



B·Mike



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"An Injury to One is an Injury to All"

The Official Publication of Branch 82

Portland, OR

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



Branch 82 welcomed National President Brian Renfroe to our Retiree Banquet in September. Renfroe is seen here addressing the guests, speaking with Director of Retirees Sammy Smith and Branch 82 President David Norton, and shaking hands with 80-year member Paul Swenson.

Fall Bits of This and That

- David Norton, President

Hello, Branch 82 members, and welcome to another season at the post office. This one usually brings with it wetter weather, more mail, and a whole new set of issues that we as letter carriers and unionists deal with. Hey, at least we don't have a big election this year. Fall is still my favorite time of the year and was always my favorite weather for delivering mail. The kids are back in school, the jackets are coming out of the closets, and there is a crispness in the air that brings with it equal parts childhood nostalgia and possibilities ahead.

As we transition from the long, warm days to the falling leaves and cool evenings, I thought I would take this opportunity to touch on a few things happening (or not) around the branch.

I actually took a vacation.

For those who don't already know, I went on vacation for two weeks and missed the General Membership meeting and the Stewards Council meeting. This is the first time I have ever missed either of these meetings and the first time I have really taken an extended vacation since I have worked at Branch 82. The last time I took two weeks off at a time was when my youngest daughter was born, 15 years ago. I would like to thank the officers at Branch 82 for their work while I was gone. Branch 82 Vice President Betty Nash ran the General Membership meeting in my stead, and it sounds like it went well. Several people told me she got everyone out early on the meeting night and that I should try harder to be like Betty. Thanks for that. Parkrose Shop Steward Chuck Solomon also filled in while I was gone. Chuck is so experienced, knowledgeable, and hardworking. He took care of a lot while I was gone, and it was nice not to come back to a mess when I returned.

During my two-week vacation, I spent time in the UK, Scotland and England. I found everyone I met there very friendly and welcoming. While I was there, I came in contact with two different sets of striking workers. University workers in Dundee, Scotland were striking for better pay and benefits and in London, England doctors were striking for better pay and working conditions. This was similar to what we have seen here with educators and medical staff standing up and demanding more for the vital work they do. Locally we have seen educators and school staff go out on strike. Portland teachers are currently preparing for a strike, and Kaiser employees are striking as I write this. COVID did many things to us as workers, but it really shone a light on the importance of some of our most relied-upon institutions. Nurses, doctors, and hospital staff cannot operate unless they have the tools to do their job, the time to do their job, and the pay and benefits to recruit and retain others to help. This was a big topic on the local news (besides the Russell Brand allegations) as well as the overall cost of living there. London is a very, very expensive place to live, and the price of goods and rent there are skyrocketing. Inflation is a very big deal. London is an international city, one of the largest in the world and

certainly more expensive than Portland, but we too are currently dealing with the rising costs of goods, services, and housing here. Workers' pay is not keeping up. While I believe that letter carriers need a raise and a higher starting wage, I am thankful that we have an uncapped Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) in our contract that addresses inflation. It is rare in union contracts, and we are lucky to have it. When inflation is on the rise and the cost of living is climbing, we get a raise to help with it, and we have received some big ones. Raises are an important part of contract negotiating. Usually, when people ask me questions or talk about our current contract negotiations, they bring up pay and potential raises. We are doing this job for the money, and letter carriers like everyone else want to be adequately compensated for their work. Any raise by itself is only as good as it is measured against inflation. If your raises aren't keeping up with the cost of living and your union doesn't have a COLA, there is a problem.

Another observation about the UK: I went to several post offices, and they were all more like little convenience stores with a postal area in it. I also saw only one letter carrier while I was there. For the amount of time I spent walking around, I would have thought I would have seen at least a few letter carriers about, of course I was looking! I am not sure if this is just a coincidence or a byproduct of privatization. Royal Mail was privatized over a decade ago and in my opinion, you can tell.

Retiree Banquet

We also just had our Branch 82 Retiree Banquet on September 9. It was a big success. This was the first Retiree Banquet we have held since COVID, and it was very well attended. We had around 100 Branch 82 retirees there with some notable retirees receiving awards for their years of membership with the branch. Eldon Ashmore received his 75-year award, and Paul Swenson received his 80-year award. Also, Jimmy Williams, our former NALC Executive Vice President received his 50-year gold award. NALC President Brian Renfroe was there to help present the awards alongside myself and Branch 82 Director of Retirees, Sam Smith. This was Sam's first banquet he has put on since he has taken over as Director of Retirees, and he did a great job. The NALC is unique among unions as we allow retirees to be part of our organization. Normally, when you retire from working, you are no longer part of the union. Not so with us. After you retire you can stay as active as you were before. It is important that we as a branch honor those who came before us. They were the trailblazers that made this union what it is today, and we all benefit from their past struggles and accomplishments.

Contract Negotiations Update

So, here is where everyone wants to know what is going on with our contract. Have the parties agreed on anything, are we going to get a raise, or are things going to change at the post office at all?! Unfortunately, I don't have a lot of answers. Our national

Branch 82 Non-Members

officers keep a pretty tight lip on how things are going, but I will have an opportunity to speak with President Renfroe coming up at the next Committee of Presidents meeting. I will update the branch with any news I get. Until then, all I know is that they are still working on it...

Staffing

Our staffing has gotten better in many areas and we are still hiring new carriers every week, especially in Portland. This has been good for our membership numbers as all of them have signed up to be part of this union. The areas where we struggle to hire people are in our Associate Offices (AOs). Places like Hillsboro are growing rapidly, and they are still hiring CCAs there. Why would you work there when you can get a job with career benefits not too much farther away? As mail volumes increase, it will only further expose our staffing problems where we have them. The good news is that the Postal Service locally shows no sign of slowing down on their hiring.

The coming increase in mail and packages

As I mentioned earlier, increased mail and package season is right around the corner. While this is going to make your route longer, the work harder and the weather is going to make everything wetter and slicker, management will still think you need to deliver your route in undertime. They don't get it. They view us only as numbers for benchmarks they are trying to reach so they can get a promotion. At Branch 82, we get complaints all of the time about supervisors trying to squeeze carriers for better return times or undertime. Recently they have really ramped it up in places, and we are expecting this fall to be even worse. Remember, you know how long your route is and you know what pace is comfortable for you. Management cannot put arbitrary time standards on us. Do your route the same way every day and do it as efficiently and safely as possible. Management can't do anything to you (other than be completely annoying). Who cares about their numbers?

Lastly, fall brings extra hazards for carriers to look out for: wet leaves, kids walking home from school, and decreased visibility due to rain and overcast days are just a fraction of what carriers must deal with this time of year. While we are all adjusting to the changing season, let's also look ahead to winter preparedness as well. Offices should be taking an inventory of traction devices, headlamps, deicer, and everything we need to do our jobs in the winter weather.

Fall really is a beautiful time of the year. Being a letter carrier gives you the unique opportunity to experience every season every day on your route, something no other job can offer, something I never took for granted, and something that is extra special here in the Pacific Northwest. Here is hoping that the upcoming season comes and goes with relative ease and without incident. Fingers crossed.

Jessica Cronin, Beaverton
Steven Eldridge, Beaverton
Robert Gardner, Beaverton
Kristyann Stafford, Canby
Keith Wery, Canby
Rex Paschall, Creston
Sara Bartlemay, East Portland
Wei Wu, Evergreen
Thomas Breadon, Forest Grove
Emilia Brodeur, Forest Grove
Daniel Ford, Forest Grove
Sheila Root, Forest Grove
Mary Bobnick, Gresham
Marc Detweiler, Gresham
Justin Zimmerman, Kenton
Sean Sharafi, Lake Grove
De Bui, Lake Oswego
Stephen Block, Lake Oswego
Albert Chan, Lents
Jeffrey Smith, Lents
Elizabeth Krieger, McMinnville
Darren Perry, McMinnville
Anthony Maenza, Multnomah
Ona Vesa, Multnomah
Benjamin Siefken, Newberg
Vickie Rauer, Oak Grove
Jared White, Oak Grove
Eric Ridley, Oregon City
Hanna Gross, Parkrose
Michael Jensen-Alcantar, Parkrose
Robert Hawkins, West Linn
Patrick Dyche, West Slope



Vice President's Report

- Betty Nash, Vice President

On Saturday, September 9th at 4:43am, I was enjoying my warm bed and sleeping very comfortably when I heard my cell phone chime with a text message. Then I heard it chime a second time. I immediately sat up and grabbed my cell phone, since it was charging on my nightstand. I knew it was very early in the morning because my cat wasn't bugging me to feed her yet, so who would contact me so early? It must be some type of emergency! Maybe one of my daughters or grandchildren was sick or injured. Please let my babies be ok, I prayed, as I fumbled for my glasses. This must be a very important message because no one would contact me before it was light outside unless it was urgent. Of course, terrible thoughts came rushing into my mind. Maybe my daughter was in an accident on her way to work, since she is in Wisconsin and they are two hours ahead of us, what else could it be?

I finally found my glasses and was able to read the message: The USPS package has arrived at the warehouse and cannot be delivered due to incomplete address information, please confirm your address in the link.....

Well damn, at least my babies are OK, what a relief. Then I thought, if you are going to try to scam me can you at least do it at a decent hour? Or maybe that was the point, to try to catch people before they are truly alert. Maybe if they are still groggy, they will not remember if they are expecting a package and just click on the link. Fortunately for me, I know darn well that the post office does not text customers about an incomplete address. Besides, how would they know my phone number?

I know that this scam must work on some people, otherwise, they

wouldn't continue to use it. Since this first message, I have had at least three more, each at different times in the early morning, wanting me to click on their link.

It's so sad that dishonest people try to scam, cheat, and steal from honest citizens who may not realize that the post office would not use this method to communicate. I don't like that they are impersonating an organization that we work for. The text message ends with "The Postal team wishes you a wonderful day!" They have a lot of nerve! Have a great day after I steal your money or identity or whatever scam they are running.

There is another less obvious scam that I have heard about. A customer asked me why the Postal Service charges so much for an online change of address. I was perplexed and responded, well, it's only \$1, I don't think that's very much. They told me that they went online to change their address and they were charged \$99! I explained to her that this was a scam, and they must have been directed to a fake postal website. I told her that I was so sorry that this happened to her and that she should complete a change of address at the post office and then contact the businesses she deals with to ensure they have the correct information.

All scams are terrible, but when they use the name of the company that we work for and use its name because people trust us, it really gets me mad.

Please be sure to let your customers know that the post office would never send a text for updated information, and the post office does not charge \$99 for a change of address. Informing them of these scams is good customer service.

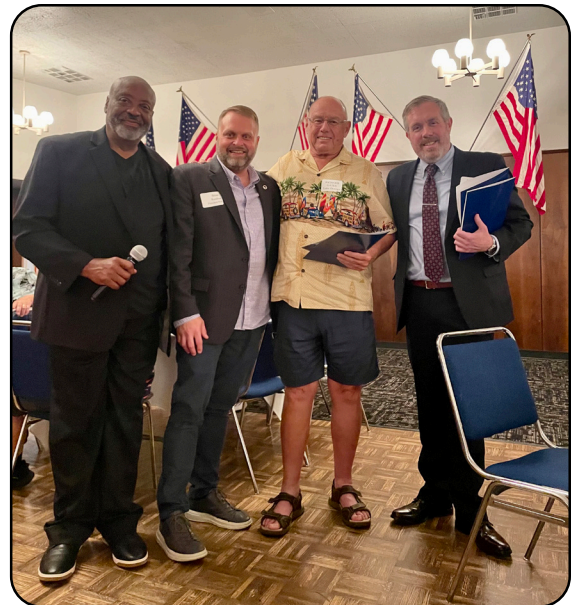
Betty says,

“After you spend your clothing allotment, please donate your old, clean uniform items to the union hall so that new carriers will have a uniform to wear as they're starting out. When ordering your new uniforms, consider ordering one item for the uniform closet as well. I don't think carriers understand the impact that a uniform has on a new employee. They feel so proud, and it really makes them feel like part of the team.”





Scenes from the Retiree Banquet



Scenes from the Retiree Banquet



September 9, 2023



Veterans Day, Honoring All Who Served

- Bruce Hall, Veterans Representative

Veterans Day is November 11, 2023. Each year on November 11, we honor veterans and remember their service to our great nation. In past years, I've written articles on the history of Veterans Day, but I decided to mainly encourage everyone to take time to remember and honor veterans on this day.

We celebrated the 100th Anniversary of World War I in 2018. World War I started on July 28, 1914, and ended on November 11, 1918. America entered the War on April 6, 1917. A World War I Centennial Commission was established to coordinate the 100th anniversary of more than 4.7 million young Americans serving in uniform during WWI. The Commission was formed to raise funds and build a National World War I Memorial. This will allow us to honor the 116,516 Americans who gave their lives in WWI. There was a groundbreaking ceremony on November 9, 2017, and construction of the National World War I Memorial in Washington's Pershing Park was completed and opened to the public in April, 2021. The primary commemorative sculpture is expected to be finished in 2024. We have over 20 monuments, memorials, and museums in Washington DC now, and they broke ground on a Desert Storm-Desert Shield Memorial July 14, 2022, which is expected to be completed in 2025. All these memorials are built to help us honor and remember our veterans.

Who is a veteran? Webster's Dictionary defines a veteran as "a person who has served in the armed forces of our country, especially in time of war." Let's remember and honor all those who have served and are serving in the armed forces. Veterans Day honors those who are still living, whereas Memorial Day honors all those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives.

I've been writing my Veterans Day article in the October issue due to the timing of Veterans events that occur in conjunction with Veterans Day. Usually, I put this information out in our November B-Mike, but several events are over by the time people receive their B-Mike, so I'm trying to get this information out earlier so people can participate in these events if they so desire.

1. VANCOUVER VETERANS PARADE--This event will be held on Saturday, November 11, 2023. There will be a ceremony at The Marshal House on Officers Row at Ft. Vancouver at 9:30am. The parade starts at 11am at the corner of Evergreen Way and East Reserve, goes on Evergreen to Ft. Vancouver Way, then South on Ft. Vancouver Way to East 5th St., then East on 5th, ending in front of the Pearson Air Museum. For more information, call 360-992-1804.

2. VETERANS DAY VIGIL--This event will be held at the Praying Hands Memorial at the University of Portland at 11:00am on November 11, 2023.

3. PORTLAND VETERANS DAY PARADE--The parade was discontinued in the Hollywood Neighborhood, but the Portland Veterans Day Parade will be held on Saturday, November 11, 2023. The parade will start at 10:00am. It will start at Beech St. and MLK Blvd. The parade will proceed north on MLK ending at Alberta St. and MLK Blvd. A short ceremony will occur at the end of the parade.

My VFW Post 1325 will have an entry in the parade, and I plan on getting an entry for NALC Branch 82. If you would like to be in the parade, contact the Union Office, 503-493-5903, or contact me at 503-285-8468. You don't have to just watch a parade, you can be a part of the parade.

Another event that I would like to offer in the month of October is called A DAY TO CHANGE DIRECTION! A staggering 20 veterans commit suicide every day, along with other persons in our society, and if you've watched the news lately, there has been a disturbing increase in teenage suicides. The VFW is committed to helping change the narrative and stigma surrounding mental health issues in America. In order to raise awareness, foster community engagement, improve research, and provide intervention for those affected by invisible injuries and emotional stress, the VFW has teamed up with other organizations to combat this critical issue. We will have an evening on October 17, 2023, where we will sponsor a gathering together of interested people where we can encourage all Americans to pay attention to their emotional well-being as well as the emotional well-being of others.

Date: October 17, 2023

Time: 7:00pm Information provided about mental wellness

(Time with veterans sharing experiences)

Place: Eagles Hall, 7611 N Exeter Ave

Please RSVP by October 15, 2023, to Bruce W. Hall 503-285-8468 or email: vfwbruce@gmail.com.

ONE FINAL NOTE: The pandemic has put a lot of veterans in a financial bind. My VFW Post has some food boxes (45 lbs. of nonperishable goods) available for vets in need. Let me know if you would like this type of assistance. Have a memorable Veterans Day.

Retiree Luncheon

October 18
IHOP
4931 SE 82nd Avenue
Portland, OR 97266
NOON
(third Wednesday of each month)

ACTIVE DUTY

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

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

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

Casey James (Waterfront) Army, Jordan

Roberto Jimenez (Creston) Army, Qatar

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

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

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

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

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

Dean Schuchardt, son of Patricia Schuchardt (Multnomah)
Army

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

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

MDA Report

- Abe RedCloud, MDA Rep

Happy Spooooky month everyone! That's right, all the ghouls, goblins and skeletons are coming out this month! You know who else should get out this month???? Well, that would be you! Yes, I'm talking to you....the one that is reading this article.....now look over your shoulder. See anyone else reading this article? No? Well then that must mean you are the one that needs to get out this month! Where, you say? Well, that would be to the.....

Fill The Satchel

(continued from above) NW Priority Credit Union for the Fill The Satchel event happening right now! That's right folks, our last event of the year for MDA is at our credit union! How does it work you ask? Make your way to any of the local branches of the NW Priority Credit Union and when you're there you can donate to MDA! It's that easy. Don't have an account there? Well, I suggest you check them out! They do amazing work, and actually know and care about us USPS employees! So go deposit your check or check them out and while you are there, donate to MDA!

We have raised just over \$10,000 this year. Can we make it to 20K? We have raised \$10,000 from this event before, so there's no reason we can't do it again. But this takes your effort to go out and visit a branch and donate. So, I ask you to please donate to MDA for Fill the Satchel and help us raise money for MDA. Here are the details:

Where: Any branch of NW Priority Credit Union

Dates: Sept 29 – Oct 31

Time: During business hours between those dates

Thank you everyone for all that you do for the MDA. I hope you all have a safe and Happy Halloween!

In Solidarity,
Abe RedCloud



Wrestling the Bear

- Matt Pierce, Secretary-Treasurer

Hello again from the desk of your secretary-treasurer. I hope you are enjoying the wonderful start to fall. When I was a young man, I remember hearing about the internet and how people would have almost all of human knowledge at their fingertips. Yes, I'm old enough to remember the first time I went on the internet and how excited I was to have access to more information from my basement than the president had just a few years earlier. Before this, you had to agree to disagree on the facts until you could get to a library and look it up in the encyclopedia. I thought, this will go so far to end arguments and debates; the answers to almost all disagreements will be immediately attainable. Holy moly was I wrong.

The internet instead became as good if not better at spreading misinformation and purposely misleading claims than it did at spreading facts. Unfortunately, this doesn't just apply to crazy conspiracy theories about space aliens and lizard people. It applies to just about everything, as we have seen with news and politics. Sadly, it also applies to the NALC. Now don't get me wrong, there is a lot of great information and guidance on the internet. I google answers multiple times every day. But you also need to be careful and know which sources you can trust. Obviously, some places like NALC.org can be trusted, but beyond that, there is an entire universe of sites that fall somewhere under the umbrella of mostly true to completely wrong.

As you know, anyone on the internet can claim to know and be an expert in just about anything. Always remember that the information is usually worth about as much as you paid for it. All of us at the office take being honest and truthful very, very seriously. Someone who posts on an obscure subreddit? Maybe not so much. Branch 82 has always prided itself on having the best education and being the most open and democratic with knowledge of any branch in the country. If you ever get a chance to go to a regional or national union event, people you talk to from other places will tell you the same. But due to the massive turnover in the last 10 years, even we haven't been able to train and inform all our members as much as we'd like. For many reasons, many branches and even whole national regions of our union haven't done the best job of training their members on the rules, rulings, and reasons of the USPS and NALC.

Due to how the human brain works, people have a tendency to believe the first thing they hear about a subject. Much of this 'information' can be faulty or misattributed. The problem is, as Mark Twain paraphrased, "It's easier to fool people than it is to convince them that they have been fooled." All of us at Branch 82 have experienced calls where the person asks a question, and then when you give them an answer they say, "well that's not what I read online." When I tell them I'm pretty sure cause I've been doing this for almost 20 years and I'm currently looking at the regulation on my computer, they are still a little skeptical. It's not

really their fault; it is how people work, but it's also why misinformation is so dangerous.

Because of what I consider a lack of knowledge and teaching at many levels of our union, it creates a vacuum into which any and everyone can chime in with their opinions. You can see this with the proliferation of blogs, message boards, subreddits, Facebook groups, podcasts, etc... I totally understand why. We work in a unique workplace where to fully exercise your contractual and legal rights you have to be fully aware of and assert them. Thus, there is a huge desire to be educated and informed. But please keep in mind, I have perused and listened to a lot of it, and much of it is unreliable at best and flat-out wrong at worst. Don't get me wrong- I don't think that the vast majority of these people are lying, but that doesn't make it reliable information. Most often the errors are in omission or oversimplification of the issues. Partial or incomplete explanations are common as are extrapolations from one situation that is claimed to cover all situations. Due to how local memos and precedent-setting arbitrations work, something can be true in Cleveland that is not true in Portland, as an example. We at Branch 82 make every effort to always give the best answers or advice, but we are human. Feel free to verify or check online, but always try to check multiple sources if possible.

I'll give you some examples of things that I often see just to give you an idea of what to look out for. Beware of anyone who speaks in absolutes or claims things are black and white. We live and work in a world of greys. As an example, someone online may say "they absolutely can't do that, because it violates FMLA!" While that may be true, qualifying for FMLA is very situation and employee-specific. Maybe the employee hasn't worked a full year, maybe they haven't worked 1250 hours in the previous year, maybe they are not legally married to their partner, maybe they can't get their doctor to fill out the paperwork, etc.

Be careful of people who state and then argue a false premise. They may have a compelling argument, but it doesn't matter if their premise is flawed. Such as: "we absolutely can refuse overtime and go home because over 12 and 60 hours violates OSHA regulations." This is simply not true because OSHA has not established a legal maximum number of hours an employee can work per week. They have recommendations but no binding legal limits. That's why firefighters can work/be on call 24 hours a day for days in a row. Another example is "we need to bring back the right to strike." Regardless of how I feel about striking, we have never had the right to strike. It has always been illegal for postal employees to engage in a work stoppage or slow down. It was illegal when it happened in March of 1970, and we reaffirmed it was illegal when the Postal Reorganization Act gave us the right to a union.

Finally, be very wary of anyone who says some version of, "I

PROPOSED RESOLUTION
(printed as received)

**Resolution on
Heat and Smoke Standards**

would walk into the manager's office and demand..." or district manager or postmaster, etc... First of all, barging into someone's office is kind of rude and unprofessional. We have an agreed-upon conflict resolution process and that isn't it; it's the grievance arbitration system. Plus, picture in your mind how this would actually go. You barge into their office and demand they start carriers at 6am. The person in charge looks up from their desk and says, "No, sorry I'm not going to do that." Then you scream back, "But I demand it." Then the postmaster replies "Yeah, no. Still not going to do that." Then what happens exactly? Do you yell a new argument? "The carriers really want it!" They reply "NO." Then do you keep yelling and getting "No" for a while? Do you stare at them until they ask you to leave? Do you sit down and refuse to leave, until they just walk around you and out on the floor to continue their day? I get that it sounds good, but in reality, it wouldn't work and is just a meaningless boast. It's like saying "I could totally wrestle a bear" because you know, it will never actually happen.

Just be careful out there. Until next time I remain with you in solidarity, Matt



Last Punch Bunch

Bret Ekenstam
Parkrose

Christopher Paulsen
Hillsboro

Whereas: Extreme heat and hazardous air quality, especially from wildfire smoke, are increasingly conditions faced by letter carriers, as the climate warms,

Whereas: The State of Oregon (plus California, Washington, Minnesota, Nevada, and Colorado) have enforceable outside heat standards with regard to rest breaks, water, and acclimatization, and

Whereas: The Centers for Disease Control, U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health have a set of national, non-enforceable guidelines for employers with regard to rest, water, and acclimatization in extreme heat, and

Whereas: In recent years, Oregon has experienced heat domes with temperatures at which the CDC advises no heavy (ie. letter carrying) outdoor work, and

Whereas: In recent years, Oregon has experienced wildfire smoke with air quality of hazardous levels at which, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, workers should not be outside, even with N100 masks, and

Whereas: The USPS has shown an unwillingness to enforce CDC/OSHA/NIOSH heat standards and EPA Air Quality standards and has ordered, intimidated, and bullied letter carriers into carrying mail in conditions of unsafe heat and air quality,

Whereas: Letter carriers are increasingly experiencing debilitating illness, stress, stroke and even death from extreme heat and air quality, therefore be it

Resolved: that NALC Branch 82 membership recommends that the NALC negotiate, on the national and local level, with the USPS for enforceable extreme heat and air quality standards based on either local state or federal CDC/OSHA/NIOSH and EPA guidelines whichever has stronger safety standards and requirements, and be it finally

Resolved: that this resolution be forwarded to the Oregon State Association of Letter Carriers and national NALC conventions for concurrence.

Submitted by:

Rogue Robertson, Mark Flegal, Robert Costa, Willie Groshell, Benjamin Stutz, Tom Richardson, Jamie Partridge, T. Rose Bent, Colin Moore, Stephen Lemm, and Sherry Jones

A resolution proposing an organizing committee was read at the September General Membership meeting; however, the maker withdrew it, and so it is not printed here.



Bet you could use a Home Equity Line of Credit!

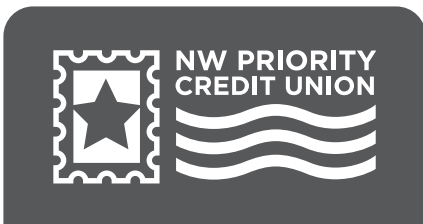


You can use a HELOC Loan to consolidate debt, pay college tuition, make home improvements, take a vacation, or pay for all kinds of expected (or unexpected) life events!

Get the low rates you know you're only going to find at your Credit Union!

12 Month Introductory Fixed Rate

5.99% APR*



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APR = Annual Percentage Rate. All credit is subject to credit approval. During the Introductory Period of 12 billing cycles following the establishment of your Line of Credit, the Interest Rate will be fixed at 5.99% (Introductory Rate). This Introductory Rate will remain in effect for the first 12 billing cycles after the account is opened. At the end of the Introductory Period, the Interest Rate will convert to a variable rate based on the original variable rate provisions of the Home Equity Line Account Agreement and Disclosures. In the event you fail to make any loan payment within 60 days of the due date, you will lose the Introductory Rate and your Interest Rate will convert to a variable rate based on the original variable rate provisions of the Home Equity Line Account Agreement and Disclosures. Up to 80% of assessed value or appraised value. Other terms may apply. This offer may be discontinued as anytime.



Safety Corner

- Don Cadwell, Branch 82 Safety Officer

Fall Safety

Every season brings with it a new set of potential hazards for letter carriers to watch out for. Carriers will now have to add keeping an eye out for wet leaves, pinecones, and kids going to and from school to their job duties. Not to mention scary Halloween decorations! The days are also becoming shorter, and it will start getting darker sooner. That means that carriers may be delivering the ends of their routes or sections in the dark. Make sure your office is stocked up on headlamps. No one wants to deliver in the dark, but it ends up happening every year. It is better to be prepared than getting stuck out there not being able to see! Everything becomes harder and more unsafe. Work on updating the hazard cards for your route. The weather is only going to get worse from here, so it is a good idea to make sure some of those lingering hazards on your route are addressed.

EAP Update

Along with my duties as Branch 82 Safety Officer, I am also the chair of the district EAP Committee. The committee consists of myself, President Norton, and Ted Lulich representing letter carriers, a representative from the rural letter carriers, clerks, mail

handlers, and management. When I started on the committee, it had been some time since we had a district EAP Representative- over 2 years. In March of this year, we finally got one and unfortunately, they didn't last long. The end of September was their last day here and we are back without a district EAP Representative. We will have the assistance of the Seattle District EAP Representative and we as employees still have access to EAP. If you want to reach someone, you can call 1-800-EAP-4YOU (800-327-4968), TTY: 877-492-7341. I have heard from several people who have complained that when they call EAP they don't get to talk to a counselor right away. Instead they get a list of potential providers in their area that they can try and get a hold of, or the person gets told that someone will call them back. If you are in distress and need to speak with someone right away, you need to tell them that. They will connect you with a counselor. EAP is not perfect, and there are several issues that we are constantly working on in the committee, but it is still a valuable service that we have as postal employees.

As always, please reach out to me if you have any issues regarding safety in your office.



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The foundation is a 501(c)(3). Your contribution to the NALC Disaster Relief Foundation may be eligible for a tax deduction. It is recommended you seek further advice from your tax advisor.

NALC Disaster Relief Foundation

The NALC Disaster Relief Foundation was created for NALC regular members with oversight from the NALC Executive Council. The purpose of the Foundation is to fill a need identified by many branches that have faced disasters, including wildfires, hurricanes and floods, to name a few. Please consider contributing to help your fellow carriers in need.



B·Mike

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
MDA Rep	Abe RedCloud	503-493-5903

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
Dave Esch	503-493-5903
Ted Lulich	503-493-5903
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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 2nd Wednesday, 7:00PM

Retiree Luncheon 3rd Wednesday, noon

Stewards Council 3rd Wednesday, 7PM

Executive Board 4th Wednesday, 6:30PM

All members are welcome, unless otherwise noted.

All meetings are held at the NALC Branch 82 Office,

5265 NE 42nd Avenue.

Retiree Luncheons are held at

IHOP, 4931 SE 82nd Avenue.

INJURED AT WORK?

Call BRANCH 82 OWCP REP

Mike O'Connor

Wednesdays and Thursdays

503 493-5903

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

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



NALC Branch 82 Membership Meeting, Sep 13, 2023

Call to Order: 7:04

Pledge of Alliance: Bruce Hall

Deceased Members: Benson Lee, Retiree-Parkrose; Peter Raz, Retiree- Multnomah

Moment of Silence

Vice President Nash had a moment of silence for the deceased members. She then welcomed everyone and explained that President Norton was on vacation.

Roll Call of Officers: Officers Absent:

Suzanne Miller, David Norton

First Time Members: Ryder Canepa, Holladay Park; Tim Gannett, Sellwood; Geordie Tilt, SW Portland DCU

Visitors: Alicia Reynen- new carrier from Pendelton, Oregon here for training

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:

Nash discussed the recent communications to the branch.

Membership Report:

Regular: 1098, PTF: 219, CCA: 109, Retiree: 517, Gold Card: 82, Management & Other Crafts: 44, New Members: CCA-21, PTF-58. Total Membership: 2069. Non-Members: 35, Organized: 97.6%

Retired: Karen Dahlman, Troutdale;

Khalid Hammadi, River District; Jeff Maloney, Evergreen ; Michael Yang, River District **Canceled:** Alexandra Pry, Sellwood-Management; Joseph Tardio, Retiree, Cherry Blossom **Separated:** Julianne Calhoun, Holladay Park; Nathaniel Cutler, West Slope; Phoenix Diets, Rose City Park; Rebecca Flynn, Lents; Genevieve Grasso, Holladay Park; Haylee Gonsalves, Sellwood; Randi Halvorson, Lents; Aaron Levine, Tigard; William Skurky Miller, Creston; Dexter Peralta, Hillsboro; Peter Strolis, Creston; Timothy Weeks, East Portland

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

Executive Board Expenditure

Recommendation: Motion: To spend up

to \$11,000 to paint and repair the exterior of our building. Discussion. Motion: Lois Brumfield made a motion to delay this vote until after the budget report. Seconded: English. Carried.

Budget Report: Secretary-Treasurer Matt Pierce handed out and went over the mid-year budget report line by line. Discussion. English made a motion to accept the mid-year budget. Seconded: Richard Shay. Carried. The membership then returned to the motion to paint and repair the building. Carried.

Unfinished Business: Nash discussed the recently held Retiree Banquet: we had our oldest member receive his 80-year pin, Jimmy Williams received his Gold Card, National President Brian Renfroe was there, and about 100 people attended.

New Business: Pierce announced sign-ups for nominations for delegates to the State and National Conventions. Attendance at six of the previous 12 meetings is required to be a paid delegate.

Resolutions and Bylaws: Jim Falvey read the resolution to have heat and smoke safety standards for the USPS and a resolution to appoint an officer for an Organization Committee. Nash explained that these resolutions were just being read and would be discussed at the next meeting.

Judith Hyde Scholarship Report: Nash pointed out that the winner of the scholarship was on the cover of the latest B-Mike, and he is going to Yale.

Health Benefits and MBA Report:

Eric Matras said he will be attending the Health Benefits Convention in Las Vegas in October.

Pride Parade Report: Dave Esch discussed how well the Pride Parade went. The materials used on the float were stored and saved for next year.

Labor Management Report: Chief Steward Jon Cabral gave an update on Labor-Mgmt and reported that we still have one removal in the branch but it has been scheduled for arbitration.

Health and Safety Report: Don Cadwell discussed a recent incident where a carrier

was held up at gunpoint on the SW Waterfront out of Multnomah station. USPS has announced that there is a \$50,000 reward to whomever turns this person in. Cadwell then announced that we are losing our EAP rep but the Washington rep will cover us in the meantime.

Legislation Report: Pierce spoke on the small updates we have legislatively. Groshell said there is a labor-friendly republican in Oregon now for the first time in a long time, and she has already signed up for much of our legislation.

MDA Report: Abe RedCloud announced the October fundraiser through NW Priority Credit Union. Branch 82 got second place in the nation for donations to MDA in the month of July.

Retiree's Report: Sam Smith said the Retiree Banquet went well, they handed out many awards, and he thanked Brad Melland for all the hard work he put into the banquet. He added that the retiree luncheon is held every third Wednesday at noon at IHOP on 82nd.

Nash closed out nominations for the National and State Conventions.

Veteran's Report: Hall announced a fundraiser for the VFW essay program,. He reminded the membership that Veterans Day is Saturday, November 11. The parade starts on Beech and he will put more information in the B-Mike.

Labor Solidarity Report: Jamie Partridge said the UPS teamsters settled their contract right before the strike was to take place, and he discussed the gains in their new contract. He added how Portland Teachers may be going on strike soon as well. Pierce said 100% of the digital artists at Marvel voted to join IATSE.

Good of the Association: Nash thanked Cody Harris for making dinner.

Kitty Award: Smith won \$88.

Jackpot: \$595 went unclaimed by Shaun Frantz, Troutdale

Treasure Chest: \$240 went unclaimed by Daniel Livengood, Sellwood

Adjourned: 8:30



B-Mike

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS
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The next General Membership meetings
will be held Wednesday, October 11 and
Wednesday, November 8, both at 7pm.
Dinner will be served prior to each meeting.

SURVIVOR

