method!

PHOTOS: ROSHING THE ENVELOPE
BY KERRY WAITE & TERRY KNOTT
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