



# B·Mike



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

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

## Hiring to Career Means Never Having to Say You're Sorry

- David Norton, President

Hello Branch 82, and welcome to another February. February is that weird winter month that holds, among other things, that special, made-up holiday devoted to love... Valentine's Day. I find that people have a varying degree of feelings about Valentine's Day, and some of those can be pretty strong opinions. It is still widely celebrated, accounts for millions of roses grown annually and is second only to Mother's Day in restaurant sales. There is no other holiday like it, a holiday celebrating the concept of love. Of course, Valentine's Day is not federally recognized and falls more under the cultural, religious, or commercial celebration category of holidays, so that means, unless you are lucky enough to have that day off, you will be spending the day at that place that we also think of when we all think of love...the post office.

While spending a holiday devoted to affection at the post office may seem like some sort of sick joke, this year some installations in Branch 82 are finally getting some love from the national parties and will be getting the ultimate Valentine's Day present: they will be converting CCAs to career PTFs and will start hiring directly to PTF. This is going to happen in Portland, Oregon City, McMinnville and West Linn. We are hoping that the direct hiring to career will help with the ability to hire new employees in those places.

Staffing has been a problem for quite some time. COVID changed everything for letter carriers and staffing really suffered because of it. Staffing is a problem locally in almost every office we represent in Branch 82, and it is a problem in places all over this country. As president, staffing is the number one thing I talk about with people, the number one issue I deal with and

the dominating thought on my mind. If we had decent staffing in the offices, almost all of our problems would go away. No more getting drafted on your SDOs constantly, and no more section after section after section to carry. Maybe the carriers who don't want to work overtime wouldn't have to. Maybe we all would have more time to spend with friends, family, Netflix, or whatever it is one does when we are away from work.



With a weird, post-pandemic (like COVID doesn't exist anymore...) economy where there are plenty of jobs out there to choose from and every employer is fighting for the same potential new hire, it has been a struggle to bring new employees into the letter carrier ranks. To me, the obvious solution to lure people to this job comes with hiring people directly to a career job with a higher starting wage. We have been talking about this for a long time. I have been talking about it through the pandemic and well after the country started opening up and people started going back to work. The

post office just cannot compete with other companies' starting wages, especially with regards to rising housing costs, and now inflation. At least not anywhere where Branch 82 represents.

The national parties finally started to see this as well and in May of 2022 they started to convert certain installation's CCAs to career PTFs. Step 4 M-1985 states:

*Re: City Delivery Staffing Adjustment- Conversions to Part-time Flexible and Full-time Regular Status*

*In order to adjust staffing and maintain compliance with the*

*contractual caps for city carrier assistant (CCA) employment as outlined in the collective bargaining agreement, the United States Postal Service (USPS) and the National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO (NALC) agree that CCAs in offices listed in the attachment will be converted to either part-time flexible (PTF) or full-time career status by relative standing order as explained below. The parties further agree that PTF carriers in select 200 work year offices will be converted to full-time career status by seniority order, as noted on the attachment.*

Portland was on this list. It was good for the CCAs that we had on the books at the time. But, at the same time, the national parties also converted the CCAs in other installations AND started hiring directly to career PTF jobs. M-1986 states:

*Re: City Delivery Staffing Adjustment- Hiring Part Time Flexible City Letter Carriers*

*The United States Postal Service (USPS) and the National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO (NALC) are committed to achieving and maintaining appropriate staffing levels in the city letter carrier craft to provide quality service to our customers. As an initial means toward that end, the parties agree that all city carrier assistants (CCAs) in the installations identified in the attachment will be first converted to part-time flexible career status, and then part-time flexible employees will be hired in the identified installations, as follows.*

We were left out of this memorandum initially, but the national parties have been adding new installations to the list of places that are hiring directly to career and Portland, Oregon City, McMinnville, and West Linn were just added to it. We are hoping that every place where Branch 82 represents will soon be added to this list of places who are now hiring to career, but for now, I'm sorry, we are just going to have to wait.

I am of course overjoyed that we will start to hire to career here and I am glad that the national parties are working out a system to try and help with staffing across this country, but the obvious fix would be to scrap the CCA model that was created in 2013 and go back to the way it was before, hiring career PTFs as the entry level position in the letter carrier craft.

We have talked about this a lot. The CCA position has done nothing but deter new carriers from seeing this as a career with a future for them. Sure, you can sell them on the hopes of future benefits, but that takes serious, long-term thinking, and most people just see this as a job that is physically demanding that doesn't pay all that great to start out with. Besides, we are talking about benefits that new employees once had that the USPS fought like hell to take away from them.

The job of a letter carrier is an easy one to fall in love with (at least it was for me), and I can think about all kinds of things I love about the job: working outdoors, getting to know your customers, spending time with co-workers, birds, flowers, trees, garage sales... the list can go on and on. Most people wouldn't

list, however, their relationship with their supervisors, or the organization as one of them. Most people do this job despite how they feel about the boss and the decisions that are made by the USPS. How do you fall in love with an employer that just wants to devalue the work you do, take away opportunities for future employees, and drive people away? What is one supposed to think about a future with the USPS?

Really, the "love story" between the Postal Service and its employees has been a rocky one for a long time. Maybe from the beginning. When I bid on my first route at Rose City Park Station, I had two retired Postal Service employees on the route who lived on the same street, one a letter carrier and one a clerk. They had both worked together at one point or another, both fought in WWII and both complained about their old bosses. Milt, the retired letter carrier, told me that he had to bid out of Rose City when he worked there because it was so bad with his supervisor, he thought they were going to come to blows! I remember thinking at the time, I guess this kind of stuff has been going on forever.

People aren't putting up with it anymore. There is no incentive for sticking around. When I started at the Postal Service, I had pretty good pay and great benefits right from the start. I needed this job for my growing family. I didn't care what my supervisor said. But now we are at a point in time where people entering the workforce may not want to do this job. It is difficult, you must work in the weather, and people can go and make more money (at least starting out) somewhere else where the work is easier, and the boss is nicer. They need a reason to stay. If the Postal Service is so dedicated to treating their employees terribly (and there is no sign that they will ever truly change), then they need to, at the very minimum, compensate them with proper pay and benefits.

If we are ever going to get out of the staffing mess we are in, the USPS has to do better by its employees, and it needs to start with correcting the disastrous non-career position and go back to the higher wage, career PTF position. Our contract is expiring this May. You better believe that hiring directly to career is one of the NALC's main agendas. Not only is it good for our members, but it is good for the Postal Service. We all have been suffering due to the ill-conceived plan of creating non-career positions. It didn't bring the Postal Service "flexibility" as they so desperately desired. All it brought was problems.

I have an idea, USPS. Instead of trying to make this job harder and squeeze more out of carriers while giving them less, why don't you try giving them an opportunity to feel like they are valued and adequately compensated for the work they perform? It isn't much to ask considering letter carriers are the face of the organization, overwhelmingly respected by their customers and the most important piece of delivering mail and packages to the American public. Really, the success and future of the USPS depends on it. So don't be stupid. Do the right thing and get rid of the non-career position and go back to hiring directly to career jobs. Maybe try showing letter carriers some love this time around. My guess is, they will show you some back.

# 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



# Put Yourself First

- Betty Nash, Vice President

It has been a year since I retired from being a city letter carrier. I really miss my route; I miss knowing what I am going to wear each day as a carrier. I miss going out with my truck full of packages and mail, seeing my favorite customers. I miss taking time for me and relaxing while I read my murder mysteries at lunch, and I miss coming back with an empty truck, with that feeling of accomplishment. I did an honest day's work and I earned my money.

Some days the time just flew by because I was so busy, you know those days that you have multiple coverages, lots of packages and heavy DPS. The days that your mind is working hard to find the most efficient way to do everything that needs to be done. You think, well I have an express at the end of my route so I will deviate for that, and then I can leave those two really big, heavy packages at the middle of my route on my way back and then I won't have to keep rearranging my packages around them all day. I can move my DPS to the floor between my tray and seat, carry an extra coverage on the tray etc. etc. etc.

As letter carriers we adjust our minds to what is the best way to deliver our load for the day. We need to be organized, logical and efficient because we are it. We are the ones doing the job. We are the only people we can depend on. We are out there alone. We don't want to ask for assistance, we would rather do our own overtime, carry our own route. Just leave me alone to do my own route and everything will be fine.

You know most of the time being alone on the route is a good thing: just listening to music, a podcast, or no mental stimulation except what's happening around you, the birds singing, the traffic noise, kids playing, someone's tv blaring.

I remember when I was a PTF delivering to a residential route that I was unfamiliar with. It was about 1:30 and there was literally no one out. Maybe it was because it was raining, or people were still at work or school, but really not a single person was on the street except me. Usually, I would like this because no one would be out to ask questions or bother me, I could just get my job done.

However, on this day I really wished there was someone outside to help me. This was the early 90's. Yeah, I know that was before some of you were born, just humor me here. We did not have scanners or cell phones at that time, so we really were alone, no google maps to find an address, you just had to be able to figure stuff out on your own. Well on this particular day things were going pretty well. I was making good time, it was a park and loop route and my bag was full of advos and mail. Even though it was raining I was getting it done. I was walking up to a house on an incline and the driveway was completely full of construction equipment so I couldn't walk up the driveway, so I decided to

walk on the grass up the slope and I was doing pretty well until I wasn't. I was about halfway up when my feet started to slip and I was sliding down the front yard. My right ankle got caught on something but the rest of me kept going, and that's when I heard my ankle snap.

Here I was sitting on the front lawn, my ankle in excruciating pain but what was the first thing I did? From my sitting position I began picking up my mail and putting everything that fell out back into my bag because of course I had to protect the mail. It was just automatic, I didn't even think about it. So after I did that, I just sat there thinking what I should do next. I looked up and down the street and there was not a soul in sight. I tried standing but the pain was intense, so I sat down again. After about five minutes, I tried again, same result- too much pain so I sat down. I waited hoping that someone would drive by and I could wave them down, but again no one in sight. I finally decided that unless I wanted to sit there for hours I was going to have to get back up and walk no matter how much it hurt. This third time I decided was my moment to make it no matter what. I stood up and slowly made it down the front yard and walked the half a block to my truck on my broken ankle. I knew for sure that it was broken from the snap that I heard as I fell. The relief of making it back to my truck was short lived since I could not drive, after all it was my right ankle, there was no way I could feel safe driving. I knew I would not be able to apply pressure on the gas or brakes.

This was the next test, how many houses could I walk to before I would find someone home? I set out to do just that. On the third house a nice lady was home. She invited me in and let me sit on her nice couch even though I was kind of a muddy mess. I was crying so she took pity on me and let me use her phone to call my supervisor. This turned out to be a huge mistake. The supervisor did come out to get me. I walked to his car, and he drove me back to the station where I had to walk into the back office to fill out paperwork. Then the supervisors argued about who would take me to the doctor. The losing supervisor had me walk back out to the parking lot and get in their vehicle, then drove me to the doctor's office where I walked from the parking lot to the building. My supervisor said they would be back to pick me up and left. I finally saw the doctor and he took one look at my ankle and said there was nothing he could do since my ankle was so swollen and it probably was broken. He asked me to return the next afternoon and advised me to elevate and ice it, and they gave me crutches. In the waiting room there was no supervisor and when I used the office phone to call, they said they couldn't pick me up for a few hours so I would just have to wait.

I called my husband at work, and he rushed over to pick me up. I can't tell you how relieved I was to finally have someone that cared about me and my safety there to help me. My husband was so angry, he was ready to beat the crap out of my supervisor for





# Starlight Parade Scoop

treating me so horribly and they deserved it, but I wouldn't name the heartless SOB because I didn't want my husband to go to jail. This was the worst experience that I have ever had as a letter carrier. If that happened today, I would have just called an ambulance, instead of depending on the supervisor, but when you are in extreme pain, you are not thinking straight.

Today I would have called my steward and then my supervisor. Today I could have called the branch office with my cell phone. Today I could have texted my information on my scanner if I didn't have my cell phone with me. Today I could come in and see Mike O'Connor to help me with my C-A 1. Today I could find all the information for an on-the-job injury on the NALC website.

Even though we have all of these avenues for assistance available to us we still need to remember that we are basically alone out there. Be vigilant in noticing your surroundings, don't hesitate to call the police to report a suspicious person following you, and always remember that you are more important than any piece of mail, any personal item, any amount of money or arrow keys. You need to be able to go home to your family. PUT YOURSELF FIRST, even if it pisses off your supervisor. If it's unsafe don't do it! Unfortunately, there are still some heartless cabrons (look it up) working at the post office, so you need to take care of you! City letter carriers are the most important and vulnerable people in the post office. Please be safe.

STARLIGHT PARADE IS COMING and we are making a float!!! That's right Branch 82, we are making a float for the Starlight Parade this year! The theme of the parade is "Focus on Fun." A group of us got together and decided on our float. We will be converting a trailer into a HUGE Priority mailbox with "FUN" items popping out of it. Also members of Branch 82 will be dressed up in toy costumes on the float. Walkers, who walk alongside the float, will have oversized boxes on them to look like they are mailing boxes with arms and legs.

Right now we need volunteers to come help make this idea a reality. Please contact me at 831-331-0798 if you would consider being on my list to help on a Sunday. Being on my list doesn't mean you are required to help. All it means is that I'll include you in a text or call about all our Fun(work) days and if you can make it to help, GREAT! If you can't make it, that is perfectly ok too. So please consider helping out for a Sunday here and there and being added to my list. Thank you all for your consideration.

In Funidarity,  
Abe RedCloud

p.s. Yah I just made up that word. lol

Gotta love it!!

**February Pride Committee  
Zoom meeting**

**Monday, February 20th 7PM**

**Meeting ID: 880 6173 1039  
passcode: Pride**



**B-Mike**

# Black History Month

Black History Month to me represents a time for reflection on an often-forgotten part of American history. It's a time where my heritage and culture are celebrated. It's a time where people share positive stories and information of how people of color contributed to our society.

For me, it's a time where I can feel free to share these stories with others who, during Black History Month, may be more open to hear about the many accomplishments of our people.

There are a lot of them. Some are talked about every time this year and we all know about them: Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., Frederick Douglas, and Harriet Tubman, but there are so many black Americans that added to society that we don't talk about. Here are the names of a few inspiring people.

Daniel Hale Williams was an African American surgeon. In 1891, Williams opened Provident Hospital in Chicago, the first medical facility to have an interracial staff. Later in 1893 he performed what is referred to as the first successful heart surgery.

Garrett Augustus Moran Sr, was an American inventor, businessman, and community leader from Cleveland, OH. He went on to patent several inventions including an improved sewing machine, traffic signal, and a respiratory device.

Sarah Boone was an African-American inventor. On April 26, 1892, she obtained United States patent number 473,563 for her improvement to the ironing board designed to improve the quality of ironing the sleeves and bodies of women's garments. Boone is



regarded as the second African-American woman to attain a patent, after Judy Reed.

Jan Ernst Matzeliger invented the automatic shoe lasting machine, which made it possible to join a shoe sole to its upper, thus revolutionizing the shoe industry.

The list goes on and on...

The story of Black History Month began in Chicago during the summer of 1915. Black History Month was first proposed by black educators and the black students at Kent State University in February 1969. Credited as being the "father of

Black History Month," Dr. Carter G. Woodson was an American historian, author, journalist, and the founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915 in Chicago. The next year he started the scholarly *Journal of Negro History*, which is published to this day under the name *Journal of African American History*. Woodson set out in 1926 to designate a time to promote and educate people about black history and culture. He initiated the first celebration of Negro History week which led to Black History Month.

The first celebration of Black History Month took place at Kent State in February 1970. Black History Month was billed as a time for Americans to acknowledge key figures from our past and present, an opportunity to spotlight and celebrate the achievements that people of color have accomplished in the United States. It still exists today with that same message.

Branch 82 B-Mike editor Suzanne Miller asked me a question. As a letter carrier, what does Black History Month mean to me? My answer, I remember throughout past years, as a letter carrier, having the opportunity to share my story as well as some of black history with others.

I, Randall B Hoxie IV, have always felt proud to be a letter carrier during Black History Month.

Randall Hoxie, Branch 82 Steward & Carrier Academy Instructor



Black History Month means strength in the face of adversity, strength to go against the grain, and strength in community. Thank you Mary Fields, who had a dream as the first female black mail carrier, for paving the way for future generations following in her footsteps. It's amazing to have people come up to me and say "Oh my god, I have a black carrier!" and to realize they're talking about me. We're here, and we're here to stay.

Deshondria (Dee) Stewart-Dominguez, Rose City Park



# Black History Month

Martin Luther King Day and celebrating Black History Month is a time of celebrating, reflecting and thanking those African Americans for giving us all hope or life lessons that could be used today.... MLK Day and Black History isn't just about all the bad times and struggles African Americans have been through in United States history. It's not about shaming those who enslaved a race of people or make anyone feel uncomfortable, it's about telling the unvarnished truth of the struggles of African Americans then and now. We as Americans need to remember that slavery happened, and Jim Crow happened so that we don't repeat the past. My own family history just three generations ago were slaves in Texas and Alabama. My family moved from the Jim Crow South to the Pacific Northwest to escape the Jim Crow South and discrimination.

As a combat veteran who served six years in the United States Marine Corps in the Persian Gulf my patriotism has or will never waiver to make a more perfect union and upholding to the constitution that "all men are created equal." MLK Day and Black History month means love to me, it means peace and happiness and finding friends and empathy in one another. It's a beautiful time for people to come together and to learn about other races, cultures and struggles. It's to show future generations about integrity, leadership, and determination.

Martin Luther-King said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." This can be a struggle or be distracted for us all in our current social and political climate to get past the noise. It's about knowing where you came from and fighting for all religions, races, creed, or color. We all must fight for equality and learn all aspects of American history to find the character to stand up for it. In the end I want to be judged by my character, not the color of my skin.

Anthony Smith, Parkrose



When asked the question, "What does MLK Jr Day mean to you?" I stopped and thought about what it has done for me. I think about where I could have ended up versus how the powerful voices and minds of those be-

fore me and the trails they left. I think about how those voices are greater today. We wouldn't have great stars, athletes, terms or phrases like "black excellence" if we didn't have powerful, brave people such as Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Susan B. Anthony or even ones we call Mom or Dad. I was taught to know excellence because of the excellence before me.

So again, when asked, "what does MLK Day mean to me?" it means I can be exactly who I am. Excellence.

Courtney Ward, Parkrose



# Reaching the Debt Ceiling

- Matt Pierce, Secretary-Treasurer

Hello again from the office of your secretary-treasurer. With a new year has come a new Congress and as you already know a new, but narrow, republican majority in the House of Representatives. Unfortunately for federal employees and retirees, the new speaker of the house, Congressman Kevin McCarthy, has had to promise the most conservative members of his caucus that federal spending cuts must be tied to any future increases in the debt ceiling. On paper we reached that debt limit on Thursday January 20th. The White House for its part has stated Biden and the democratic members of Congress are not willing to entertain policy concessions in exchange for lifting the debt limit, since it is money previous congresses and the president have already agreed to pay. What this sadly has set up is a game of chicken with the US economy at stake and with no clear path out. To make matters worse, once again federal employees and retirees are caught squarely in the middle. Sigh....

Reaching the debt ceiling has caused Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and the Treasury Department to begin taking so-called "extraordinary measures" to continue paying the government's bills. This is where letter carriers and their money come in. The first place they have gone to find money is suspending new investments in the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund, the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund and the TSP G-Fund.

Now before I go in-depth to what all this means, in case you stop reading or I lose you at some point, if you take away one thing from this article, please remember this: **no letter carrier or retiree will see a gap or reduction in pension payments, healthcare coverage or TSP contributions or withdrawals.** These are all just accounting gimmicks and tricks that show, "on paper", that the government has less debts and therefore more room left under the cap. But as I'll explain in depth, the government is not actually taking and spending our money, and letter carriers in the long run will not notice or be affected by the maneuvers. This has happened in the past on numerous occasions and many fellow letter carriers have lived through it. We can assure you that everything afterwards was fine. We are also very lucky to be working for a self-funded federal agency which means that even if there is a government shut-down, we will continue to get our pay and benefits on time unlike other federal employees.

Treasury Secretary Yellen told lawmakers that "disinvesting" in these plans along with other maneuvers could allow the government to pay its obligations until June-ish 2023, after which the U.S. would hit its debt ceiling of 31.38 trillion and would be in danger of defaulting on its debt.

Before we get into how these maneuvers actually work, let's have a brief history lesson on what the debt ceiling is and how we got to where we are. The debt ceiling was established by Congress

more than a century ago. The debt limit was originally supposed to make it easier for the government to spend money. Before the debt ceiling was established, Congress would authorize the government to borrow a fixed sum of money for a specified term. When loans were repaid, the government could not borrow again without asking for and getting congressional approval. The Second Liberty Bond Act of 1917 created the debt ceiling or as it is also known, the debt limit or statutory debt limit. It allowed a continual rollover of already approved debt without congressional approval.

Congress enacted this measure to let then-President Woodrow Wilson issue bonds to raise and spend money he deemed necessary to fight World War I, without having to wait for absent or vacationing congressional members to reapprove spending. Congress however, did not want to write the president a blank check, so it limited borrowing to \$11.5 billion and required legislation for any increase.

Since then, the debt ceiling has been increased by Congress many, many times and suspended on several occasions. Which brings us to the approximately 31.4 trillion dollar limit we are currently at.

What actually happens when the Treasury Department disinvests from the two postal trust funds and the G-fund is that they no longer repurchase government bonds with the money from bonds that have matured. The money that the Postal Service and federal employees have put in these trusts is turned into special issue short term government bonds. Normally a certain amount of these bonds is always coming mature. When that happens the government normally just repurchases more short-term bonds with the money, and the cycle continues. Not repurchasing the bonds and just holding the trust money in cash affectively lowers the amount of debt the government has on the books. It would be like if you had a \$10,000 CD come mature and you didn't purchase another one. On paper you would technically have invested \$10,000 less, but you hadn't actually lost the money since it's still in your savings account.

The other way in which disinvestment saves the government money is that when treasury bonds are purchased, the interest is paid up front. As an example, let's say you purchase \$1,000 in one-year savings bonds at 4%. Upon the purchase, the treasury actually gives you \$1,040 in bonds upfront that you have to wait a year to cash in. By waiting to buy them the government also saves from having that fronted interest on the books as debt. But fear not. By law, during a disinvestment period, G-fund account balances continue to accrue earnings at the appropriate rate on paper, loans and withdrawals are unaffected, and after the debt limit fight has ended, the G-fund and other funds are made whole including all interest that would have been earned.





Due to the fact that for many years under both democratic and republican administrations Congress has promised to spend more money than is brought in by taxes, the government can't meet its already promised obligations without an increase in borrowing. For obvious reasons, defaulting on its debts and obligations would be very, very bad for the United States credit rating and for working and retired people who depend on things like social security. Yet again a congressional manufactured crisis falls squarely on the backs of the working class and yet again it's the working class' money that has to bail the government out. Let's all hope that calmer heads will prevail and we can get back to solving the country's real problems instead of creating more unnecessarily.

Until next time,  
Matt

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George Wallenstein	503.493.5903

This is now the second time I've tried to write an article where I cannot keep the loss of my co-worker, fellow steward, and friend Jeff Monroe off of my mind. He was a huge part of the comradery at Parkrose that existed both inside and outside of the workplace, frequently acting as the driving force for many of us carriers going out to eat after work, venting to each other about the day's struggles, and unwinding from the mountains of mail we all just delivered. I believe this to be an integral part of what keeps a station and the carriers in it going, and that all of the best stations to work at have this on some level. I'm worried that it will be lost at Parkrose, and I will have to do my part to ensure that it isn't.

This brings me to my next point, and it's difficult to think of an issue that's more important than that, at the end of the day, we all need to take care of ourselves and do our best to not ignore our bodies when they are telling us something is wrong. We need to do this not only for us as individuals, so we can continue to come into work each day to a physically demanding job, but also for our friends, family, and loved ones, so we can be there to support and provide for them. This isn't to say that it's not easy to write something off as just another ache or pain, because it certainly is. Everyone is already working extremely long hours, and the last thing any of us want to do is call the doctor to set up an appointment and figure out what it is that's really bothering us.

I guess this is my way of asking everyone to take the time to take care of themselves, and to ensure that everyone has the space they need to do that. Whether it be physical, mental, or emotional needs, carriers need to look out for themselves, and if noticed in your fellow carriers, to look out for them as well. Hopefully this article can be the excuse for anyone who needs it, to call the doctor and set up that appointment. If you have any questions about how to protect yourself with FMLA, or need assistance with an on-the-job injury claim, please contact Branch 82, so we can help.

(Insert extremely inappropriate and unprintable joke from Monroe here.)

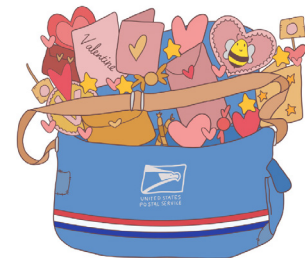
In Solidarity,  
Jon Cabral



# Last Punch Bunch

Tyra Dorton- Creston  
Theo Henderson- East Portland  
Brian Robards- Collections  
**Congratulations!**

Tyra Dorton is looking happy to have her last day in the uniform. Happy Retirement!



## Retiree Luncheon

February 15  
IHOP  
4931 SE 82nd Avenue  
Portland, OR 97266  
NOON

(Third Wednesday of each month)



# MDA Report

- Abe RedCloud, MDA Rep

Wow, is it February already?!?! I feel like it's only been a few days since I last wrote to you, but here we are a month later. Well, it's the month of Love, and what do we love the most? No, not kittens and puppies.....well yes, kittens and puppies, but do you know what else we love the most? Raising money for MDA, of course!! And what better way to do that than to start our MDA raffle!!!

## Event #1: MDA Raffle

Ok, so like I said, I can't believe it's been a month, so I don't have the prize list when writing this. But by the time you are reading this all prizes should be solidified and stewards will have the flyers and tickets to sell after stewards council which is Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. The hall will also have flyers and tickets for sale if you are retired or in some other way not able to be at your station. I promise that next month's B-Mike will have the flyer and all the bells and whistles. Here's the important info:

**Start = Feb 16<sup>th</sup>**

**End and drawing = June 14<sup>th</sup> at the general meeting**

**Prices = \$5 a ticket or 5 tickets for \$20**

There will be a prize for the coordinators from the station that raise the most \$ for MDA through ticket sales. The past 2-3 years Beaverton has done an outstanding job and sold the most tickets. Will they win again, or will there be a new reigning champ? Only time will tell.

## Event #2: LABOR BOWL

**Date: Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Check in starts: 10:30am**

**Bowling starts: 11:30am**

**Bowling ends: 1:30pm**

**Silent Auction: 10:30am – 1:00pm**

**Price per bowler: \$60**

So remember when I said that there will be pizza and soda while you bowl? Well check out the entry form with my article. If you can get me your team registration with five bowlers on it by May 10<sup>th</sup>, then you get to pick your own pizza and soda that will be delivered to your lane! That's right! You don't have to scramble when pizza comes out and get there too late to get pizza you don't like. You get to pick and it comes to you! But this is only if you pre-register a team of five. You will also have your lane already planned ahead of time so there's no moving around or issues with your lane. So get your registration in early! If you want a pizza with half of one kind and half of another, let me know and I'll see what I can do. But please include what your choice would be of one kind if that isn't possible.

There are only 20 lanes available. So space is limited! Worried about paying \$60 to bowl? Don't be. Ask your station at a standup once a month, starting now, to donate \$5 to MDA to help pay for your bowling team to bowl. Do this once a month and



  
**MDA**<sup>®</sup>

**MDA Labor Bowl**

Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>  
Check-In: 10:30am  
Bowling at 11:30am

---

**Team Roster**

Enter Bowler's Name Here  
Enter Bowler's Name Here  
Enter Bowler's Name Here  
Enter Bowler's Name Here  
Enter Bowler's Name Here

---

**Choose Your Team Food**

**Pizza:**  
Cheese  
Pepperoni  
Hawaiian  
BBQ Chicken & Bacon  
Vegetarian  
Meat Lovers  
Combo  
(Please Choose One)

**Soda:**  
Pepsi  
Diet Pepsi  
Sierra Mist  
Dr. Pepper  
Root Beer  
Lemonade  
Mountain Dew  
Fruit Punch  
Iced Tea  
(Please Choose One)

**Please Submit to Abe by May 10<sup>th</sup>**  
maildudebus@gmail.com

that gives you three separate opportunities to help pay for your bowling. You might not have to take anything out of your pocket other than the \$5 you donated with everyone else. And you could bring home a trophy to your station if you win!

There will be prizes for top men's, top women's, top team and lowest score!

Are you a CCA/PTF and really want to participate, but afraid that you will have to work that Sunday? Talk with your supervisor/manager about being scheduled the Sunday before and after the labor bowl so you can participate! I'd say around April 21<sup>st</sup> would be the best time to ask about this.

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!

Let's bring this AWESOME event back with a bang! With all of you helping by getting some raffle tickets and/or bringing an item for the silent auction, we can make this happen! Let's DO THIS, BRANCH 82!!!

In solidarity,  
Abe RedCloud



**B-Mike**



# Presidents' Day and Patriotism

- Bruce Hall, Veterans Representative

Presidents' Day is celebrated on February 20, 2023 this year. This is a day we remember some of the great leaders of our great nation, such as George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Let's also remember our veterans who have served so that we have a democratic nation where we have the freedom to elect these important leaders.

2022 continued to be a year of turmoil that forced us to restructure the way we live and do things. We have not been able to socialize and congregate so that we can work together to accomplish most of our normal life programs, projects, and plans. We have had to deal with isolation, distress, and a depressed economy. We also saw a lot of zoom and gloom. There has been much political unrest, lawlessness, and divisiveness throughout our nation. We have a divided nation on many levels. People seem to blame others for what is happening instead of accepting responsibility for things they have done wrong. Now is the time to self-examine our individual lives and strive to work together to reunify our great nation, respecting one another, while making decisions that are good for improving our nation.

Let's show that our patriotism is a fundamental basis for our great democracy. It is the catalyst that drives us to work together to make this a better nation for all. Hopefully, the following acronym on PATRIOTISM will reinforce some of its ideas:

- \*Participate with others to help one another
- \*Activate your feelings and emotions positively
- \*Thank everyone who has had a part in our freedom
- \*Remember those who have given so much
- \*Idolize those who have paid the price
- \*Organize to ensure our freedom
- \*Transform apathy into activity
- \*Interact with others to maintain our freedom
- \*Sacrifice to help others who have sacrificed more
- \*Memorialize all who have paid for our freedom

As we think of these various aspects, let's remember what veterans have done to pay for freedom in the past, and let's see how we can help them.

There are numerous veterans' organizations available. If you are a veteran, consider joining one. Most of them are constantly fighting to protect veterans' rights and benefits. It is a political battle, and they need all the support they can get. They also can help veterans with claims as well as physical needs. There is strength in numbers!

Your membership in a veterans' organization will be very helpful in supporting their efforts to obtain and maintain veterans' rights and benefits, because without the support of veterans, these organizations will eventually disappear. Even if you can't be very active, your support is essential! We need to support these organizations so they can help veterans and their communities. These organizations promote patriotism throughout our nation. If you need information about organizations, give me a call at 503-285-8468.

Some members of Branch 82 are already serving veterans and their communities through these organizations. So, if you are a member

of a veterans group, please let me know which organization you are a member of and things you are doing in these organizations. I recently learned about one member of Branch 82: Dale Thaler, who retired from the Forest Grove Post Office. He is a Vietnam Veteran who served in the US Air Force in the years of 1971-1983. He now serves as Sr. Vice Commander of American Legion Post 2 in Forest Grove. Thank you, Dale, for your service and all that you do for veterans and your community.

Since the USPS has a large number of veterans as employees, the NALC has developed its own veterans group as a way to thank letter carrier veterans for their service and provide them with a meaningful forum. If you would like to become a member of the NALC Veterans group and receive a pin, you can send a postcard to: National Association of Letter Carriers

NALC Veterans Group  
100 Indiana Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20001-2144

Include the following information: Name, Address, City, State, Zip, NALC branch number, branch of service, and indicate if you belong to any of the following: American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, or any other veteran related group.

This is a way that the NALC shows that veterans have contributed and are contributing much to our country through their service. Many have continued their service by working for the United States Postal Service. We have several Branch 82 members and members of their families who are on Active Duty. We have been printing their names and branch of service and duty stations for several years now. We appreciate all they have done and are doing to serve our great nation.

We would like to get to know the people on this list a little better. We would like members to submit a biographical sketch of these people who are on Active Duty. Let us know when they entered the service, how long they have served, what their Military Occupational Specialty is, where they have served, what they do, what unit they are in, any special needs they might have, or anything of interest. Also include their e-mail or postal address if they would like communications from union members. Please send these biographies to me at [vwfbruce@gmail.com](mailto:vwfbruce@gmail.com) or mail to Bruce Hall, 8017 N. Washburne Ave., Portland, OR, 97217-7251.

Hopefully, this information will make us more enlightened as we endeavor to know and support our military. Patriotism will tie us together in a concerted effort to make America strong and help us remember that FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!!

A SPECIAL EVENT will be taking place in the month of April-- LETTERS FROM HOME, THE 50 STATES TOUR THE OFFICIAL OREGON STOP AT THE ALADDIN THEATRE THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023, 7:00PM. This is a high energy USO style singing and tap-dancing show honoring our veterans/active military heroes and their families.

Info here: [www.lettersfromhomesingers.com](http://www.lettersfromhomesingers.com).





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# ACTIVE IDUTY

**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

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Matters of Collective Bargaining

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(Law Firm retained by NALC Branch 82)

## INJURED AT WORK?

Call BRANCH 82 OWCP REP  
Mike O'Connor

Wednesdays and Thursdays  
503 493-5903

## Branch 82 Monthly Meetings

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

Retiree Luncheon 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, noon

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

Executive Board 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, 6:30PM

All members are welcome, unless otherwise noted.

All meetings are held at the NALC Branch 82 Office,

5265 NE 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

Retiree Luncheons are held at

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](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, January 11, 2023

**Call to Order:** 7:04

**Pledge of Alliance:** Bruce Hall

**Deceased Members:** Gary Green, Gold Card- Kenton

**Moment of Silence**

**Roll Call of Officers**

**Officers Absent:** Cadwell, Canfield, Lulich  
**Excused Members:** Kollin Luman, Leadership Academy

**First Time Members:** Marco Carter- Lake Grove, Kelly Lay- Holladay Park, Maddie White- Rose City Park

**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, Cody Harris. Carried.

**Membership Report:** Regular: 1164, PTF: 18, CCA: 178, Retiree: 520, Gold Card: 74, Management & Other Crafts: 43, New Members: CCA-25. Career- 1. Total Membership: 1997, Non-Members: 33, Organized: 97.6%

**Retired:** Billy Brink- Rose City Park, Jeri Craeton- McMinnville, Pamela Durley – Creston, Theo Henderson- East Portland Scott Stephan- Lake Oswego.

**Canceled:** Jeffrey Cella- Management, Orlando Medina Paz- Tigard, Craft Transfer.  
**Separated:** Eric Bacher- East Portland, Derek Jones- Creston, Chelsea Souders- Gresham

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

**Resolutions and Bylaws:** The resolution titled Response to Letter Carrier Robberies was read aloud. **Motion:** Resolution and Bylaws committee recommendation is that of disapproval. Discussion. Carried: Yes. Resolution was not approved.

**Health Benefits Report:** Matris announced we have roughly 350 members who have the NALC health plan. Dale Thaler spoke about how the NALC health plan now offers a Medicare option which he signed up for and will report back.

**Pride Parade Report:** Dave Esch said the next Pride meeting will be in February.

**Labor Management Report:** President Norton reported that management is forcing Amazon Sundays into only three stations which they are referring to as hubs. They are only doing this in Springfield and Portland right now, that we know of. He then went on to describe what a typical Sunday will look like for carriers under this new model, and how inefficient it will be. However, we have been doing our own version of these hubs for many years, such as with Creston and Midway.

Norton went on to discuss the current route adjustments, and their required use of the COR program to adjust the line of travel. He said our team is working hard to fix any issues as they come up. Rick Banton reminded everyone to get their redbooks updated, completed, and turned in before the route adjustment team gets to your station.

Norton informed the body that the presumptive clause for COVID ends on January 27th, and that anyone who has had COVID will have to file their claim by then, or risk it not being accepted. He said there isn't a Liberal Leave policy memo any longer, and that going forward, anyone who comes down with COVID will have fewer protections.

**Health and Safety Report:**

Norton spoke about how a carrier got shot on their route on Christmas Eve. It wasn't to rob the carrier, but instead a random act of violence. The carrier is okay and is out right now healing up. The person was arrested.

**Legislation Report:** Norton mentioned how all of our bills need to be reintroduced and went over what was left on the table at the end of the last congress.

**Judith Hyde Scholarship Report:** Norton said the scholarship will start to be advertised in the next issue of the B-Mike, and he gave a brief description of what the scholarship is. Pierce discussed the amount, \$2000 per year for four years.

**MDA Report:** Abe RedCloud announced the return of Labor Bowl on May 21.

**Starlight Parade:** RedCloud said the theme for this year's Starlight Parade is FUN. He announced that Starlight and Pride will be making one joint float. There is a sign up list

for anyone who wants to work on the float over the coming months.

**Food Drive Report:** Janelle Lee and Norton met with the Oregon Food Bank to try to find a way to run a food drive this year. Norton said we are planning on sending out some sort of mailer with a QR code that customers can scan to donate money directly.

**Retirees' Report:** Sam Smith reminded the membership that the Retiree Luncheon is happening the third Wednesday of each month at IHOP.

**Veterans' Report:** Hall reported that he received an email from Letters From Home, a group that travels around the United States and puts on USO style shows. It will be in April at the Aladdin Theater.

**Labor Solidarity Report:** Norton reported that the Concordia New Seasons voted to unionize by an overwhelming amount, roughly 96 to 14. He talked about how they are up to five stores now. Partridge spoke about how there are two more New Seasons that will be voting to unionize soon and more about nurses holding rallies to bring attention to the understaffing that plagues hospitals. He added there are many small Portland shops that are starting to organize. Banton said the NLRB certified the Amazon warehouse win.

**Good of the Association:** Norton thanked hospitality, Dave Esch and Brandon McCabe, for making everyone food. He added that we always need people to sign up.

**For the Betterment of the Service:** Fred Dieter from Holladay Park rose to say he has been collecting the plastic wrap used to wrap Amazon pallets. In the last year he has collected 2000 lbs. just from his station. Norton said he will renew talks on the recycling issue and try to get management involved in the matter.

Eric Pottenger spoke about CCAs continually not being provided uniforms in a timely manner.

**Kitty Award:** Justin Wallace, Aloha, won \$63.

**Jackpot:** \$595 went unclaimed by Thomas Burns, Kenton.

**Treasure Chest:** \$150 went unclaimed by Joel Rittenour, Multnomah:

**Adjourned:** 8:30



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The next General Membership meetings will be held  
Wednesday, February 8 and Wednesday, March 8,  
both at 7pm. Dinner will be served prior to the meeting.

# TIME TO CHILL A LITTLE

Hey gang! Did you hear about the new pilot program? Yeah, the big suits seem to understand the pressure we're under and are testing an environment to combat our workroom floor stress! Yes!



**Ferntastic!**

**Mmm, Pumpkin Spice candles!**



**Clipboards in calming pastels**



**Coffee? Nay! Just relaxing herbal teas**

**Foam bumpers for that rickety equipment**



**Essential oil diffusers, jasmine or Pumpkin Spice**



**Supervisors improving their skill set**

BY KERRY WAITE & TERRY KNOTT  
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#8-325 PUSHING THE ENVELOPE