

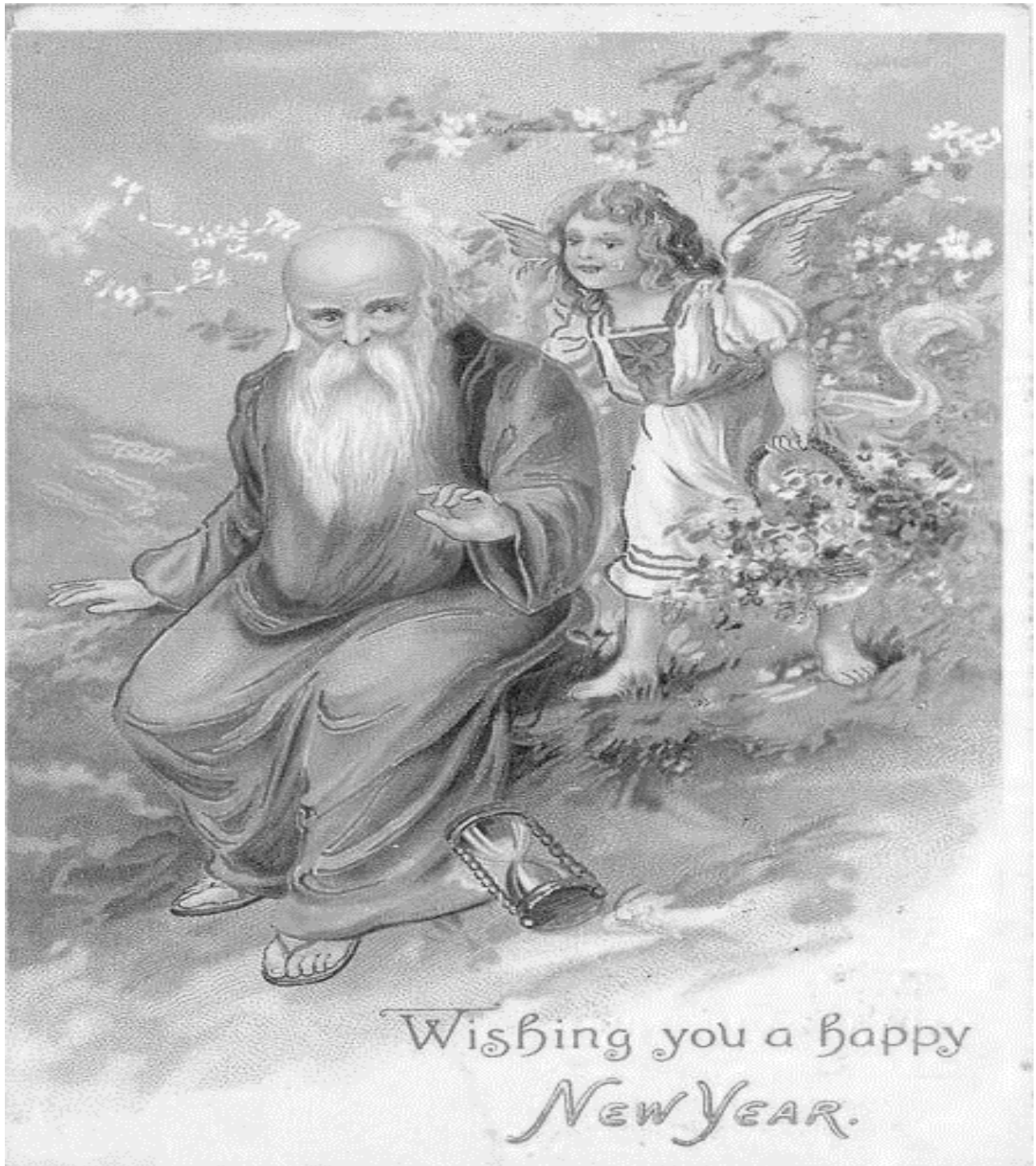
NALCASTER

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

Pagoda Branch 258

READING, PA.

December 14, 2022



N.A.L.C. PAGODA BRANCH 258 READING PA OFFICERS 2021

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
President	Fred Ranalli, Jr	610-406-1131
Vice President	Rich McDonough	484-955-4267
Treasurer	Jason Taylor	570-617-1124
Secretary	Paul Purcell	610-451-0244
Trustees:		
	Tammy Jones	610-960-7498
	Dominic Tumminello	610-775-4263
	Dave Dry	484-797-7906
HBR MBA OWCP	Brunilda Cheverez	347-247-0277
AFL-CIO	Sharon Unger	484-797-2220
Sergeant at Arms	Ed Gensemer	484-638-3067
NALCaster Editor	Andy Gelsinger	610-413-8158
Director of Archives	Andy Gelsinger	610-413-8158



SHOP STEWARDS

<u>Zone</u>	<u>Steward</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
19601	Brunilda Cheverez	347-247-0277
19604-05	Juan Munoz	610-373-8201
19606-02	Dave Dry	484-797-7906
19607	Mark Swarmer	610-856-1662
19608-09	Paul Purcell	610-451-0244
19610-11	Dave Dry	484-797-7906
19508	Rich McDonough	484-955-4267
19518	Russell Jackson	484-995-5874
19526	Chelsee Berger	570-516-0588
19522	Steve Fenstermacher	484-201-0193
19530	Tim Fisher	610-207-0204
19540	Jessica Mountz	610-914-9843
19551	Hector Lozada, Jr.	610-507-3731
19555	Robert Oswald	610-451-5114
19560	Terry Stefansky	610-781-3221
19565	Kim Brunner	610-763-1674
19567	Robert Clark	610-589-1469

CONTACTING US

Visit us at: 1251 Front St. Reading, PA 19601
 Write us at: PO Box 12584 Reading, PA 19612
 View our website at www.nalc258.com
 Join our NALC Branch 258 Facebook page

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Step A designee	Jason Taylor	570-617-1124
Assoc. Off. Grievances		
	Rich McDonough	484-955-4267
Labor Management Team		
	Fred Ranalli Jr.	610-406-1131
	Rich McDonough	484-955-4267
Food Drive	Tammy Jones	610-960-7498
Legislative	Ed Gensemer	484 638-3067
HBR-MBA-OWCP		
	Bill Lodek	610-914-1253
MDA	Jason Taylor	570-617-1124
CCA Rep	Juan Munoz	610-373-8201
Dir. of Retirees	Jerome Kern	484-256-4906

Many thanks to Jerome Kern, Jason Taylor, Bill Lodek, breakthroughvisuals.com and, as always, Branch President Fred Ranalli for contributing material for this issue. Please remember that this newsletter is for the Branch and by the Branch, and contributions can be submitted to the editor at any time.

2022 Election Results

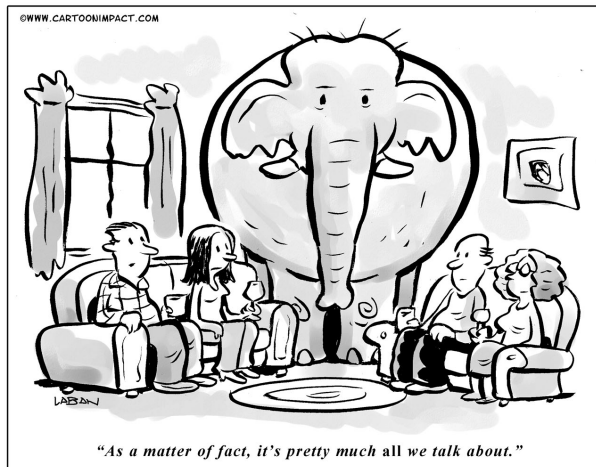
Since the last issue, elections have been held on many levels of government, as well as in the NALC on both national and local levels. The following is an updated list of those who have been chosen to serve our branch members in the listed capacities:

US Senator	John Fetterman
Pennsylvania Governor	Josh Shapiro
US House Representative, 6 th District	Chrissy Houlahan
US House Representative, 9 th District	Dan Meuser
US House Representative, 4 th District	Madeleine Cannane
US House Representative, 7 th District	Susan Wild
US House Representative, 11 th District	Lloyd Smucker
PA Senate District 48	Christopher Gebhard
PA Senate District 44	Jessica Florio
PA Senate District 24	Tracy Pennycuik
PA House District 126	Mark Rozzi
PA House District 127	Manuel Guzman
PA House District 5	Barry Jozwiak
PA House District 187	Ryan Mackenzie
PA House District 128	Mark Gillen
PA House District 129	Johanny Cepeda-Freytitz
PA House District 134	Peter George Schweyer
PA House District 124	James Barton
PA House District 130	David Maloney
PA House District 99	David Zimmerman
NALC National President	Brian Renfroe
NALC Executive Vice President	Paul Barner
NALC Secretary-Treasurer	Nicole Rhine
NALC Director of Retired Members	Daniel Toth
NALC Director of Life Insurance	James Yates
NALC Director, Health Benefit Plan	Stephanie Stewart
NALC National Trustee	Charles Heege
NALC National Trustee	Lawrence Brown, Jr.
NALC National Trustee	Sandra Laemmel
NALC PA State Assoc. Vice President	Fred Ranalli
Branch 258 President	Fred Ranalli
Branch 258 Vice President	Richard McDonough, Jr.
Branch 258 Treasurer	Jason Taylor
Branch 258 Recording Secretary	Paul Purcell
Branch 258 Trustee	David Dry
Branch 258 Sergeant at Arms	Ed Gemsemer
Branch 258 AFL/CIO/Labor Council Rep	Sharon Unger
Branch 258 Health/MBA Rep	Brunilda Cheveres
Branch 258 Dir. of Communications	Andrew Gelsinger



Upcoming Events

December 14 – Regular branch meeting
December 15 – Retiree breakfast @ Berkshire Family Restaurant
December 16 – Adopt-A-Family Donation Target Date
December 26 – Christmas Holiday (observed)
January 2 – New Year's Holiday (observed)
January 3 – Prime time vacation weeks bidding begins
January 4 – Executive board meeting
January 11 – Regular branch meeting
January 19 – Retiree Breakfast @ the Breakfast Hut
January 16 – Martin Luther King Holiday
February 1 – Executive Board Meeting



Our project to compile, and keep up to date, a master email and best phone list of the membership is ongoing. To add your information, please contact Andy Gelsinger at 610-413-8158 (text) or slice710@aol.com (email), Ed Gensemer at caddy1217@aol.com (email)), or pass the info through any shop steward or board member. You can also use the sample form in this issue to mail your information

Simple Form Which Can Be Used to Send in Your Contact Information

Name _____

Email _____

Best Phone# _____

President's Message

Hello everyone, Thankfully, the national elections have concluded. Hopefully, the elected representatives will be supportive of the USPS and continue to support the NALC's issues. As Americans, we have many issues facing our nation that have taken its toll on the Middle Class. The War in Ukraine, inflation, worker shortages and many other troubling hardships are in the news daily. Hopefully, the new Congress can put aside their differences and work together for what is best for all Americans. I try to be positive and pray that these issues diminish just as the pandemic has.

I want to thank the membership for re-electing the current board to another term representing our branch. I am so thankful to have so many dedicated union brothers and sisters to move our branch forward. I also welcome Bruni Cheveres to our board. Bruni will take over the Health Benefits/ Mutual Benefits/ OWCP representative vacated by Bill Lodek. I want to thank Bill personally for his dedication to all of us with Health plan or OWCP issues. Bill has helped so many of you and we all have benefitted from his knowledge. Personally, Bill has been a great friend. Since we retired from the USPS, we have not seen each other much but I will always treasure his friendship and consider Bill my brother. Much love and all the best to you and your family Bill. Thank You!

As always, I ask all of you to get more involved with our branch and your union. We are always in need of volunteers for the many jobs that need to be done. With everyone working so many hours, it is hard to schedule training and to ask people to spend time away from their families. Every benefit all of us enjoy was fought for by carriers just like you who sacrificed and gave of themselves. If we do not have people step up and learn, who will make sure these benefits will not disappear? All of you and every retiree depend on the next generation of union leaders to assure our security. I challenge you to try to attend at least one union meeting in the next several months.

The carrier shortage continues for us. Slowly we have new employees coming on board but unfortunately several quit only a few weeks in. Overtime is rampant and management keeps changing the rules with scheduling and start times. Grievance settlements are slowly starting to show up in

people's checks. Please keep a personal record of these payments. Management continues to violate Article 8. It is very frustrating. I am so thankful to all of you for continuing to serve your customers despite the long

Quote to Remember

"I'm sorry that you got hurt. It was really my fault. I gave you a head lamp, told you you'd be safe, mocked others who came back without delivering, and ordered you out there. Don't worry, I'll make sure that your claim will go through properly and that management doesn't blame you for your accident"

- Said No Supervisor, Ever

hours, increased workload, and failures of management. Together we will make it through these tough times.

With shorter days and winter upon us, please remember **Your safety always comes first.** If you feel you might get injured or you might be harmed because of the weather conditions, darkness, or any other reason, please call your supervisor and take the mail back. Carriers suffer injuries and have accidents every day. Do not be one of them by working in unsafe conditions. The mail can be delivered tomorrow.

We will be accepting donations for the George Cook Annual Family Adoption Program again this year. Two families with three children each will be adopted this year. A donation to Veterans Making a Difference will be made. With everything going on this year we will not have a party to celebrate this program. Thank you for donating to this worthy cause.

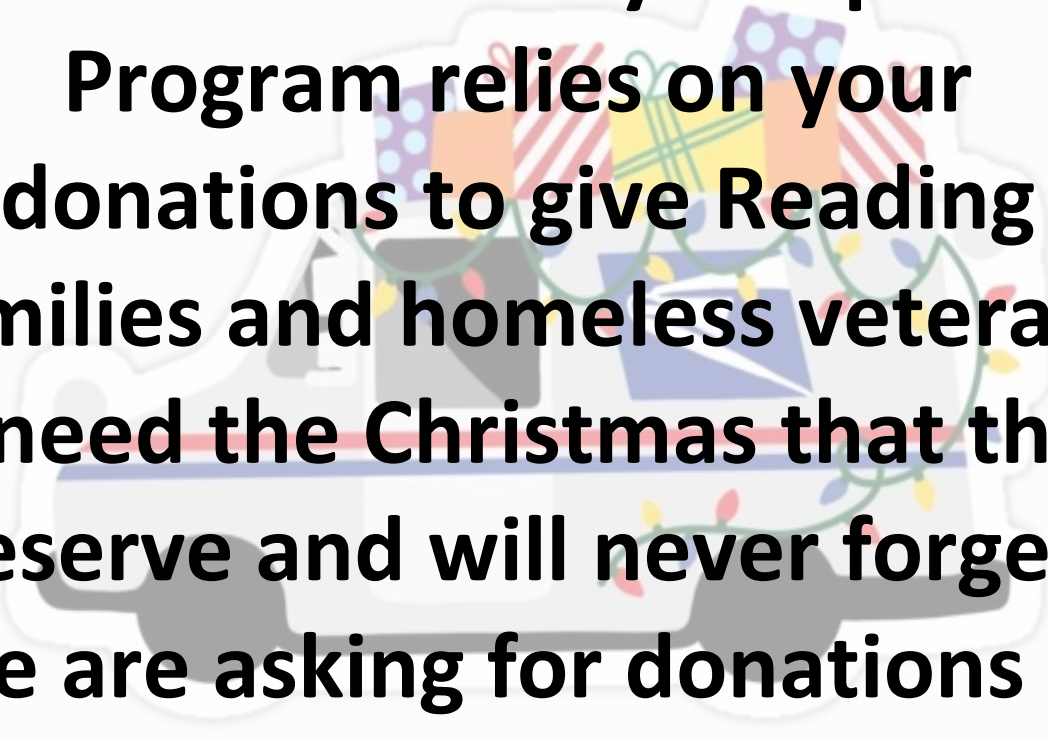
I want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Sincerely,
Fred Ranalli

In Solidarity,
Fred Ranalli



Happy Holidays brothers and sisters! The George Cook Christmas Family Adoption Program relies on your donations to give Reading families and homeless veterans in need the Christmas that they deserve and will never forget! We are asking for donations to be given by December 16 to be included in this year's purchases for the families. Please see your shop steward today! Merry Christmas!



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Christmas will soon be upon us. In the past years we were able to bring everyone together to celebrate the season, however, we will not be having a party to celebrate in person this year.



But we are still keeping our tradition alive by helping two Reading families who have a combined 6 children through Mary's Shelter and will also be assisting our city's homeless veterans with a monetary donation to Veterans Making a Difference.

You have always gone above and beyond in the past and we know you will again this year. Please contribute to the George Cook Christmas Family Adoption program and help those in need have a bright Christmas.

Please see your shop steward, or any union officer to make a donation.

Thank You,

Fred Ranalli

Presenting the New
Medicare Advantage
Health Plan Option for
Letter Carriers



It's not too late

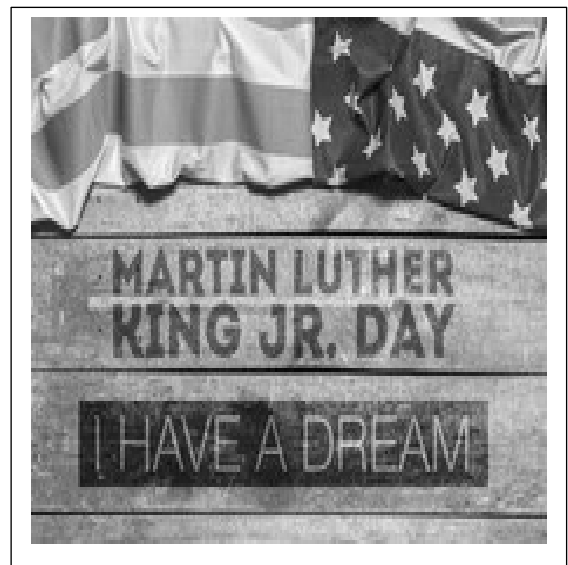
Opt in to the National Association of Letter Carriers
High Option Plan — Aetna Medicare Advantage

A plan designed exclusively for NALC Health Benefit Plan High Option annuitants and their eligible dependents with Medicare Parts A and B.



NALCHBP.org/Annuitant
1397254-08-01 (10/22)

Visit AetnaRetireeHealth.com/NALC
or call the Aetna Retiree Solutions service
center at **866-241-0262 (TTY: 711)**,
Monday–Friday, 8 AM–8 PM ET.

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Download the PDF NALC Medicare guide at:
https://www.nalc.org/member-benefits/body/22-NALC-0001_NALC_Medicare_Guide_Final_102722.pdf



You still have time









It's not too late to opt in to the new 2023 NALC High Option Plan — Aetna Medicare Advantage. It's designed exclusively for the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Health Benefit Plan annuitants.

The NALC Health Benefit Plan and Aetna® have teamed up to offer NALC Health Benefit Plan High Option annuitants enhanced medical and prescription drug coverage all in one plan. Effective January 1, 2023, the combined coverage option is called the NALC High Option Plan — Aetna Medicare Advantage. It's a type of Medicare Advantage plan designed exclusively for NALC Health Benefit Plan High Option annuitants, and it is offered to you through the NALC Health Benefit Plan.

How the NALC High Option Plan — Aetna Medicare Advantage works
You'll continue to have \$0 cost sharing for deductibles, copayments and coinsurance for medical care because of your enrollment in Medicare Parts A and B. In addition, for the same premium amount as the NALC Health Benefit Plan High Option, you'll get some enhanced benefits and programs. Plus, each eligible member will receive a \$900 per year (\$75 per month) Medicare Part B premium reduction.

Take a look at the plan highlights and key benefits on the next few pages. And be sure to review the Medicare Guide and summary of benefits you recently received in the mail. It contains all of the plan details to help you make an informed decision about your health care coverage.

Highlights of the NALC High Option Plan — Aetna Medicare Advantage

 No additional premium cost (you pay the same NALC Health Benefit Plan High Option premium)	 Unlimited physical, occupational and speech therapy visits
 \$900 per year (\$75 monthly) Medicare Part B premium reduction for eligible members	 Continued access to your doctors (see any doctor who is eligible to receive Medicare payment and accepts the NALC High Option Plan — Aetna Medicare Advantage). Call the Aetna Retiree Solutions service center at 866-241-0262 (TTY: 711) for assistance
 \$0 deductible and coinsurance for medical care (you have this with your existing coverage if you are enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B)	 Additional programs, like the SilverSneakers® fitness program, Healthy Home Visits, a non-emergency transportation program and home-delivered meals after discharge from an inpatient hospital stay, all at no extra cost
 Prescription drug coverage as low as \$0	
 New dental and vision coverage	

397254-07-01 (10/22) NALCHBP.org/Annuitant

Nalcaster Now Available Via Email

In order to compensate for service delays which have occasionally caused late delivery of your Nalcaster, I am making PDF copies available via email to anyone that requests it. Simply let me know your desire for me to email it to you, and the email address where you wish to receive it. Your paper copy will continue to be mailed as always. In addition, Nalcasters will be posted on the Branch website, www.nalc258.com.

Pamela Heyman, MS, LPC

EAP District Consultant

Tel (610) 688-2180

pheyman@ndbh.com

1-800-EAP4YOU (1-800-327-4968)

TTY: 1-877-492-7341

www.EAP4YOU.com

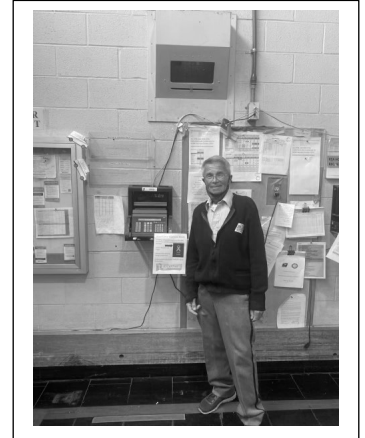
You can call the EAP or go to the website 24 hours a day for information and help.

About Our Members



Congratulations to...

Branch 258 would like to congratulate Mike Mengel on his recent retirement, and Branch President Fred Ranalli on his election to the office of NALC PA State Association Vice President. Journeys end, journeys continue, and new journeys begin. All the Best!



The following carriers have completed years on the seniority list* since the publication date of our last newsletter:

Roger Heckman – 38 years; David Dry – 37 years; Paul Purcell – 34 years; Lawrence Bendetti – 29 years; Richard McDonough – 28 years; Wayne Miller – 28 years; Daniel Gresoi – 28 years; David Vega – 24 years; Paul Kanigowski – 24 years; Richard Kennedy – 24 years; Brenda Conrad – 24 years; Thomas Krick, Jr. – 24 years; Robin Smith – 21 years; Hector Lozada – 18 years; Michael Albitz – 16 years; Bradley Snyder – 15 years; Terry Stahl – 10 years; Randill Deasis – 9 years; Mark Cornish – 8 years; Alexander Manrodt – 8 years; Douglas Garipoli – 8 years; Stephen Grande – 7 years; Gary Brendle – 7 years; Chelsea Berger – 7 years; Jessica Miller – 6 years; Joshua Baez-Vargas – 6 years; Rachael Biondo – 5 years; Jessica Iezzi – 4 years; Jaime Gofus – 4 years; Geoffrey Maniaci – 3 years; Patrick Almodovar – 3 years; Ohn Jackson – 3 years; Robert Fletcher – 2 years; Zakary Yakaitis – 1 year; Ernst Joseph – 1 year; Jade Paris – 1 year; Johh Pfost – 1 year

*list is taken directly from the Reading installation seniority report, and reflects time since entered into full time carrier appointment in the Reading area, and from lists supplied to me of carrier seniority in Branch 258 AO's; it does not reflect time before transferring or before career carrier appointment; any errors that of inclusion or omission can be given to the editor at any time and will gladly be corrected

NALC-BRANCH 258
NALCASTER
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TIME VALUE-PLEASE DO NOT DELAY



The NALCASTER is a publication of, by, and for the members of Pagoda Branch #258, NALC, Reading, PA. The opinions expressed herein, may but do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or Branch #258. All contributions are welcome. Members of NALC may use any items in this newsletter, just inform your readers of the source.



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