

NALCASTER

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

Pagoda Branch 258

READING, PA.

February 13th, 2019



let it
SNOW



**N.A.L.C. PAGODA BRANCH 258
READING PA OFFICERS 2015**

Officers	Name	Telephone
President	Fred Ranalli, Jr	610-678-2512
Vice President	Rich McDonough	484-955-4267
Treasurer	Michele Schaeffer	610-916-1324
Secretary	Paul Purcell	610-451-0244
Trustees:	Jason Taylor	570-617-1124
	Dominic Tumminello	610-775-4263
	Dave Dry	484-797-7906
Health Plan Rep.	Bill Lodek	610-914-1253
AFL-CIO	Sharon Unger	610-921-0394
Sergeant at Arms	Ed Gensemer	484-638-3067
NALCaster editors	Bradley Snyder	717-405-0124
Director of Archives	Andy Gelsinger	610-378-0417

Shop Stewards

Stations	Steward	Telephone	
19601-11	Paul Purcell	610-451-0244	19602-
	Jason Taylor	570-617-1124	
19604-05	Juan Munoz	610-373-8201	
19606	Jess Iezzi	610-914-4614	19607
	Mark Swarmer	610-856-1662	
19608-09	Dj Mauger	610-451-0244	
19610	Dave Dry	484-797-7906	
19508	Rich McDonough	484-955-4267	
19518	Rich McDonough	484-955-4267	
19526	Judy Snitzer	570-573-2689	
19522	Steve Fenstermacher	484-201-0193	
19530	Tim Fisher	610-207-0204	
19540	Jessica Mountz	610-914-9843	
19551	Rich McDounough	484-955-0917	
19555	Robert Oswald	610-451-5114	
19560	Rich McDonough	484-955-0917	
19565	Rich McDonough	484-955-0917	
19567	Robert Clark	610-589-1469	

Committees

Step A designee Jason Taylor 570-617-1124

Associate Off. Grievance Chmn Rich McDonough

Labor Management Team

	Fred Ranalli Jr.	610-678-2512
	Rich McDonough	484-955-4267
Food Drive	Tammy Jones	610-960-7498
Legislative	Ed Gensemer	484 638-3067
Workman's Comp Rep	Bill Lodek	610-914-1253
MDA	Jason Taylor	570-617-1124
CCA Rep	Rich Miller	610-568-8902
Director of Retirees	Jerome Kerns	484-256-4906

**UNION OFFICE 1251 N. Front St.
PO Box 12584 Reading, Pa 19603**



MOVING?

Let us know... before you go!

name _____

Old address

New address

telephone #

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. you may use any items in this newsletter, just inform your readers of the source.

N.A.L.C

HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN

SERVICE LINES

General Claims Inquiries 1888 636 6252
Hospital Pre-certification (required) 1800 622 6252
Prerecorded Benefits Information 1888 636 6252
Prescription Customer Service Line 1800 933 6252



**KEEP
CALM
AND
YOU'RE
INVITED**

*Regular Monthly Meeting
NALC BRANCH 258
ON WEDNESDAY
@ 7:00*

February 13th
*1251 North Front St.
Reading, Pa 19601*

THE RETIREES' ROUTE

Hello retired brothers and sisters,
We've had some great turnouts at our breakfasts
these past months.

Around twenty retirees and five spouses have
been participating in the fellowship.

We've had discussions on doing some day trips
and summer outings.

A few suggestions were Sight and Sound,
Harrisburg Farm Show, Philly flower show,
New York City and Atlantic City.

Summer outings include a picnic,
miniature golf and bowling.

More information on these will come in the
future, if you are not receiving
my e-mails and would like to, give me a call
or Fred and I will add you.

If you do not do emails I can call you to keep
you updated. We will be meeting

for breakfast the next two months at the

Breakfast Hut 4170 Perkiomen Ave
Reading, Pa 19606 (aside of Boscov's)
February 21st and March 21st. 9:00 am

Then in April we will go to **Dutchway
Family Restaurant** in Myerstown April 18th.
9:00 am

Stay warm and keep all our brothers and
sisters in your prayers.

In solidarity,
Jerome

**Health insurance- check
car insurance- check
life insurance- check
Job Insurance???**

**If your not in the letter carrier
political fund, you should be!**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. Hopefully 2019 will be better than the last. We are slowly making headway on cleaning up our grievance backlog. NBA Dave Napadano and Eastern Area Labor representative Mike Kulikowski came to Reading and we had a meeting to discuss the backlog; and, put a plan in place to have the issues heard. Article 15 (Dispute Resolution Process) training was given to stewards and supervisors by Mike and Dave. They will be returning in the near future to help get our labor/management meetings back on track. One thing I have learned over the years is that you cannot make the grievance procedure personal. It's about business. We have agreed upon rules, and if they are broken, disputes arise. Then the stewards file grievances. When employees do things that violate postal rules, management hands out discipline. That process gives us a chance for us to educate all parties as to what the rules are and why they are put in place.

I am happy to report that a great number of the issues have been resolved in the union's favor. Carriers are allowed to have drinks; and, they do not need permission to use the restrooms. Cell phones must be readily available in case an emergency occurs. It's 2019, I cannot fathom why we would need to have the Dispute Resolution Team settle these issues but that is just an example of where local postal management has headed. Numbers and tainted projections rule the roost. Common sense has been replaced by bullying and division. Management blames the union. The union blames management. Communication and trust are non-existent. When this happens everyone loses. Even the little tasks seem difficult to get accomplished. Production suffers, Sick Leave increases and we all become adversaries to what our mission is for the USPS. We all look for reasons not to work together and communicate. Funny we are in the communication business and we fail to talk to each other to work out our differences. I have found these times the most difficult. Hopefully we can start to move forward from here.

I want to thank everyone who wrote statements and has supported others. Management's improper rules placed hardship on many of you. It took a while to achieve positive decisions from the DRT. We even had retired carriers writing statements to refute management's misguided behavior. It proves that if we stay united we will be able to stop any mistreatment to any of our brothers and sisters. I am proud of you.

I also want to thank the shop stewards for their dedication though these troubling times. They volunteer to represent all of us. Stewards put themselves in management's crosshairs with little compensation other than the satisfaction of helping others. They spend time away from their families to learn the contract so that they are educated to represent people that may not be able to fight for themselves. All of them have had to put in hours off the clock; and, they have dealt with the stress of this backlog for too long.

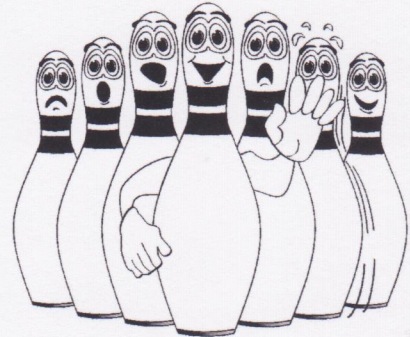
I am in awe of their work; and, I am so thankful for our stewards, our board members, and all of our members that attend our monthly meetings. I wish more members would get involved, come to our meetings, read our contract, and educate themselves. All of our national officers were letter carriers just like yourselves. My experience has led me to know that our National officers have our best interests in mind. Representing letter carriers best interests are always in the forefront of their decisions and leadership.

Recently, people have said to me that there are national issues more important than their jobs. I don't know how issues like a wall, immigration, and other issues that have our country divided, would mean more than providing food and shelter to our family. What could be more important than having a job to support my family? Tonight on TV news I watched long time government workers standing in food lines. It brought back my memories seeing Americans in the 1930's doing the very same. How would someone think that is funny or right for our country? Many union brothers and sisters have suffered through many struggles to achieve the benefits and protection letter carriers have today. Our union is non- partisan. The NALC supports any one or any organization that supports our best interest. We support Republicans and Democrats. We support all American workers. With every presidential election, our union canvases all the candidates with our issues. Some choose not to respond. Why would our members think that a politician who fails to respond to our issues could be the best candidate to vote for? How could someone who ignores the concerns of hundreds of thousands of letter carriers have their best interest in mind? Somewhere along the way, politicians in America, have convinced a good number of working class people, that unions are the problem. Government workers, teachers, police officers, civil servants and letter carriers make too much money. They believe that their retirement plans are entitlements. Funny how these professions are represented by unions. These politicians preach that unions drive up taxes and fight for people who are lazy and are overpaid. Their real agenda is to weaken and destroy all unions. In turn, instead of non-union workers fighting to get equal benefits as union members, they elect people who want to weaken unions. I am thankful for the NALC. I know they have fought for me, for you, and every letter carrier. I count my blessings every day for the carriers who went before me and represented me. Elections, just as everything else, have consequences. Please educate yourself before you vote. All active and retired carriers depend on your vote to support our issues. It is so easy to sit back and take care of yourself, let everyone else suffer the struggles, and hope for the best. Personally, I chose to get involved, get educated, and help as many of you as I can by fighting for every worker's rights. I hope this will inspire more of you to do the same.

Sincerely,

Fred Ranalli

Branch 258 Bowl-A-Thon for MDA



Enjoy a fun filled afternoon with friends, family and co-workers all while supporting a great cause!!!

When: Sunday, March 10th

Where: Berks Lanes

(3190 Shillington Road, Sinking Spring, PA 19608)

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$20.00 per adult

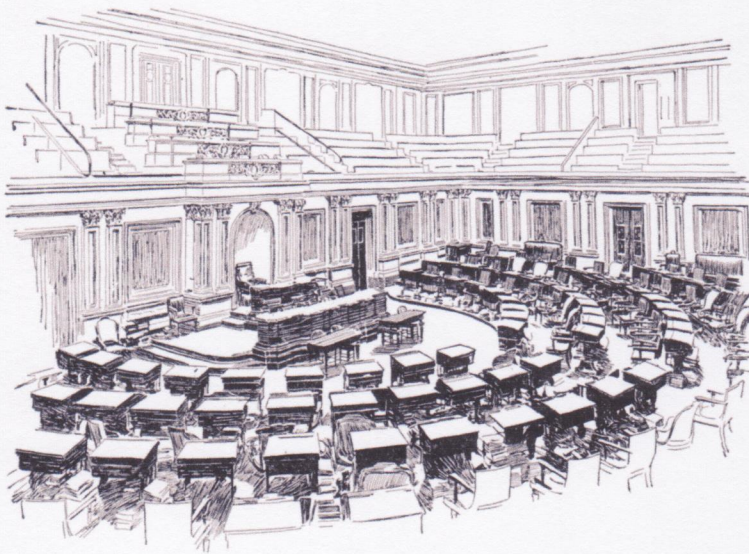
\$10.00 per child (10 & under)

Includes 2 games of bowling, shoe rental, pizza and soda

There will be door prizes, a silent auction along with a 50/50 drawing. All proceeds going to MDA.

MDA[®]

Fighting Muscle Disease



On January 3rd, 2019, in Washington D.C., the 116th Congress was sworn in. 64 of the new members are Democrats, 60 in the House, 4 in the Senate. 36 of the new members were Republican, 30 in the House, 6 in the Senate. 40 of the new members are women, 36 in the House, 4 in the Senate. 60 of the new members are men, 55 in the House and 5 in the Senate. At least 25 of the new members elected to the House this cycle are Hispanic, Native American and people of color. All of the newly elected senators are white.

Locally, we have two new representatives in District 6 and 9. District 6, is newly elected Chrissy Houlahan and District 9 is newly elected Daniel Meuser. Unsure who represents you and in what district you live in, find out at GovTrack.us. You can also go under Government Affairs under the NALC website or their own website and read more about Houlahan and Meuser and their views.

The House Resolutions to pay attention to that affect our jobs are:

H. Res. 54 - 6 day delivery

H. Res. 28 - door to door delivery for residential and business customers

H. Res. 33 - keeping the Post Office independent and NO Privatization

Consider contacting the representative in your district and ask them to cosponsor the above House Resolutions. Let your voice be heard and tell them your concerns and how it will affect you personally. Educate yourself, friends, family and coworkers on what's going on in Congress. We need to continue to fight together and support each other and make a difference. We are Branch 258 and we are UNION STRONG!!

Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much.

~9090

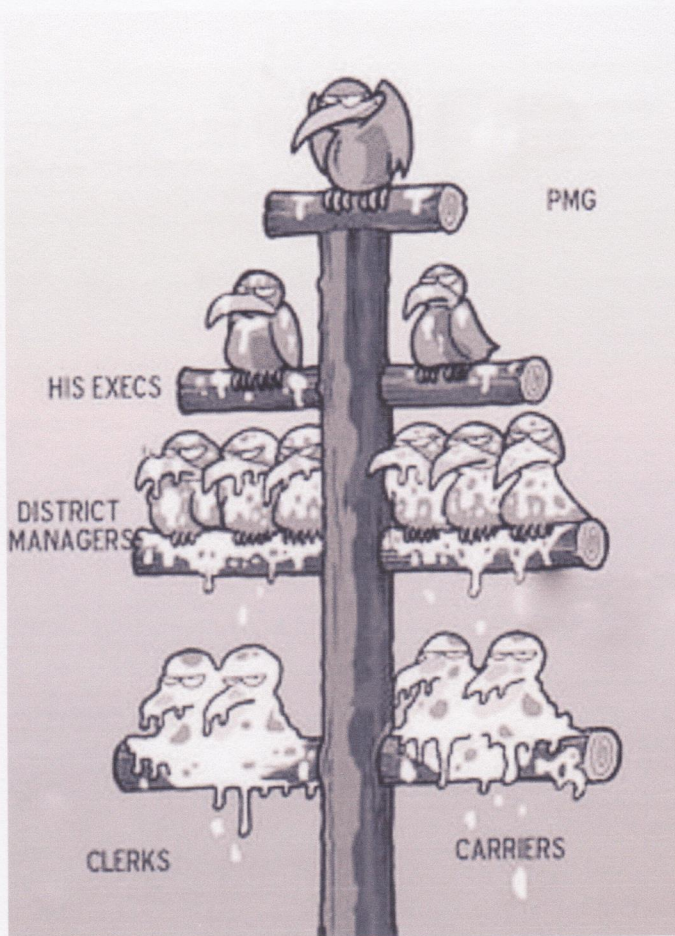
Your Role In Your Union

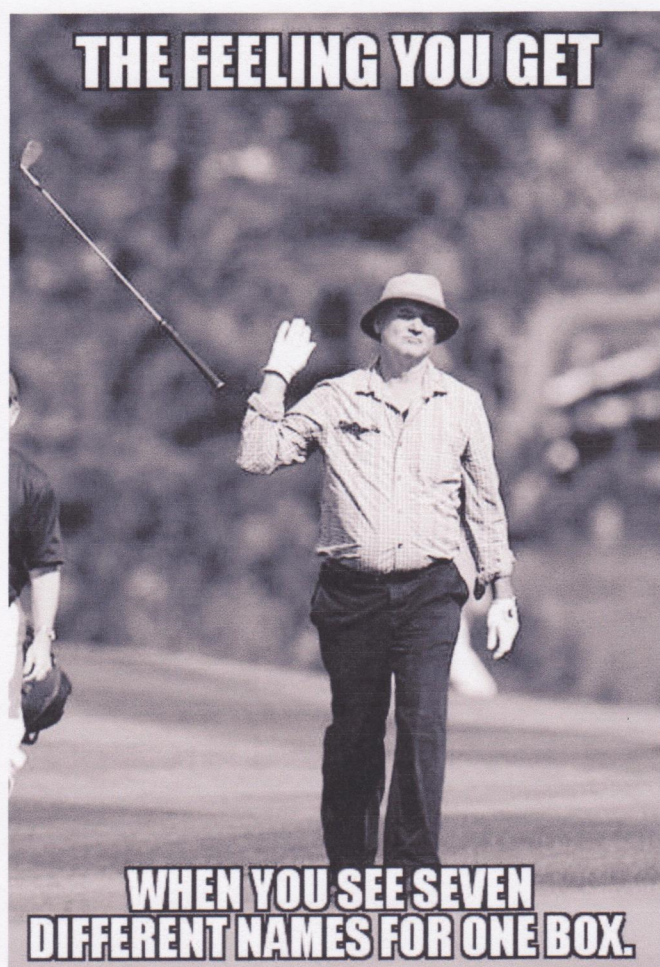
The decision you have to make, as an individual represented by a union, is really no different from your obligations as a member of society. You can choose not to keep informed about union issues and not to participate in the daily life of the union. Then, just as with what happens in the larger society, you can gripe about who's running the union and the decisions they make. But, there is an alternative, of course: since your union is nothing more than a collection of individual members, you can choose to become involved, and in so doing shape what your union is and what it does.

So, if you want to "own" your union and to share is the members' responsibility of running it, what can you do?

- Educate Yourself
- Be a set of "Eyes and Ears"
- Show Solidarity
- Be a Union Emissary
- Get Involved

The union is you and your co-workers; you have it within your power to make your union an even-more-effective fighter for workplace rights and justice





Upcoming events

~ MDA Bowl a Thon on Sunday, March 10th, 1 to 3 p.m. at Berks Lane.

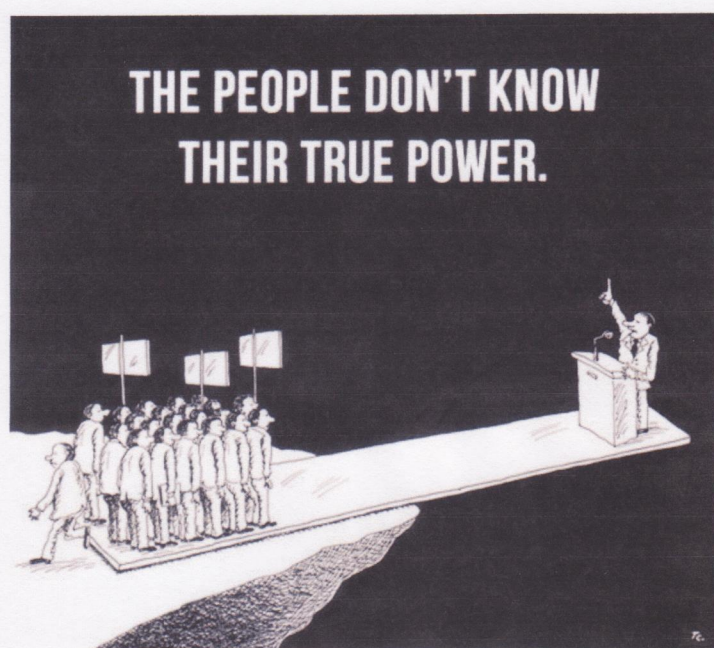
~ NALC Food Drive, Saturday, May 11th. We are excited to announce that we have a bag sponsor this year, Vision Credit Union.

~ MDA Fun Day, Sunday, June 10th. This is replacing the Beer Fest that we usually have in the fall. Details to follow soon.

~ Look for upcoming sandwich sales to benefit the Beck and Bear scholarship fund.

Anyone looking to get more involved, or is interested in help planning or organizing upcoming events please see your shop steward to get ahold of the appropriate person. We are always looking for new ideas and additional volunteers.

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.”



Safety Happenings

We head into the new year and I wanted to talk about something we normally do not think about during the winter months, the use of sun screen. I know you are thinking what is he talking about , but I was recently told anyone who works outdoors should be using sunscreen all year round, not just in the warm weather. Winter actually *increases* your need for sunscreen because the rays reflect off of the snow, it might surprise you to know that UV rays dont discriminate against cloudy,chilly, or rainy days as well.

The latest stats show one in five Americans are expected to develop skin cancer in their lifetime, a distrubing fact and considering how many hours we work outside its very important to make sure we take the proper steps to ensure to protect ourselves, even when the sun doesn't actually feel like it's beating down on you. You deserve all the self-care in the world, and luckily, sunscreen is one of the cheapest skincare products out there.

According to the American Academy of Dermatology(AAD), sunscreen is imperative every single day if you're spending time outside. The AAD says that most people only apply 25 to 50 percent of the recommended amount of sunscreen, and recommends applying sunscreen 15 minutes before going outdoors and reapplying approximately every two hours. It is also recommended using a sunscreen with an SPF of at least 30, which blocks 97 percent of the sun's UVB rays. Sunscreen comes in many forms, lotions, sprays, and roll ons find one that you like and use it everyday.

Skin Cancer and Early Detection

Its never too late to start safe sun practices, in addition to wearing sunscreen wear sun glasses, a hat and sun-protective clothing especially during the sun intense hours between 10 AM-4 PM.

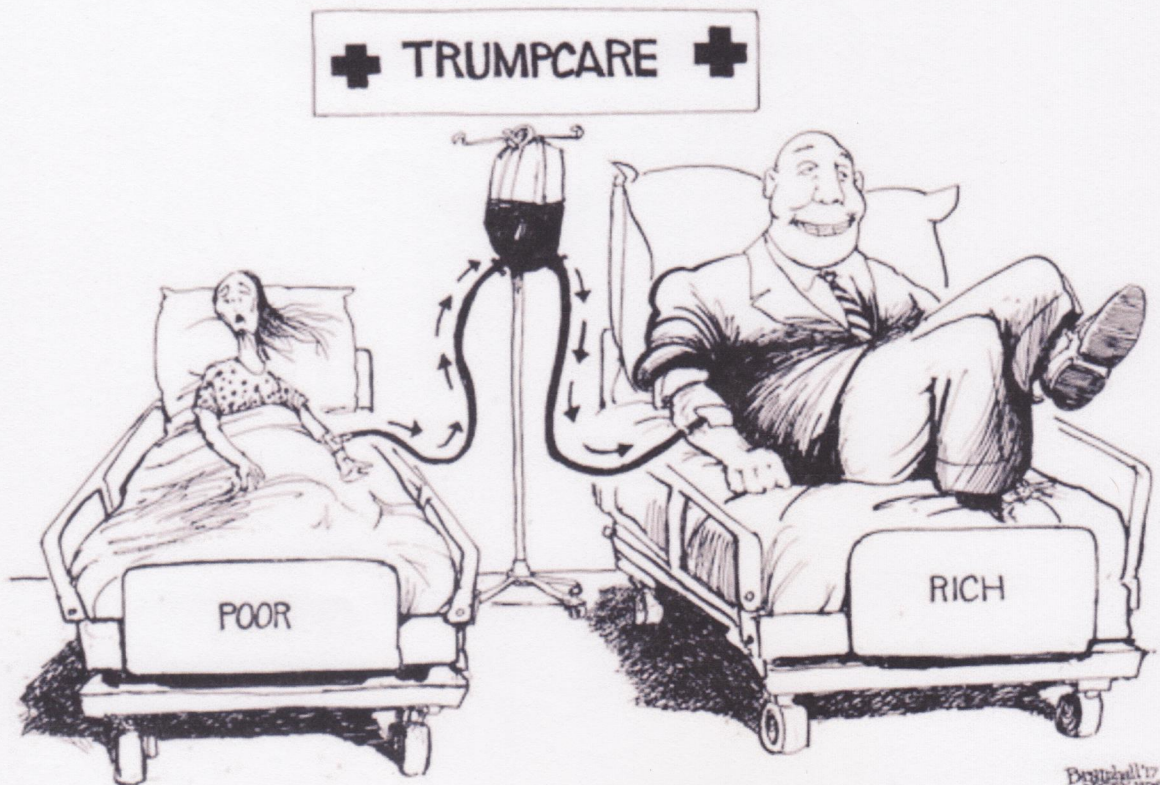
Spotting skin abnormalities early is crucial in fighting skin cancer, do a self check on your body once a month and if you see an abnormality contact a doctor for a full exam.

Be Safe; ~Paul Purcell

USPS expands Wounded Warriors Leave

USPS recently updated the Wound Warriors Leave policy effective January 5, 2019. Eligible military veterans will be credited with 104 hours of Wounded Warriors Leave **each leave year** going forward. This is a significant improvement over the previous policy which provided this benefit as a one-time occurrence only.

The Postal Service released an updated Management Instruction EL-510-2019-2 (M-01901) setting forth policy guidelines and standard procedures for administering this category of leave. This new instruction replaces Management Instruction EL-510-2016-8 (M-01881). [Click here for latest copy of the management instruction outlining the policy guidelines](#) established for the administration of Wounded Warriors Leave, and [click here for PS Form 5980](#). These documents can also be found on the [Military Veterans](#), [Contract Administration Unit](#) and [City Delivery](#) pages. For more information on Wounded Warriors Leave see [Vice President Lew Drass' article](#) or [Contract Talk](#) in the December 2018 issue of *The Postal Record*.



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