



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



**Happy National Administrative
Professionals Day, Brad Melland!**

(We love you!)

Our Brad

- David Norton, President

The last full week of April every year is Administrative Professionals Week, also known as Secretaries' Day or Admin Day celebrated on the Wednesday of that week. Created in 1952 as "National Secretaries Week" by then US Secretary of Commerce Charles W. Sawyer, it was held June 1-7 with Wednesday, June 4 designated as National Secretaries' Day. The first Secretaries' Day was sponsored by the National Secretaries Association.

In 1955, the date of National Secretaries Week was moved to the last full week of April, with Wednesday now designated as Administrative Professionals Day. The name was changed to Professional Secretaries Week in 1981 and became Administrative Professionals Week in 2000 to encompass the expanding broader job titles and responsibilities of administrative staff in the economy.

While none of this is a federal or civic holiday and you may think of it as just a Hallmark Holiday, whether it is Secretaries' Day, Admin Day, or Administrative Professionals Week, it is important that we recognize those administrative assistants, secretaries, receptionists and any other support professionals and the vital work they do. So often does their work go unnoticed and underappreciated.

In that spirit, I would like to take a moment of personal privilege and recognize our administrative professional here at Branch 82, Brad Melland. Most of you already know him, and for many members who either stop by the office or call, Brad is the first person you will see or talk to.

Brad wasn't always a secretarial dynamo. He is a retired letter carrier. He started his union life with NALC Branch 9, carrying mail in his native Minneapolis, Minnesota. Brad transferred to the Portland area in 1997 working out of the Evergreen Station in the Beaverton installation. Brad retired in 2014.

I always knew Brad as one of those people that was at basically every union event. He was helping out at the picnic or at the Starlight Parade. He was at every membership meeting and a delegate to every convention. Brad was then as he is now, always around. He served his station as assistant steward at times, but he was never known as a huge contract whiz or lead steward. What Brad lacked in grievance filing, he made up for in volunteerism and all around service to the branch. Besides being involved with just about everything, he served the branch as the Hospitality Committee at one point, the GateKeeper Representative when that was around, and is also Branch 82's longtime parliamentarian. He was voted volunteer of the year in 2011.

Brad has always taken parliamentarian rules seriously. When I first became president, I was brushing up on Robert's Rules of Order and Brad told me about a parliamentarian club that he had been part of. He told me that I should check it out and offered to go with me to their meetings on Friday evenings. Thanks Brad, but Friday night with the parliamentarian club sounds terrible.

When Brad retired, he started coming around the union hall looking to help out. We gave him little things to do at first, but he kept coming in all of the time and doing more and more around the office. He started answering phones, doing mailings and generally becoming Branch 82's secretary. He never asked for a job or pay for his work. He just wanted to help out. We are a union, and one of our core beliefs is to get paid for the work that you perform. What Brad was doing (and still does) is well beyond the level of "just helping out." We made it official, and now Brad is our full time office assistant. He has been and continues to be an integral part of the day-to-day operations of Branch 82. He has honed his secretarial skills, learned the ins and outs of our database and has gotten pretty good with his contract knowledge and (against all odds!) the computer. He is part of our staff meetings, is up to date with what is happening around the branch and is always available to help with whatever task we give him. He is always going above and beyond. Once I had to give him a direct order to NOT move a bunch of heavy boxes by himself and let me help him.

Brad is always around. We basically had to force him to take some time off for vacation.

One morning about seven years ago when I was working as the Branch 82 Chief Steward, I arrived at the office at 7:30AM. No one was there, and I discovered that I had accidentally locked my office door the night before. I knew there was a key somewhere for it and not wanting to wait until eight for Brad to get there, I called him. He picked up, I asked him where the key was and he told me where to find it. I went and got it and told him thanks and I would see him soon. He then proceeded:

"I don't know if I am going to be in the office today."
"Oh, OK. Are you feeling alright?"
"Well, I am at the ER right now. I had a stroke."

Geez Brad, thanks for taking my call.

You cannot get any more dedication than you are going to get from Brad. He loves this union and he loves this branch. He likes being useful and helping others and he works well with the officers here at Branch 82. He is a funny guy, very Norwegian (he actually speaks Norwegian), and even in his quirkiest of times or grumpiest of days he is still a joy to be around.

He hasn't always been the office support extraordinaire that we know of today; he is a letter carrier just like you and me, and his job is being an indispensable part of keeping this local union running. He means a lot to me and he means a lot to Branch 82.

He really isn't just a secretary, or a receptionist; you could call him an administrative professional or an office assistant, but he is all of those things and more. He's really just our Brad. Thank you for everything you do.

Judith Hyde Scholarship Application

THE PURPOSE OF THE JUDITH HYDE SCHOLARSHIP is to reward the child of a Branch 82 letter carrier for community service as exemplified by Judith Hyde.

Judith Hyde came to know and love a little girl born HIV positive who had been adopted by a friend of hers. After the child died, Judith became concerned about the lack of knowledge among young people concerning AIDS/HIV. She was determined to walk across the United States from Portland to Washington, D.C. to raise awareness about this problem. Although her journey ended in Ohio due to her contracting liver cancer, her goal of community service lives on with this scholarship.

This scholarship consists of \$2000.00 per year up to four years to pay for education expenses at an accredited post-secondary school or technical institute.

SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING TO APPLY FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP:

1. What problem in the community has been of concern to you, and what have you done about it?
Please answer in detail up to two typed pages.
2. A short statement of post-secondary education plans/goals,
3. A short letter of recommendation from a friend or family,
4. A short letter of recommendation concerning your community service,
5. Grade point average on your most recent report card.

Each submission will be judged by a group of letter carriers including one parent of a past Judith Hyde Scholarship winner.

DEADLINE - All information must be submitted by Friday, May 5th, 2023.

Date _____

I am the child of active/retired/deceased letter carrier _____
of Branch 82, Portland, OR. I am a high school senior in the 2022-2023 school year.

Name of Applicant _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone # _____

I certify that the foregoing information is correct to the best of my knowledge and that I have included all required items with this application.

Signature of Applicant _____

Mail to: Branch 82 Scholarship Committee, 5265 NE 42nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97218



!! Branch 82 Labor Bowl !!

At



That's right! **The NALC Branch 82 Labor Bowl** is BACK!!!!

Here's the info:

Where: Kingpins, 3550 SE 92nd Ave, Portland, OR, 97266

When: Sunday, May 21st

Times: Registration 10:30am-11:30, Bowling 11:30-1:30pm

Price: \$60 per bowler (includes pizza, Soda, shoes, bowling)

Prizes: Door prizes for everyone! 1st place mens, 1st place women's, and lowest score get a special prize!

Silent Auction: 10:30am - 1pm (Please bring an item to add to the silent auction to raise more money for MDA! Store bought, self made, baked goods, etc.)

Teams: Make a team of 5, get your names to Abe or Branch 82 and your team gets to pick your own pizza and soda!

Single Bowlers: If you want to bowl, but won't have a team, call Abe or Branch 82 and we will get you on a team.



+ MDA =



Break Room

- Betty Nash, Vice President

Let's take a break. I really miss those words, when my friends would walk by and say, hey let's go, "it's time for break," and we would all go and sit in the break room and talk about everything. We could talk to our friends and then our best friend within the group, sometimes referred to as your work husband or work wife. Of course my best friend would say no, she's my sister from another mister, and I would say he's my brother from another mother. There is usually someone that everyone knows you share more with. I really miss those times. I always looked forward to our time to relax and talk about the everyday stuff. You know how it goes: my husband said the funniest thing yesterday, and we can all laugh about it. Or my daughter is thinking of buying a new car, and of course everyone has input, such as never buy a Ford, or the new Camry is great on mileage etc. Everyone has an opinion. The friendships that were developed over years of 10 minutes at a time, every morning as well as the time spent in line at the time clock checking in on each other, really added up into some very close friendships

We of course use this time to complain about our supervisors and how unrealistic their expectations are, but I guess that is their job-always set the bar too high, knowing that it can't be done. This is the time that we give each other the backup, the validation that management is stupid and you are the professional on your route and you know what can be done in eight hours a day. We talk a lot of smack about our management team when they deserve it. If management chooses to give carriers goals that they know are unattainable then yeah, we will talk about how dumb you are, and if management uses the aggressive approach and threatens carriers that don't meet those expectations, then management can expect their ears to be Burning Red Hot!!

Some people use their break time to be alone and maybe walk around the building or stop by the break room to review the NALC bulletin board. What's the new COLA at? Any new cities put on the list to go directly to PTF? What is the new flavor of the month that management is issuing discipline on or maybe just threatening lots of investigative interviews on?

The break room is where we used to hold lots of pot lucks for the holidays, and cakes for retirements and other special occasions, getting a chance to sample the food of the good cooks in the office, which was not me, but I really appreciate those that can cook. Again, it also gave us time to connect with each other. Hopefully we can get back into that more and more.

The break room is the first place some carriers go to in the morning to check to see if anyone brought in donuts or cookies. Sometimes people that have gardens bring in fresh vegetables or maybe they have a plum tree and need to get rid of some fruit. I know that once my husband bought a Costco box of individual popcorn packets, and he didn't like the flavor so I put the big

Costco box in the break room and 20 minutes later it was empty. I know that each office has those carriers that are considered the piranhas of the breakroom, the ones that you need to watch to make sure they only get one donut and don't stuff their coat pockets. Yes, we might say hey Mikey, how many times have you been to the break room today? It's all in good fun.

I sometimes wonder, what if these break room walls could talk? All the years, decades of letter carriers that have spent part of each day here with friends, spending part of their lives in these small rooms, needing the comradery, the human interaction, the support, the friendship that these rooms offer each of us in our own offices.

PLEASE DO NOT SKIP YOUR BREAK, no matter how late you may be running or how much pressure you may feel to hit the street. Remember this is your time! This is your contractual right and your opportunity to connect with your fellow letter carriers, don't give it up! Some of us may consider ourselves very self sufficient, and you might think you don't need to take a break, but maybe you are the one that someone else needs. Maybe you are the one that can give them that encouragement that things will get better, or they might just need to know that they are not alone. Believe it or not, we need each other. You may not need help, but you can be an example to a new carrier. You don't have to be an OJI to offer guidance to a CCA or new PTF. If you see some newbie sitting in the break room looking defeated, just go sit by them, tell them that we have all had those days where we thought that we couldn't make it, and that was 10 years ago. Tell them to take it one hour at a time and one day at a time. They may end up being your best friend.

Retiree Luncheon

April 19

IHOP

4931 SE 82nd Avenue

Portland, OR 97266

NOON

(Third Wednesday of each month)



B-Mike

Medicare Integration

- Matt Pierce, Secretary-Treasurer

Hello again from the office of your secretary-treasurer. This month we're going to talk about the upcoming integration of Medicare and Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB). Now stick with me, I know that this is a little bit of a dry subject, but it is something that will affect most of us and something we get a lot of calls about.

So first, a little bit of history. The Postal Service Reform Act (H.R. 3076) that Congress passed on 04/06/2022 did several things. It ended the mandate that the Postal Service pre-fund its retiree health benefit costs, required that the Postal Service deliver mail and packages at least six days a week, and it instructed OPM to offer Postal health benefit plans for USPS employees and retirees that requires postal workers to enroll in Medicare Parts A and B when they are eligible.

Let me say this upfront so there is no confusion: while some people in these Postal only plans will be "forced" to sign-up for Medicare when available to enroll, you will not lose your FEHB benefits in retirement, nor will your benefits go down at age 65. You will have the same provider and plan benefits as before.

Current Medicare eligible employees and retired letter carriers will not be required to join the postal only plans, they will be just another option among the other FEHB plans from which you can select. Currently about 8 out of 10 retired letter carriers already choose to enroll in Medicare Parts A and B when they become eligible because doing so virtually eliminates any out-of-pocket health care costs (deductibles, co-payments, etc.). So, these proposed changes in the FEHB Program will not actually change anything for most people.

Medicare Part A is hospital insurance. It covers things like inpatient hospital care, skilled nursing facilities, hospice care, lab tests, surgery, home health care on a limited basis, etc. Medicare Part A is also "free," meaning you don't pay anything for it in premiums when you enroll. It's a benefit that you've already paid for by having the 1.45% Medicare tax withheld from your paycheck. As long as you have paid this for 10 years and are turning 65, you're covered. You can sign up for it during the "initial enrollment period" which is basically the seven months surrounding your 65th birthday: the three months before the month you turn 65, the month you turn 65, and the three months after you turn 65. Since Part A is free at 65, there's not really any reason everyone shouldn't enroll in it.

Medicare Part B is medical insurance. It covers things like health care provided services, going to a physician, inpatient care, durable medical equipment, home health care, and preventative services. Medicare Part B is not free; in 2023 the standard monthly premium for Medicare Part B enrollees is \$164.90. Under the new law, at age 65 Medicare will become your primary

insurance and your postal-only FEHB plan becomes your secondary insurance; these changes are projected to save the USPS nearly \$50 billion over the next decade. Many things that are covered by your health benefits, such as hospitalization and medical equipment, will now be the responsibility of Medicare and your FEHB will continue to cover everything else that it does now.

Projected cost savings should also more than offset the cost of Medicare Part B for the enrollee. Having so much covered by Medicare will lower the cost of premiums for every letter carrier, not just those 65 and older. Any increases in premiums would hopefully also be reduced because postal participants would be placed in a separate risk pool with new rules related to Medicare enrollment.

Beginning April 1st 2024, during a six (6) month special enrollment period, those current postal retirees age 65 and over with a Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan (FEHBP) who did not join Medicare Part B will be able to join Medicare B and have the "late enrollment" penalty waived. The NALC lobbied hard for this provision because the cost of the penalty is 10% for each year after age 65 that a retiree delays enrollment for life, which is substantial.

Current retirees and employees aged 64 or older (as of Jan. 1, 2023) may decide whether or not to enroll in Medicare, and can therefore choose to remain in non-postal plans if they decline Medicare. Plans in the Federal Employee Health Benefits program cover retirees whether they enroll in Medicare or choose to maintain coverage under FEHB only. The law also gives the right to decide about Medicare enrollment for any active postal employee who retires before January 1, 2025, or for any active employee at least 64 years of age as of January 1, 2025.

Effective January 1, 2025, current postal employees who become Medicare eligible as retirees and have a postal-only plan will be automatically enrolled in Medicare, with some notable exceptions. Medicare then becomes their primary insurance and their postal-only FEHBP plan becomes their secondary insurance. All postal workers and postal retirees will be able to keep their current FEHBP and participate in the annual FEHBP open season.

The exceptions to the requirement to enroll in Medicare for those under 64 as of January 1, 2025 are that they live in a highly rural or remote place where treatment under the plans is unavailable. Then they are free to enroll in a non-postal FEHB plan. Second, if a postal employee's current FEHB plan does not offer a postal-only version of that plan, they can stay in that non-postal plan, until they choose to switch. Third, if a future retiree moves abroad or in a place where there are no Medicare providers, enrollment in a non-postal plan will be available. Finally, if a future retiree has coverage from the VA, TRICARE, or the Indian

MDA Report

- Abe RedCloud, MDA Rep

Health Service and does not need Medicare, they may enroll in a non-postal FEHB plan.

Due to all of the hard lobbying work that the NALC did with your political donation funds, in my opinion this law turned out about as perfect as it could be. It will ensure that the USPS will now be financially solvent for years to come and will also save our members money. It does all that with almost no downside for the vast majority of our members.

Thank you all so much for bearing with me for a dry but important subject. I hope you all learned a little something- I know I did while researching this.

Until next time I remain yours in solidarity, Matt

Hello Branch 82! April is here and I hope it isn't bringing April Showers..... If so we have some soggy letter carriers on the street!

CURRENT EVENT: MDA RAFFLE

Evergreen stewards and carriers are beasts and raffle-ticket-selling masters! Can anyone beat them this year? Remember that the top fundraising station gets a prize! Hmmm how about this.....we are also going to give a 2nd place prize!!! That's right, the station that comes in 2nd place by selling the most tickets will get a prize as well!!

You can get tickets through your steward at your station or at Branch 82. So go get some tickets to help support the MDA and possibly win an awesome prize!

UPCOMING EVENT: BRANCH 82 LABOR BOWL

LABOR BOWL SHIRTS: I have a limited quantity of Labor Bowl shirts to offer bowlers. I will offer a Labor Bowl shirt to people that pre-register with me, want a shirt and will wear the shirt at the Labor Bowl. First come, first serve. So get that team together and pre-register! If you're an individual bowler without a team, let me know you'd like to bowl, and you will be placed on a team and pre-registered.

THEME: The theme for this labor bowl will be a HAT party! So the best hat (voted on by the people present) will win a prize! Hats can be store bought or self made. Get to brainstorming for that noggin of yours!

PIZZA: If you can get me your team registration with five bowlers by May 10, then you get to pick your own pizza and soda that will be delivered to your lane! That's right! You get to pick and it comes to you! But this is only if you pre-register a team of five.

There are only 20 lanes available, and they are going fast!

Do you have something to donate for the silent auction? Please contact me or Branch 82. Items can be homemade or store bought, just as long as they are something that you could see being sold at a store. Have a friend that owns a business? Ask them to donate gift certificates, etc. With your help getting a donated item, we can raise more money for MDA!



In Solidarity,
Abe RedCloud

Branch 82 Officers

President	David Norton	503.493.5903
Vice- President	Betty Nash	503.493.5903
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Health Benefits	Eric Matras	503.493.5903
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MDA Rep	Abe RedCloud	503.493.5903

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Dave Esch	503.493.5903
Ted Lulich	503.493.5903
George Wallenstein	503.493.5903



B·Mike

10 Things I Hate Love About You: Ode to the Postal Service

- Jon Cabral, Chief Steward & Recording Secretary

While I am not literally singing the praises of the Postal Service, I was recently asked to help out at a USPS job fair back in March, and I found the experience to be truly refreshing. Parts of my job as a letter carrier and a lot of it as a steward for letter carriers feels inherently negative. When working at Parkrose as a work assignment carrier technician, I was juggling the need to complete all of my tasks as a carrier who is replacing the regular on their day off, helping to make sure the four other routes on my string were covered, and ensuring that all of the grievances for a nearly 100 carrier office were researched, met on, and paid. The number of hours I had to put in to guarantee all of that work was done, at times felt very damaging, and is something a lot of carriers are having to deal with right now due to our staffing situation, all without having taken on those additional roles voluntarily.

Everyday there were a lot of problems that needed to be solved. Some of them were easy, while others were difficult and dealt with complicated interpersonal relationships and issues. When I as a steward had to file a grievance, it was always because management failed to do the right thing, covering a wide spectrum of topics. Whether it was management trying to discipline a carrier who was actively at the lowest point in their life, or the daily violations where carriers were improperly drafted to work forced off-assignment overtime, preventing them from going home at a reasonable hour. My point ultimately being that, although this career can feel like it is surrounded by negativity, attending that job fair gave me the opportunity to talk about and appreciate all of the things I absolutely love when it comes to being a letter carrier. So here is my list in no particular order:

1. Union – This is an easy one. When I first moved to Portland, I struggled to find a job in my field of study and knew that if I couldn't, the only way I was going to work outside of it, was if it were at a union job. I applied for various union jobs, and the Postal Service was the first to get back to me. Others did later, but I was already enamored with being a letter carrier, and wasn't going to be pulled away easily. It was also great to discover the NALC and be part of a union that is as old as ours is, as they are also directly responsible for many of the things that appear on my list. It's certainly not perfect, but it's ours, and I want nothing more than to be able to someday leave it better off than when I found it. If we can all look at it with that goal in mind then we will continue to be strong for a long time to come.

2. Benefits – The benefits are amazing, from health insurance, to retirement, to annual and sick leave, everything the Postal Service offers is far more than what you will find at a job that pays a similar wage. This is all offered to anyone who is capable of doing the job and has graduated high school. You don't need any college degrees or any other training that isn't provided to you by the Postal Service or the NALC.

3. Stability – This is easily one of the most important reasons why

I stayed with this career. It is an unbelievably stable job, where I don't have to worry about needing more hours (although sometimes we wish it were less). No matter what, save for a few unique circumstances, I'm always going to get at least 40 hours of pay every week, and that is something I can plan and count on. Not to mention after six years of career service, I became protected from involuntary layoffs.

4. Uniform – It can't be stated enough how nice it is to never have to think about how I'm going to dress at a job that has me frequently wearing through clothes. Every year I get a new uniform allowance that allows me to buy whatever it is I need, up to that amount. I have total control over which items I'd like to wear, and what I ultimately purchase. It is also nice to represent a brand that is so well recognized and immediately brings a smile to many of our customers faces.

5. Outdoors – Maybe it's not so great in other parts of the country, but here in Portland, with our temperate climate, and cool spring and fall seasons, working outside is mostly an absolute joy. I never really thought about working a job outside before the Postal Service, but it easily became one of the things I liked most. Being stuck in an office all day, though brings a certain level of consistency, also strips away any opportunity to be outside on a beautiful and sunny 60 degree day. Some carriers are also lucky enough to be able to bid on that route that is a literal walk in the park (talking about you, Gideon).

6. Paycheck – The paycheck definitely shares a lot and is intertwined with stability. More specifically though is the amount of money I make for the job I do. When I started as a CCA, I made just over \$16.00/hour, and now I make over \$13.00/hour more, being halfway up the pay chart. I make more an hour now than a topped out carrier made when I started, and to me that is just downright crazy, and something I'm extremely grateful for. It has given me the ability to get married, and pay for our wedding and honeymoon, and afforded me the opportunity to save up enough money to buy our first house, and now our second, after having sold the first. It has also given me the ability to be able to not just take time off from work, but to go visit and travel to places I would never have been able to otherwise.

7. Co-workers – Whoever would have thought that the Postal Service was harboring the most eclectic and interesting group of people you'd ever meet in your life? I sure didn't, but here I am, having made some of the best friendships of my life because of the Postal Service. Just today, as I write this, myself and seven of my friends who I work with at Parkrose went to an Escape Room (that we absolutely crushed), then had lunch after. We spend so much time with our co-workers at work, and for many of us, they are the same people who we choose to spend time with outside of work. It helps that they also fully and completely understand what it is that we all put up with on a day to day basis.



8. Community – As a letter carrier, I get to be part of the very fabric that makes up the community I am a part of. The Postal Service is what connects all US citizens to each other, and them to the things they want to receive in the mail. I also had the great opportunity of being able to deliver mail on the route I lived on, and by extension be able to deliver to all of my neighbors. We as letter carriers get to watch families grow up around us, one day at a time, and if we're lucky enough to get that retirement route at the beginning of our careers, be able to deliver to the same people and families for decades.

9. Unsupervised – I don't know about everyone else, but I certainly love the feeling of finally getting my truck loaded up and hitting the street. There is nothing better than to be able to be out on the route, by myself, in my own head, for the entire day, broken up by the occasional customer interaction. Although supervisors can be out there with us whenever they want, we all know they have too much "work" back at the office that needs to be done and that we will hardly ever see them. There is a certain degree of freedom that I feel, that goes hand in hand with the responsibility that I can take care of myself and do my job without being supervised.

10. Rotating Days Off – I know it probably seems silly to some, but having rotating days off was a life changer. Getting a long week-end every six weeks, followed up by a Sun-Mon is truly amazing. Being able to go and take care of errands at businesses that have banking hours, without having to make special arrangements takes a lot of stress out of maintaining one's life. It is also extremely nice to be able to work a day, have a day off, work two more days, have another day off, then work three days, have another day off, and so on. It really breaks up the week and would give me that much more energy to get through the rest of the week.

Of course everything I listed is much better when we are properly staffed. I am optimistic that a combination of now being able to hire carriers directly to career positions in four of the installations that we represent, and what I'm hoping to be some meaningful gains in our next contract, that much of our staffing problems will be solved. Staffing is the key that unlocks the solution to nearly all other problems carriers are facing on any given day. There were well over 100 people that came to the job fair I mentioned above, and that was thanks to all of you who delivered those job fair cards. As annoying as they may be to deliver, it's important that we continue to get the word out to prospective carriers, and get more people interested in joining the USPS. This job is beyond difficult when you start, but hopefully people will be able to see all of the things I love about the Postal Service and more, and be able to look beyond that initial difficult time to a brighter future. This is a fantastic middle class job, and here's hoping more people will be able to see that and come aboard.

In solidarity,
Jon Cabral



Last Punch Bunch



Paul Austin- Sellwood



West Coast Lobby Trip Report

- Abe RedCloud, MDA Rep

Hello Branch 82. First off I wanted to thank the Branch and David Norton for spending the legislative fund and adding to it in order to send me to DC for the West Coast Lobby Trip and Willie Groshell for including me! I am writing this article to report back how our meetings went and other stuff that happened. We flew out on Monday and our meetings were Tuesday – Friday.

Tuesday: First thing, we had a meeting at NALC headquarters to let us know what bills they wanted us to push. In the meeting were the Oregon, Washington and Alaska delegations. We met with Brian Renfro, Kori Keller, Brent Fjerested and Jose Ceballos. They told us about H.R. 82 and The Federal Retirement Fairness Act (FRFA) as the two things they wanted us to bring before the Senators and Representatives. They also informed us that NALC does NOT support the Dump DeJoy push as we are currently in contract negotiations and it would be better to work with someone we know, rather than bring in a whole new team in the middle of negotiations. It is also better to get what we want in those negotiations with honey, rather than oil and vinegar. Also DeJoy helped us pass the Postal Reform Act. Without his help there's a good chance it would not have passed.

The first meeting was with Senator Ron Wyden. We mostly met with his Aide Madison Moskowitz. Senator Wyden came in at the end stating how much he LOVES letter carriers and Vote by Mail. They were very receptive of both of the bills we talked about and showed positive support for both.

Wednesday: We toured the AFL-CIO building. There were two AMAZING murals on the first floor that were completed in 1956 and 1972. Over 300,000 pieces of marble, glass and gold leaf in 306 key sections. They are utterly amazing! Also we were able to go out on the balcony on the top floor which overlooks the White House! Amazing view from there! They have to call the secret service and get it approved to be able to go on the balcony.

Our second meeting was with Representative Andrea Salinas. We met with Aide Shannon Geison and unfortunately Rep Salinas was not able to join us. Shannon was very receptive and knew/remembered about the Federal Retirement Fairness Act from last time it didn't get passed.

The third meeting was with Senator Jeff Merkley. After waiting for a little while in his waiting room, we were told that we would be escorted to meet with him at "The Hideout." Then we were issued some passes and guess what? We were escorted to the train underground that took us to the heart of the Capitol Building which is closed to tours! As we waited for his last meeting to end in the halls of the Capitol Building, Willie Groshell sang 30 seconds of "God Bless America" acapella right there! Senator Merkley was very receptive and asked a lot of questions about

the FRFA and the amount of hours carriers are currently working. He showed support for both of the bills. After the meeting we were escorted to a holding room to turn in all of our electronics and then followed the path and elevators to the Senate Gallery!!! Right after we were seated in the Gallery, Senator Ron Wyden stood up and addressed the Senate Floor about women's rights to be able to choose on abortion. How amazing was our luck to not only get inside the Capitol Building and be able to be in the Gallery, but then to watch one of our State Senators address the Senate Floor. Amazing!

Thursday: We went to Arlington Cemetery and witnessed cannons fired and a ceremony at the Unknown Soldier Tomb.

Our fourth meeting was with Representative Earl Blumenaur. The office was filled with meetings, so we actually met with Aide Tucker Johnson in the hallway outside his office. The aide was very receptive of our bills and even had a friend that was affected by what the FRFA would fix so he connected even more with that. Representative Blumenaur came out and met with us for a few minutes at the end.

The fifth meeting was with Representative Val Hoyle. We met with Aide Joey Kranitz, and like the Aide before, he also has a friend that is affected by what the FRFA would fix. He was very receptive to our bills. Representative Hoyle showed up at the end and we were able to go over the bills again. She responded saying that they were both an easy yes!

Friday: The sixth meeting was with Representative Lori Chavez-DeRemer. We met with aide Chester Pelsang who was receptive to our bills. He said that they are focusing on union bills and will look further into both of these bills. Representative Chavez-DeRemer showed up at the end and asked us a lot of questions to fully understand both bills and where we are coming from. She showed interest in both of the bills.

The seventh meeting was with Representative Suzanne Bonamici and Aide Nick Owen. She has already signed onto H.R. 82 and showed concern on our staffing situation so will fully look into the FRFA when it is introduced. Both of them were very receptive to the bill.

The eighth meeting was with Cliff Bentz and aide Cristian Figueredo. After first talking about H.R. 82 he showed a major concern over the federal budget. He seems very reluctant to sign onto any bill that would have an effect on the federal budget which H.R. 82 will have. He will look further into the FRFA when it is introduced.

So overall I have a good feeling that the FRFA will be signed by



Branch 82 Non-Members

our two senators and six house representatives. The hard one because of the financial impact will be H.R. 82. At all but one of our meetings, they seemed receptive about the bill, but only a few easy yes's from the group.

We of course were able to see and visit most of the monuments in DC, went to several museums and walked a total of 98,376 steps! The average was roughly 18,000 steps a day Tuesday- Saturday! That's a lot of walking! I am proud to have served the NALC in bringing our two most important bills at this time before the Oregon Senators and House Representatives. Again, thank you to David Norton, the branch and Wille Groshell for sending me.

In Solidarity,
Abe RedCloud

ARE YOU FROM A MERGED BRANCH?

If you are a carrier from a branch that has merged with Branch 82, then we need your help. It has come to my attention that we are missing documents such as LMOUs, membership, and steward names.

We have members that are coming up on their gold card status but because they came from a merged branch, we cannot verify their membership status, and National is unable to help us with this important issue.

If you have access to documents or know someone that may have historical records of the branches that have merged with Branch 82, especially Branch 4098, which was the Beaverton Installation, please contact me here at Branch 82, 503.493.5903. We want to make sure that each of our members gets all the benefits that they are entitled to. In addition, documents from our merged branches are of historical value and we would like to preserve them.

Betty Nash

Closets are for clothes

Single gay male seeks ideas for Pride Parade outfits and/or costumes...
Next Pride Committee meeting - Thursday, April 13th * 7PM
Zoom Code: 880 6173 1039 * Passcode: Pride



Steven Eldridge, Beaverton
Robert Gardner, Beaverton
Michael Porschien, Beaverton
Kristyann Stafford, Canby
Keith Wery, Canby
Rex Paschall, Creston
Sara Bartlemay, East Portland
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
Justin Zimmerman, Kenton
Sean Sharafi, Lake Grove
De Bui, Lake Grove
Stephen Block, Lake Oswego
Albert Chan, Lents
Jeffrey Smith, Lents
Elizabeth Krieger, McMinnville
Ona Vesa, Multnomah
Benjamin Siefken, Newberg
Kenneth Boettcher, Oak Grove
Thomas Carter Jr, Oak Grove
Jonathon Ford, Oak Grove
Vickie Rauer, Oak Grove
Jared White, Oak Grove
Eric Ridley, Oregon City
Billy Sapp, Oregon City
Robert Hawkins, West Linn
Patrick Dyche, West Slope



Veterans In Action

- Bruce Hall, Veterans Representative

Last month I wrote an article about "Spring Into Action," so this month's article is sort of a continuation. We need to be active continually.

Veterans have served our great nation in so many ways. We have a saying, "Freedom is not Free and All Veterans have given some and some Veterans have given All." We also say that we need to take care of our veterans. Most people agree, but there is great difference of opinion on how this is accomplished, and to what extent. We live in a Democracy, so we are involved in a political and social system. Most decisions are made in the interest of certain individuals or groups rather than all mankind. Greed and self-interest seem to govern many of these decisions. We would love to live in a world with freedom, peace, cooperation, goodwill, equality, consideration of others, and good quality of life. This can only be achieved if we work together as veterans, inform others, and constantly convince our congress to do what's right when considering how to take proper care of our veterans.

We as veterans need to be active and vigilant in actions involving veterans. We need to constantly be in touch with our Representatives and Senators. There is a great deal of legislation being considered all the time concerning veterans. If you would like to get a weekly legislative newsletter updating legislative actions, please send your Name, Email, and Zip Code to Bruce Hall, 8017 N. Washburne Ave., Portland, Or, 97217, or Email to vwfbuce@gmail.com. I can get you signed up for the VFW Action Corps Weekly. It is available to anyone who desires it. By receiving this information, you can then appropriately contact your legislators about legislation affecting veterans.

One of the biggest issues that affects the Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration is proper funding. Congress needs to ensure that the funding appropriated is sufficient to take care of our uniformed and civilian personnel, maintain our readiness at the highest possible level, and sustain our technological advantages. Plus, we need to take care of those who have served and need assistance. So, contact your congressperson and request that they work together to provide funds to maintain a good National Security and also take care of those who provide our National Security through their service and sacrifice. Please contact your congressperson as soon as possible.

One way we can be active and support one another as veterans is to join a veteran's organization. Some that you might consider are:

- American Legion
- National Association of Black Veterans
- Disabled American Veterans
- Military Order of the Purple Heart
- Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Vietnam Veterans of America
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Veterans of Underage Military Service

Besides these, most of the military services have associations that you can join. There is strength in unity. We need to join together to insure that everything possible is done to take proper care of our veterans. If you would like to become involved in any of these organizations or in programs that help veterans, please give me a call at 503-285-8468 or email me at vwfbuce@gmail.com.

The VFW had about 400 VFW and VFW Auxiliary members attend a legislative conference in the Nation's Capital the first week of March. They were able to participate in a special joint hearing of the House and Senate committees on Veterans' Affairs and present the VFW's priority goals to Congress. They were able to do this after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic.

Things continue to change. This past month, I was introduced to a new organization which should be beneficial to post 9/11 veterans needing mental and physical health services. It is RVP services including individual and family counseling, acupuncture, chiropractic care, massage therapy, and more. RVP's free services are delivered by a network of highly qualified volunteer providers. The War and pandemic over the past several years have resulted in more veterans and military families turning to RVP for support. Contact returningveterans.org or email mail@returningveterans.org.

Another organization, DO GOOD MULTNOMAH, contacted me with information for a PERSONAL HYGIENE DRIVE. This is an opportunity to donate hygiene items to houseless participants staying in shelter with DO GOOD MULTNOMAH. Personal hygiene items needed: full sized or trial sized shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, toothbrushes and tooth paste, soap, and shaving needs. Drop off items at NALC Branch 82, 5265 NE 42nd, Bruce Hall's, 8017 N Washburne, or Eagles Hall, 7611 N Exeter Ave. Donations will be collected for the month of April. More information can be found at DoGoodMultnomah.org

We would like to encourage everyone to be active in caring for veterans and our communities.

In Memoriam

DONALD VANDERPOOL





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ACTIVE DUTY

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

Noah Duarte, son of Ricardo Duarte (St. Helens)
Army, Ft Hood, Texas

Greg Gerard, son of George Gerard (Beaverton)
Navy, Virginia Beach

Casey James (Waterfront) Army, Jordan

Roberto Jimenez (Creston) Army, Qatar

Samuel Kunz, son of John Kunz (Parkrose), Navy

Christopher Manivanh, son of Simang Manivanh
(Hillsboro), Army, Iraq

Zachary Padaca, son of Eleanor Padaca (River District) Navy

Bill Quigley Jr., grandson of Ken Quigley (Gold Card
Member) Army, Iraq

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

Dean Schuchardt, son of Patricia Schuchardt (Multnomah)
Army

Corey A. Thompson, son of Georgina Thompson
(Rose City Park), Navy, Norfolk, VA

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

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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 2nd Wednesday, 7:00PM

Retiree Luncheon 3rd Wednesday, noon

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

IHOP, 4931 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.

The B-Mike is published monthly and mailed to the Branch 82 mailing list. The B-Mike is published to promote the objectives of this Branch and to provide better communication with our members. Individual opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Branch Officers or Branch 82, unless identified as such. The editorial committee reserves the right to edit or refuse publication of any article. Articles for publication must be in Word or PDF form and received by the 15th of the month. E-mail articles to: smiller.eightytwo@gmail.com. If you have questions or to request a deadline extension, call the editor in advance. The advertising deadline is also the 15th of the month. All ads must be in PDF form or have prior approval of the editor. Mail to the B-Mike, c/o Branch 82. For rates and further information, call 503-493-5903.



NALC Branch 82 Membership Meeting, March 8, 2023

Call to Order: 7:05

Pledge of Alliance: Bruce Hall

Deceased Members:

Donald Vanderpool, Gold Card- Parkrose

Moment of Silence

Roll Call of Officers:

Officers Absent: Sue Canfield, George Wallenstein. **Excused Members/Officers:** Kollin Luman, Leadership Academy
Abe RedCloud, Western States Lobby Trip

First Time Members:

Debbie Walke- Lake Grove
Colin Lake- Lake Grove

Reading of the Minutes: Casey English made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept them as printed in the B-Mike. Seconded: Justin Wallace. Carried

Communications: Carrier Gary Spike brought in a framed stitched letter carrier plaque that belonged to deceased Carrier David Vaughn.

Membership Report:

Regular: 1140, PTF: 109, CCA: 100, Retiree: 520, Gold Card: 73, Mgmt & Other Crafts: 44, New Members: CCA-11, PTF- 7. Total Membership: 1986, Non-Members: 40, Organized: 97.12%.

Retired: Julie Burlingame- Oak Grove
Canceled: Adam Ortiz- Tigard, Mgmt
Separated: Nolan Klock- Creston
Anthony Spinnato- Kenton

Secretary Treasurer's Report: Cody Harris made a motion to pay the bills. Seconded: English. Carried.

Executive Board Expenditure Recommendation: Motion: Recommendation to reimburse Oregon State Association President Willie Groshell for the cost of the \$1,357.80 flight for Abe RedCloud for the Western States Lobby Trip. Carried. Motion: Recommendation to increase the budget by \$7,500 for Office Technology Replacement. Carried. Motion: Recom-

mendation to increase the budget for the 2023 State Convention fund from \$13,000 up to \$15,000. Carried.

Unfinished Business: Matt Pierce discussed how they can finish planning for the state convention now that all the numbers are in.

Trustee's Financial Report

Judith Hyde Scholarship Report: President Norton announced that the scholarship will be advertised again in the next B-Mike. Applications are due on May 5th.

Pride Parade Report: Dave Esch reported that the next Zoom planning meeting is April 13th at 7pm.

Labor Management Report: Norton spoke on the state of the branch. Julius Fildes gave an update on how route adjustments are going and where we are with all of the evaluations that have taken place. English said there are problems with people not taking their office break. Except for East Portland, every station in Portland is supposed to be taking one office and one street break. Norton discussed how important it is for carriers to take their office breaks. He added that we are still hiring, and the last job fair had 110 potential applicants. Jon Cabral said that attendance discipline is on the rise.

Health and Safety Report: Don Cadwell said when safety issues arise at stations that warrant a 1767, carriers need to please bring it to the branch's attention as soon as possible. Norton added that management is trying to monitor asbestos levels in some of the offices, and they are working with an outside abatement company.

Legislation Report: Norton reported that we have a new Labor Secretary; the previous secretary is going to the NHL.

MDA Report: Labor Bowl returns on May 21, and tickets are currently on sale for the MDA Raffle.

Starlight Parade: Work parties have

begun on Sundays to prepare the float. Our theme this year is Delivering Fun.

Food Drive Report:

Norton explained that we are planning on sending out some sort of mailer with a QR code that customers can scan to donate money to the Oregon Food Bank.

Retiree's Report: Sam Smith reminded the members that we have a luncheon on the third Wednesday of every month at IHOP. You don't have to be retired to come, so if you have the day off swing by and say hello.

Veteran's Report: Hall spoke about a group called Do Good Multnomah that helps to support houseless veterans, and they are looking for toiletries to be donated. He informed the membership of a non-profit called Returning Veterans Project, and they have people who work with mental health donating their time to support post 9/11 veterans. Their website is returningveterans.org. He also mentioned that we need some new people for the VFW.

Labor Solidarity Report: Norton said the Laborers Local 737 are out on strike, and the office put together some money to help support them. Pierce made a motion to pass the hat so we can donate money to pay for their food. Jamie Partridge talked about the strike, Starbucks, and UPS's contract set to expire in the summer.

Good of the Association: Norton thanked hospitality, Betty Nash, for tonight's dinner. Lulich mentioned that there is a new Brookfield rep. Norton announced we raised \$150 for CertainTeed workers.

Motion: English made a motion for the Branch to match the donation for CertainTeed workers. Seconded: Nash, Carried.

Kitty Award: Ian Chacaiere, Rose City won \$74. **Jackpot:** \$595 went unclaimed by Craig Lower, Gresham. **Treasure Chest:** \$190 went unclaimed by Andrew Westenhauer, Holladay Park

Adjourned: 8:44



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS
Branch 82
5265 NE 42nd Ave
Portland, Oregon 97218



B·Mike

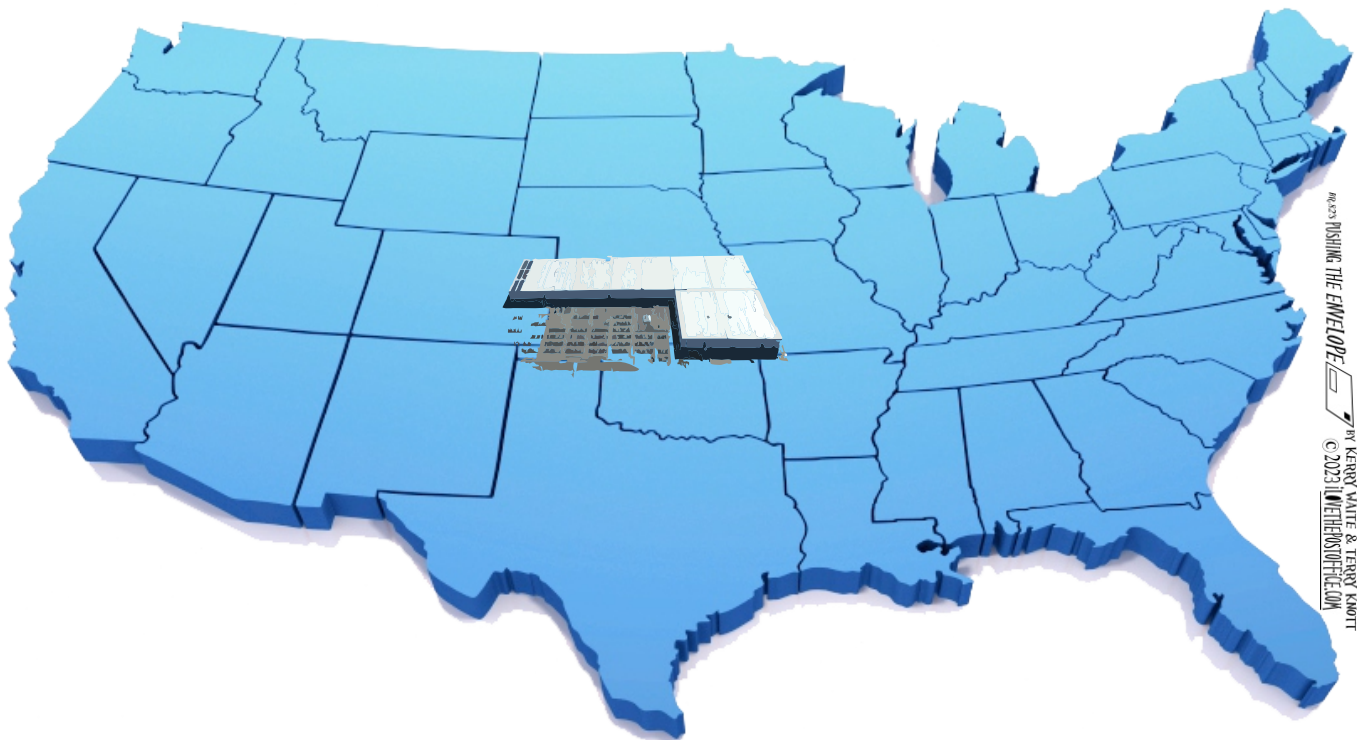
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Upcoming General Membership meetings:
Wednesday, April 12 , 7pm
Wednesday, May 10, 7pm
Dinner will be served prior to each meeting.

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