



# B•Mike



Vol. 84  
Issue five  
May 2024

*"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

## See you at the Labor Bowl on May 19!

Details on pages 10-11



# Say Something

- David Norton, President

I did a bit of traveling last year to the UK. While taking the underground train, the “tube” in London, I noticed signs all over with the saying, “See it, Say it, Sorted.” These signs usually included an illustrated graphic of a person watching something that might be a little off, like, an unattended duffel bag or another person walking into a restricted area. “See it, Say it, Sorted” is the British Transport Police’s initiative asking rail passengers and others who use rail stations to keep themselves and others around them safe by reporting any unusual items or activities they may observe to the authorities. Presumably, so it can be sorted.

This sort of initiative isn’t unique to the tube system in the UK. Here at home, The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has its “If You See Something, Say Something” program. It is their national campaign to raise public awareness on how to report suspicious activity, especially regarding a potential nexus to terrorism.

Reporting suspicious activity is a good idea whether it is potential terrorism or something strange on the train. Letting someone know what is going on is just a good idea in life, and it doesn’t have to be reporting suspicious activity or talking about something terrible that happened to you. It could simply be informational, like letting a neighbor know that you will be out of town or telling someone in your life that you are going to have surgery and you may be laid up. If you are going to head down to the crawl space underneath your house to try and fix a plumbing problem yourself, it may be a good idea that someone knows you are under there.

Being amongst the public and being a visible person in every neighborhood has always come with a certain amount of risk, but recently there has been a large uptick in crimes against letter carriers. Since 2020, there have been more than 2,000 crimes committed against letter carriers nationwide, and letter carrier robberies climbed to 643 last year, an increase of close to 30%. The Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (POLCA) was just recently introduced in the House. Its goal is to help deter crime against letter carriers by devaluing some of the things that are targeted by criminals and increasing prosecution and sentencing guidelines. Unfortunately, we have had our share of crimes against letter carriers perpetrated here as well. Many carriers have had their vehicles broken into or have been robbed of their arrow keys. When things like this happen, it is imperative to inform others, and getting the word out with descriptions of persons and vehicles involved can only help prevent crimes against letter carriers from happening again and lead to arrests.

Even if it is not about theft, things happen to carriers all of the time. We just recently had a carrier that was followed by a POV for over 45 minutes. For reasons unknown, this person was videotaping the carrier until they finally left their route. In this instance, the carrier was quick enough to jot down the license plate of the vehicle and get a description of the person. When the police were contacted, they told the carrier this was “a person of interest” to them. We also had a case recently where, at a vacant house, a worker who was remodeling the house exposed himself to the carrier. Yup, and the T-6 on the route. So often, the Postal Service talks about sexual harassment as something that happens between co-workers, but it also can happen away from your station out on the route. No one should have to put up with something like that. All cases of this nature must be addressed. Again, it doesn’t have to be a major issue, letting your supervisor know that you just had to spray a dog and the customer was upset about it lets you get the narrative out before a potentially angry, vindictive customer calls in with their opinionated version of events.

So often, things go unreported, including actual crimes- major crimes and smaller ones as well. Many of us get used to petty crimes around us. Many of us have had something stolen off our porches or our car broken into, but without reporting those crimes, law enforcement does not have realistic data to spot trends and anticipate crime in specific areas. Also, the person committing the crime who gets away with it is more likely to do it again and victimize others.

Now, I am sure many of us have the opinion of, “Well the police aren’t going to do anything about it anyway,” and there may be a certain amount of truth to that. Still, doing your civic duty for those around you demands that you report crimes that occur or suspicious activity to the authorities. It doesn’t have to be big; it doesn’t have to be a call to 911 either, it can be to the police non-emergency line, but it should be done.

The same goes for the post office. It is just as easy to say, “My supervisor isn’t going to do anything about it,” and that definitely has some truth to it. Often when things get reported to the boss, they get put on the back burner, forgotten about, or aren’t addressed with the urgency that the situation requires. The reality is that many people aren’t satisfied by the outcome of reporting things that happen to them. Management has the bottom line that always seems more important. Things tend to happen at a snail’s pace, and there are the overall bureaucratic heavy rules and regulations that affect everything that goes on. Believe me, as someone who has a massive amount of experi-





ence being disappointed with the Postal Service, I realize how frustrating it is when something happens. You do what you are supposed to do, and it is met with a mediocre-at-best result. Still, it doesn't mean that we shouldn't do the right thing and say something.

Here at Branch 82, one of the most common occurrences we see is individuals dealing with a problem in which they should have said something beforehand. We have had almost everything, and it ranges from, "I got a 7-Day Suspension a month ago," to having an on-the-job injury, or even being stalked by a customer on their route. In every case, saying something to someone would have helped immensely in addressing the issue. Too often we don't hear about a problem until the employee is on the precipice, either close to being fired or has been in a non-pay status and is ready to lose everything financially. In many instances, an issue that could have been fixed in the beginning turns into a complicated case of uncovering a web of complications that has been allowed to fester. Trying to fix a problem at the 11th hour or with an impending crisis is extremely difficult, time-consuming, and isn't good for anyone.

Also, don't assume that the officers of Branch 82 or the shop steward at your office automatically know what is going on. We are pretty good at anticipating issues and generally knowing what's going on with members and at offices, but oftentimes things happen that we are unaware of. Be sure to let someone know if something is going on with you or at your station.

If there is a contractual issue, a personal problem, or a general concern about something, you can talk to your steward or call Branch 82 for help or advice. If there is a crime that is committed, your first call must be to 911. Tell them that you are a postal employee and a letter carrier. Don't rely on your supervisor if it is a serious situation. Notify them after the police and make sure that they contact the postal inspectors. Tell your shop steward or call Branch 82 and we can make sure this is done.

I have said it before, communication is the key to any relationship, and at work, sometimes a little goes a long way. In any situation, whether you are witnessing some suspicious activity, something is happening to you, or you think something is going to happen, say something. That is the first step to solving an issue. Because a problem cannot be sorted unless someone out there knows what is going on.



Some retirees and friends recently gathered together for a retiree luncheon at IHOP.

## Retiree Luncheon

May 15

IHOP  
4931 SE 82nd Avenue  
Portland, OR 97266  
NOON

(third Wednesday of each month)

Both retired and active carriers are welcome.



**B-Mike**

# Vice President's Report

- Betty Nash, Vice President

There have been many changes since I retired from carrying mail at the end of 2021. One of the constants at work was the morning standup. Everyone at our office knew that once you clocked in, we would all gather around the parcel area for the morning standup.

Our standups usually started with a safety issue, and carriers were free to add to a safety topic or add their own experience. I know that I added from time to time, and it wasn't because I was a steward but because there was an issue that I thought could help keep my fellow letter carriers safe.

Once on my way to work, I was at a stop light and my light turned green and I was just about to hit the gas when I decided to look left, right, and left again. I was extremely lucky that I took the few seconds to check even though I was at a traffic light and I had the right of way. Sure enough, here comes a black SUV flying through the intersection. They must have been going at least 50 miles per hour and they were not slowing down, and they definitely would have hit me if I hadn't taken the time to double check for traffic. I don't know if I would have survived a collision at that speed, it's frightening to imagine the possibilities.

I took the time to look left, right, and left again because of my Postal Driver training and because another letter carrier at a standup had alerted us that this particular intersection was one where the traffic didn't always stop with a red light. He asked us to please take that extra second and check before proceeding. This carrier has now retired, and I remember thinking when he was relating his experience at the standup that this is a carrier that I respect, and he was actually very emotional when relaying his story. He said that he was shaking afterward and thinking about how his family would be forced to go on without him. Just thinking about never being able to see his wife and children again, never seeing his kids grow up, go to college, get married and have their own children. It was because of this standup that I was more cautious than I normally would have been. Most of us wait for our light to turn green and just go, believing that the cross-traffic drivers are also watching the light and will slow down and stop.

When other carriers speak, we take their word, their experience, their integrity to heart. If a management person had said, hey everyone be careful out there and be sure to always check left, right, and left when entering a roadway, it wouldn't have had the same influence on me.

This veteran carrier that rarely had anything to say thought it was important enough to put himself out there and almost

come to tears as he relayed his experience because he wanted us to be safe. So, I listened to him and I took what he said to heart. I remembered what he said and I hope others did too.

I recently got a phone call from a female carrier, and she told me that she was very upset that management did not take her safety seriously. She explained that a car had been following her for 45 minutes and that the driver took a picture of her. She called her supervisor and he said just keep going, I'll get back to you, I have a customer here. He did call her back 20 minutes later and the guy had taken off by then. I don't personally know this supervisor, maybe he is inexperienced and didn't know what to do, so he told her to just keep going.

What is certain is that this carrier felt that she was on her own, that she had been abandoned. When she returned to the office, she told the 204b what had happened and he called the Postmaster who did the right thing and had them call the police and file a report. Fortunately, she was able to get the license plate number of the car that was following her, and the police confirmed that this person was known to them.

The next day at a standup would have been the perfect time to not only admit his extremely poor judgement but to review what should have been done. What all carriers should do when they are being followed, what should management do when carriers call for guidance on a safety issue. There are steps that should be taken to protect the safety of letter carriers. We are not just numbers or bodies; we are people and we can be hurt or killed. When a carrier calls in for a safety concern, that is basically a 911 and needs to be addressed quickly and taken seriously. All too often we are hearing stories of letter carriers being robbed or assaulted for their arrow keys, mail, vehicle etc. We need to know that management has our back. Don't virtually pat me on the head and say everything will be OK. Do your damn job!

Standups can be used to inform carriers of circumstances that they need to be on the lookout for. If there is a dangerous intersection or a suspicious vehicle, give us the information so that we can keep ourselves safe.

My friend and office manager Brad Melland told me recently that on his way to work he saw a group of construction workers standing in a circle doing their morning stretches. I thought to myself, what a great thing to do. We used to do that at the Evergreen DCU every morning at the standup. Someone would lead in some basic stretches, and if you didn't want to participate, that was OK, but it was nice to have that time set aside for our health and safety. I hope that they still do that every morning.



The morning standup isn't just a time when management should be telling us how many sick calls they had or how many routes they are down, don't forget to scan the ADVO's (red plums), call if you're going to miss your return time, or any operational goals that they may have. All too often the only safety information we get is a supervisor reading something from district. They read it in a quiet, monotone, boring manner which indicates that they don't really care if anyone understands what they are saying. It's just something that is required.

The morning standup is a time for real safety issues, and if you can't think of anything, then how about we all do some stretches? How about inviting the EAP coordinator to your standup to talk about mental health? How about we discuss how important the vehicle check is and get those repair tags in and follow up on those repairs?

Carriers, please don't just stay in your case and continue casing while the standup is going on, step out and listen, especially if it's a fellow carrier speaking. It's not easy putting yourself out there to speak publicly if you're not used to it. Standups should take place in the open where all carriers can stand in a circle or semi-circle to hear and see what is going on. If you want to participate it'll be easier to raise your hand and be seen.

We are paid for this time, so let's use it to our benefit. If you have an experience that you can share that may save a fellow carrier pain and suffering, please share. I am certainly grateful that a carrier took the time to relate his experience. It probably saved my life.

Thank you to those of you who have donated your gently-worn postal uniforms to our uniform closet for new employees. We love to help keep the new carriers safe by sending them out in a uniform. Please continue to donate what you can. Retirees, are you ready to clear out that closet? We'll take all those uniforms you don't need anymore.  
Thanks!



## *Last Punch Bunch*

Donna Wash, Kenton



**Happy  
Retirement &  
Congratulations!**



**B-Mike**

# Secretary- Treasurer's Report

- Matt Pierce, Secretary-Treasurer

Hello again from the stand-up desk of your secretary-treasurer. This month we're going to talk again and hopefully finally, about the upcoming integration of Medicare and Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB). This is something that will affect most of us, and is something about which there seems to be a lot of misunderstanding and misinformation out there.

First off, let me state again: while most people currently not retired and under age 65 in these postal-only plans will be "forced" to sign-up for Medicare part B when available to enroll, they will not lose their FEHB benefits in retirement, nor will their benefits go down at age 65. They will have the same provider and plan benefits as before.

As I stated in my last article, there is currently an ongoing grace period for those retired postal annuitants in the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program (FEHBP) who are eligible for Medicare Part B, but for whatever reason didn't enroll. This is called the Postal Service Health Benefit Special Enrollment Period. (PSHB SEP) or just (SEP). The PSHB SEP applies to certain Postal Service annuitants and family members who were entitled to Medicare Part A, but were not enrolled in Medicare Part B as of Jan 1, 2024.

Beginning April 1, 2024, during the six-month special enrollment period, those current postal retirees age 65 and over with a FEHBP who did not join Medicare Part B will be able to join Medicare B and have the "late enrollment" penalty waived. The current cost of the penalty is a 10% increase in Medicare B premiums for each year after age 65 that a retiree delays enrollment. This penalty is for life, which is substantial. This is why the NALC, using your Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF) dollars, lobbied hard for this provision of a grace period to enroll in the bill.

Individuals eligible for the PSHB SEP have been receiving notification in the U.S. Mail in the past month. Again, if you are an annuitant of the Postal Service, you are not required to enroll in Medicare Part B. But now is an excellent time to do so and will allow you to enroll in the new FEHB plans that include Medicare I discussed in my last article. If you are a covered family member of an annuitant, please refer to your notification letter to determine if you have the option, or are required to, enroll in Medicare Part B. As a general rule, if the primary enrollee for health coverage is enrolled in Medicare Part B, eligible family members must also enroll in Medicare Part B when they become eligible.

If you would like to enroll during the Special Enrollment Period, complete the provided CMS-40B form, Application for

Enrollment in Medicare – Part B and mail it with the copy of the notification letter in the return envelope you received. The return envelope must be postmarked by Sept. 30, 2024. Once your enrollment is received, it will initiate your Medicare Part B coverage with an effective date of Jan. 1, 2025.

I hope this helps and clears up some/any confusion. If you are a retiree who would be covered by this SEP and you have not received your packet, you will need to contact OPM directly.

I hope that everyone is having a happy and healthy spring. Until next time, Matt

## Branch 82 Officers

President	David Norton	503.493.5903
Vice- President	Betty Nash	503.493.5903
Secretary- Treasurer	Matt Pierce	503.493.5903
Chief Steward	Jon Cabral	503.493.5903
Editor	Suzanne Miller	503.493.5903
Recording Secretary	Jon Cabral	503.493.5903
Sergeant At Arms	Chuck Solomon	503.493.5903
Safety Officer	Don Cadwell	503.493.5903
Dir. of Retirees	Sam Smith	503.493.5903
Health Benefits	Eric Matras	503.493.5903
LCPF Rep	Ryan Mills	503.493.5903
Veterans Rep	Bruce Hall	503.285.8468

### Executive Board At Large

Don Cadwell	971.322.9701
Randall Hoxie	503.493.5903
Janelle Lee	503.493.5903
Abe Redcloud	503.493.5903

### Trustees

Lois Brumfield	503.493.5903
Casey English	503.493.5903
Miranda Layton	503.493.5903
Jennifer McGeorge	503.493.5903
Ryan Mills	503.493.5903







<b>B</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>O</b>
Cremated Remains / Memorial Urn	Camouflaged Mailbox	stepped in dog poop	12 hr Day	Headlamp dies mid-loop
registered and restricted	arrive @ assigned station: "Please go to Tigard/Piedmont"	Under 50 packages Amazon Sunday	package/mail disintegrates from rain	injured by mail slot/CBU
dab on a ring camera	Walked into low tree branch	<b>Finally made Regular!</b>	"Don't walk on my lawn!"	receive "love letter"
Slot Dog	14 hr Day	tripped and fell w/ mail in hand	arrow key stuck in CBU	wet/soggy feet all day
"Stay dry out there!"	LIV Smoking	Throw packages Start time: 2AM	Postal Inspector Sting	"I didn't know you deliver on Sundays"

PTF Bingo card by Vick Inguanta, Rose City Park.



# Late Night With the ~~DEV~~ILIVERY

- Jon Cabral, Chief Steward & Recording Secretary

It looks like we've come back around to that time of year where management pushes start times later and later. Management is constantly changing their reasons as to why they do this, this year saying because the plant can't get stations their mail on time. This is ridiculous for two reasons. First, it is completely within their power to ensure that the mail does arrive to stations on time, they are simply unwilling to do what is necessary to make this happen. Second, they are saying 80% of caseable mail isn't ready at the earlier start time, which in nearly all cases is completely untrue. Of course, this push always comes when the sun is setting later and when it gets hotter during the day. Instead of doing what's safe and scheduling our start times earlier during the summer months, they are doing the complete opposite, leaving carriers vulnerable when temperatures are at their hottest.

The threshold for management being able to change the start time is if 80% of caseable mail isn't ready at the Begin Tour. This can't be for arbitrary reasons though, as management likes to use their personnel problems as an excuse to change our times. If the mail isn't ready because the clerk calls in sick three days a week, or if management fails to staff the clerk craft as needed, then those are not reasons to change our start times. Management needs to do their jobs and stop letting the other crafts be the tail that wags the dog. The service we provide to the American people is the delivery of their mail. We are the face of that as city letter carriers, and the most important part of the entire operation, but for some reason, management always chooses to leave us hanging out to dry.

As I write this, there are a handful of stations that have had their start times pushed later.

Holladay Park: 7:30am to 8:00am  
Multnomah: 8:30am to 9:00am  
Parkrose: 8:00am to 8:30am  
SW Portland DCU: 7:00am to 7:30am  
Tigard: 8:30am to 9:00am

If this is happening in your station, it is important to make statements for the stewards about when the caseable mail is ready, i.e. tub flats, bundled flats, hot case, so that we can provide witness accounts of what is actually happening in the offices. Instead of using the 80% standard, management is using the arbitrary distribution up time (DUT) scan, which is when 100% of mail and parcels are done being sorted, to base their decisions on whether or not to change start times. If the DUT scan isn't made by the start time, they think it needs to be moved later. This is nonsensical because we have 38 minutes of fixed office time in all stations but East Portland, and if there are 38 minutes each carrier works before even touching the

mail, then what reason would there be to have 100% of all mail and parcels done before those carriers even clock in?

These are hard grievances to win, but if we all work together and make sure we support our stewards to do their job, we might have a fighting chance.

In solidarity,  
Jon Cabral

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Labor Bowl May 19**

**Starlight Parade June 1**

**Pride Parade July 21**

**Branch 82 Picnic July 28**

**National Convention August 4-9**

**Labor Day Picnic September 2**

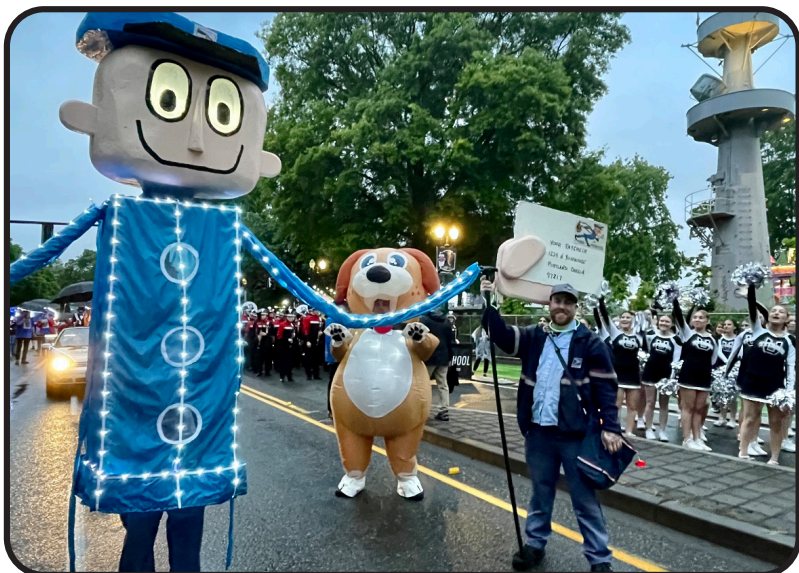
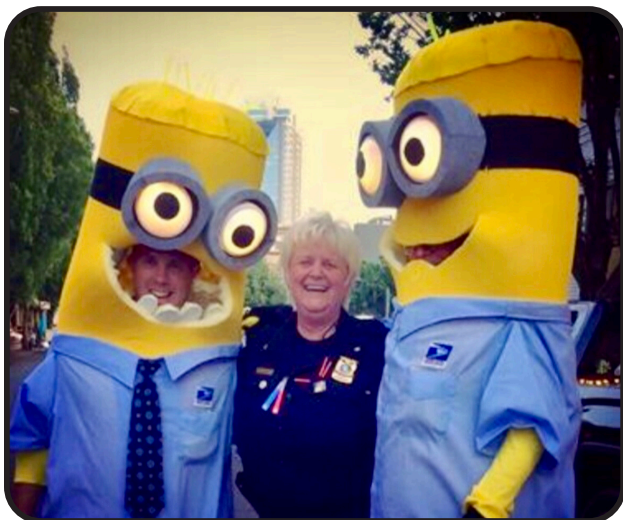
**Retiree Banquet September 7**

*In Memoriam*

**DONALD ANDERSON**







## Join Branch 82 in the Starlight Parade! Saturday, June 1

We need letter carriers to walk the parade route with our NALC float.  
For details call the hall (503-493-5903) or call/text Cody Harris (971-275-5295).

Our final work party to prepare the float for parade night will be held  
after the Labor Bowl at Branch 82 (5265 NE 42nd, 97218) at 3pm.

The Starlight Parade is a special Portland tradition, and walking in the parade or riding on the float  
always makes for a memorable & magical evening. Every carrier should try it at least once.

Throw on a clean uniform, and join us for Starlight 2024.

## See you June 1st!



**B-Mike**

# MDA Report

- Abe RedCloud, MDA Rep

HELLLLLLLOOOOOOOO Portland! It's almost summer, the birds are chirpin', and I hope you're all doing great! SOOOOOO, we have a problem..... Our annual Labor Bowl isn't looking good as far as teams....



## LABOR BOWL:

At this point last year we had 20 teams pre-registered, and I was trying to figure out how to add more people that wanted to come. Right now we only have 16 teams pre-registered and we have signed a contract to hold 36 lanes we can't get out of. We added the extra lanes because of how popular it was last year and how many people wanted to come. I'll list the stations that have teams put together below:



Salem Branch 347 = 1 team  
Creston = 1 Team  
East Portland = 3 Teams  
Holladay Park = 1 Team  
Kenton = 2 Teams  
Lents = 1 Team  
Oak Grove = 2 Teams  
Rose City = 3 Teams  
St. Johns = 2 Teams



If you don't see your station on that list, please try to get a team of five together for the Labor Bowl. If there aren't enough teams, we might not raise any money for MDA due to the cost of our contract.

Remember, even if you aren't bowling, you can come cheer on your co-workers and bid on items in the silent auction. You can see who wins the prize for the Best Costume Contest! We always have a good time. It will also be a great opportunity to sign-up for the Letter Carrier Political Fund.

Let's go, NALC! Let's come together in solidarity for this amazing cause! Hope to see you there!!

In Solidarity,  
Abe RedCloud

## MDA Labor Bowl

Sunday, May 19  
KingPins  
3550 SE 92nd  
10:30-12:30  
(registration 9:30-10:30)  
\$60 per bowler





# REGISTER YOUR TEAM OR JOIN A TEAM TODAY.

Teams consist of up to five bowlers.

Kids, friends, family members and non-union members are welcome to participate!

**To register, please complete this form and forward it to the NALC Union Hall by Thursday, May 16 at 5pm. Otherwise please bring this form to the event for last minute team entries, and call Abe at 831-331-0798 so he knows to expect you.**

Mail: 5265 NE 42nd Ave, Portland, OR 97218

Fax: 503-493-5943

**TEAM NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Union/Organization Affiliation:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Dietary Restrictions for pizza toppings/crust:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name	Address: City-State-Zip	Phone	Email	Local #
Bowler #1				
Bowler #2				
Bowler #3				
Bowler #4				
Bowler #5				



# Remembering and Supporting Veterans

- Bruce Hall, Veterans Representative

The month of May has several days which encourage us to remember and support veterans. May 8th is V.E. Day and marks the Victory in Europe in WWII, May 19 is Armed Forces Day and honors all our armed forces, and May 27 is Memorial Day. Take advantage of these special days.

Memorial Day will be celebrated on May 27. It is a sacred day to all veterans. The actual designated date is May 30, but it was changed to the last Monday in May, creating a three-day weekend. This change actually undermines the meaning of the day in some ways, but we can put meaning back into Memorial Day by celebrating it as a Day of Remembrance. Veterans Day, which is observed on November 11 each year, honors and thanks all veterans who have served or are now serving.

Freedom is costly. Many veterans gave the ultimate sacrifice to give Americans freedom, which most people take for granted. Sacrifice is meaningless without remembrance. On Memorial Day we can honor the nation's dead veterans by remembering their service and their sacrifice.

There are many ways that we can pay tribute to those veterans who have sacrificed so much for us. These include:

- \*Pausing for a few moments of personal silence (All Americans are asked to pause for a moment of Respect and Remembrance at 3pm.)

- \*Attending commemorative ceremonies

- \*Placing flags on grave sites

- \*Wearing "Buddy" Poppies

- \*Flying your flag (Remember that on Memorial Day, the flag is flown at half-staff until noon, then raised to the top of the flag pole.)

Memorial Day events in the Portland area:

- \*Ceremony at Willamette National Cemetery at 10am

- \*Services at Oregon Vietnam Veterans Living Memorial in Washington Park at 11am.

Personal as well as public acts of remembering should be part of our Memorial Day observances. Whether done collectively or individually, it's the thought that counts. Let's make this a true Memorial Day, not just another day off work. Honor those who have sacrificed so much to provide freedom as we build memories on this Memorial Day.

Here are a few facts about Memorial Day.

**HISTORY:** Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War and a desire to honor its dead. It was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868, by General John Logan, and in the proclamation it stated that "May 30, 1868, would be designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country." The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle. It became Memorial Day in 1873. The South refused to acknowledge the day and honored their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war).

It is now observed on the last Monday in May with the Congressional passage of the National Holiday Act of 1971, which ensured a three-day weekend for Federal Holidays.

**POPPIES:** In 1915, Moina Michael was inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields" and she wrote her own poem: "We cherish too, the Poppy red, That grows on fields where valor led, It seems to signal to the skies, That blood of heroes never dies." She then conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial Day in honor of those who died serving during war. She was the first to wear one and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers with the money going to benefit servicemen in need. Later, Madam Guerin from France was visiting the United States and learned of this new custom started by Ms. Michael. When she returned to France, she made artificial red poppies to raise money for war orphaned children and widowed women. This tradition spread to other countries. In 1921, Franco-American Children's League sold poppies nationally to benefit war orphans of France and Belgium. The League disbanded and Madam Guerin approached the VFW for help shortly before Memorial Day in 1922. So the VFW became the first veterans' organization to nationally sell poppies. Two years later their "Buddy" Poppy program was selling artificial poppies made by disabled veterans. In 1948, the Post Office issued a red three-cent postage stamp with Ms. Michael's likeness on it.

The VFW distributes "Buddy" Poppies made by disabled veterans and the American Legion also has a poppy program. You can "Help the Living" and support veterans by giving a donation to these organizations distributing poppies, and you can "Honor the Dead" by wearing a poppy.





Hopefully, veterans will support veterans also. It is a continual fight to maintain or increase benefits for veterans. There are numerous veteran's organizations to join which are working to support and protect veteran's benefits. Veterans can't just passively expect others to support them but must support one another.

As we think of veterans and their needs, let's remember that veterans like to be honored for their service, but not pitied for it. They like the respect of their fellow citizens and appreciate help for the wounded. They don't need special handouts to succeed, but our veterans face many problems such as unemployment, injuries, financial problems, etc. We need to realize that praise for a job well done goes much farther in expediting readjustment than misplaced pity. Don't feel sorry for them, but honor them by helping them.

Have a Memorable Memorial Day!



ARE YOU A **MEMBER** OF NW PRIORITY  
CREDIT UNION? IF YOU ARE NOT,  
**YOU SHOULD BE.**

NW Priority Credit Union has been serving Postal Workers for 95 years. We started with nine postal workers, \$5 each and a shoe box in 1928. Since that time we have been serving postal families along with other Select Employee Groups.

We are a full-service financial institution and we are ready to serve your financial needs. You can join online at [www.nwprioritycu.org](http://www.nwprioritycu.org). You can click the "Become a Member" link at the very top of the homepage.



OUR #1 PRIORITY IS YOU!

503-760-5304 or 800-331-0968 | [www.nwprioritycu.org](http://www.nwprioritycu.org)



Federally Insured By NCUA



MILWAUKIE | SE PORTLAND | BEAVERTON | PORTLAND P&DC | VANCOUVER



**B-Mike**

13



We have Branch 82 window clings  
for sale at the hall!  
Two clings for \$5.  
Great for your auto or any window  
to show off your union solidarity!

## INJURED AT WORK?

Call BRANCH 82 OWCP REP

Mike O'Connor

Wednesdays and Thursdays

503 493-5903

## MCKANNA, BISHOP, JOFFE

Attorneys

1635 NW Johnson Street

Portland, Oregon, 97209

Telephone: 503 226-6111

Fax: 503 226-5121

John S. Bishop Elizabeth A. Joffe

Elizabeth A. McKanna

Legal Assistant

Marla R. Menkins

Representing Oregon Unions

And Employees in

Matters of Collective Bargaining

And Civil Rights

(Law Firm retained by NALC Branch 82)

## Branch 82 Monthly Meetings

General Membership second Wednesday, 7:00PM

Retiree Luncheon third Wednesday, noon

Stewards Council third Wednesday, 7:00PM

Executive Board fourth Wednesday, 6:30PM

All members are welcome, unless otherwise noted.

All meetings are held at the NALC Branch 82 Office,

5265 NE 42nd Avenue, 97213.

Retiree Luncheons are held at

IHOP, 4931 SE 82nd Avenue, 97266.

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](mailto: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, April 10, 2024

**Call to Order:** 7:04

**Pledge of Alliance:** Bruce Hall

## **Deceased Members:**

Donald Anderson, retiree- West Linn.

**Moment of Silence:** for Anderson as well as Ted Lulich's deceased wife, Dianne

## **Roll Call of Officers**

**First Time Members:** Kyle Carbon, Rose City Park; Steve Frederick, Rose City Park; Nick Goulet, St. Johns; Jeff Hawlas, Kenton; Sarah Milner, River District

**Visitors:** John Beaumont, LCPF Rep from National

**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, Eric Matras. Carried.

## **Communications**

**Membership Report:** Regular: 1214, PTF: 159, CCA: 72, Retiree: 516, Gold Card: 83, Management & Other Crafts: 52, New Members: CCA-6, PTF- 31. Total Membership: 2096. Non-Members: 37, Organized: 97.5% **Separated:** Caleb Lambides, Sellwood; Domino Parra, Multnomah; Brenna Reese, Sellwood

## **Secretary-Treasurer's Report:**

Lois Brumfield made a motion to pay the bills. Seconded, Dean Femrite. Carried.

## **Executive Board Expenditure**

**Recommendation:** Motion: to spend up to \$3,000 on Branch 82 hats for organizing. Discussion. Carried.

**Unfinished Business:** President Norton said we still don't have the final numbers from National for the Convention in August. He gave updates about purchasing a new building. We will talk about it more in depth at the May General Membership Meeting, and our realtor will be there to explain the counter offer we received.

**New Business:** Motion: Jon Cabral made a motion to share our financials with Co-

lumbia Credit Union (a potential lender) to see what type of loans we would qualify for. Seconded: Wyatt Gilderdson. Carried.

Motion: Jamie Partridge made a motion for the branch to sign on to the petition against the new CDC recommendations regarding COVID. Seconded: Wyatt Gilderdson. Discussion. Motion failed.

Motion: Partridge made a motion to support the "We Won't Be Silent" Rally on May 9. Carried.

President Norton asked for volunteers for the branch picnic on July 28.

## **Trustee's Financial Report**

**LCPF Report:** John Beaumont spoke about the current legislation that National is pushing and the importance of contributing to the Letter Carrier Political Fund. Ryan Mills mentioned that he is always available to sign members up for the LCPF.

## **Judith Hyde Scholarship Report:**

Chairperson Suzanne Miller reminded the membership that applications are due Friday, May 10.

**Pride Parade Report:** Dave Esch said they will Pride up the float to be used after the Starlight Parade.

**Starlight Parade:** Cody Harris reported they are meeting on Sundays to put the float together. Remember that we still need people to walk in the parade! Let Harris know if you are interested.

**Labor Management Report:** Norton said he recently met the new Postmaster and the new District Manager. TIAREAP continues to be a problem. SW DCU just lost three routes in a 16-route office. Norton said start time changes are coming. The plant gets the mail to the stations, but MVS is splitting routes every day due to sick calls. Management has no plans on trying to fix the actual problem and are instead moving carrier start times.

**Health and Safety Report:** Don Cadwell spoke about Heat Safety training as well as various accidents that have happened

around the city and hazards to look out for during spring.

**Legislation Report:** Norton thanked guest speaker Beaumont for covering all the legislation and the Letter Carrier Political Fund information.

**LCPF Report:** Norton said we are going to have a Letter Carrier Political Fund event at the MDA Labor Bowl.

**MDA Report:** Abe RedCloud said our MDA Labor Bowl is coming up next month. We only have 10 teams so far and 36 lanes to fill. The Labor Bowl will be held May 19 at KingPins. All Portland unions are invited as well as all friends and family. (It's not limited to carriers.)

**Retirees Report:** Sam Smith announced the retiree luncheon on the third Wednesday of each month. He said there will not be a meeting this month because we won't be back from state convention in time. He discussed the NW Priority Credit Union elections for their Board of Directors and encouraged us all to vote for Willie Groshell.

**Veterans Report:** Hall said the month of May holds Memorial Day, and the VFW and American Legion sell the Buddy Poppy in May. They have a slogan: "Honor the Dead and Help the Living." By buying them you can honor those who have passed who served and help veterans who are in need.

**Labor Solidarity Report:** Norton mentioned that Think Out Loud will be doing an episode on Rural Post Offices. He said Dejoy's ten year plan is going to negatively affect rural areas.

**Good of the Association:** Norton thanked Harris for making dinner. He reminded everyone that Steward Council will be held next Thursday instead of Wednesday.

**Kitty Award:** Jim Falvey, retiree won \$68. **Jackpot:** \$595 went unclaimed by Steven Cornwell, Beaverton. **Treasure Chest:** \$160 went unclaimed by Teresa Wilhelm, retiree.

Adjourned: 8:40



**B-Mike**

**15**



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

Branch 82

5265 NE 42nd Ave

Portland, Oregon 97218



**B•Mike**

Non-Profit

U.S. Postage Paid

Portland , Oregon

Permit No. 4

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



The next General Membership meetings will be held  
Wednesday, May 8 and Wednesday, June 12, both at 7 pm.  
Dinner will be served prior to each meeting.

**WINNER OF FIRST ANNUAL EVENT ANNOUNCED!**

# PUNKIN KART DERBY!

WASHINGTON, D.C. — May 4, 2024

In a thrilling display of speed and skill, Cappy Hamper emerged triumphant in this first adrenaline-fueled race at L' Enfant Zipway in Washington, D.C. Piloting his blazing orange *Mailstrom*, Hamper dominated the track, clinching the top spot with unmatched finesse.

Coming in a close second was Kerry Waite, revving his *Obscene Tangerine* to the limit in a valiant effort to keep pace with the leader. Meanwhile, Casin' Jason Mason showcased his driving prowess, securing third place behind the wheel of his daring *Orange Flash*.

Spectators were treated to a nail-biting competition as these skilled drivers battled it out for glory on the asphalt. Congratulations to Cappy Hamper and all the contenders for an electrifying race!



PHOTO: PUSING THE ENVELOPE BY KERRY WAITE & TERRY KNUTT  
© 2024 I LOVE THE POST OFFICE.COM