

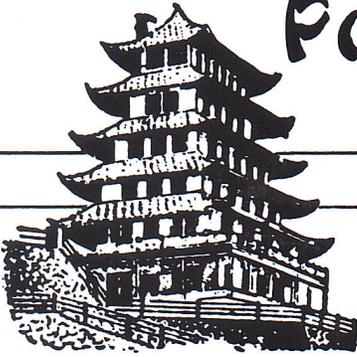
# NALCASTER

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

## Pagoda Branch 258

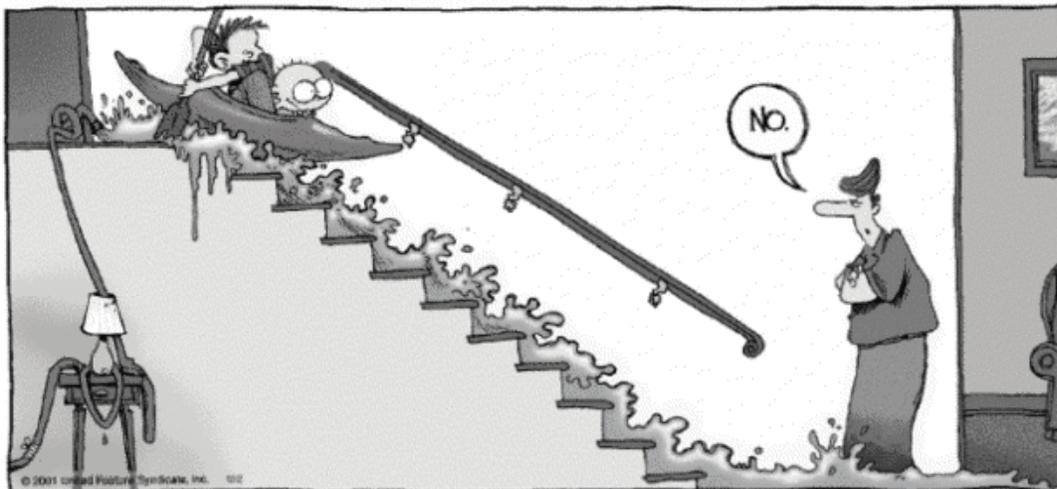
READING, PA.

August 10, 2016



### THE BUCKETS

BY SCOTT STANTIS & GREG CRAVENS



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

| Officers       | Name                                     | Telephone           |
|----------------|--|---------------------|
| President      | <u>Fred Ranalli, Jr</u>                  | <u>610-678-2512</u> |
| Vice President | <u>Rich McDonough</u>                    | <u>484-955-4267</u> |
| Treasurer      | <u>Michele Schaeffer</u>                 | <u>610-916-1324</u> |
| Secretary      | <u>Paul Purcell</u>                      | <u>610-451-0244</u> |
| Trustees:      | <u>Jason Taylor</u>                      | <u>570-617-1124</u> |
|                | <u>Dominic Tumminello</u>                | <u>610-775-4263</u> |
|                | <u>Dave Dry</u>                          | <u>484-797-7906</u> |
|                | <u>Health Plan Rep. Bill Lodek</u>       | <u>610-678-9031</u> |
|                | <u>AFL-CIO Sharon Unger</u>              | <u>610-921-0394</u> |
|                | <u>Sergeant at Arms Ed Gensemer</u>      | <u>484-638-3067</u> |
|                | <u>NALCaster editors Bradley Snyder</u>  | <u>717-405-0124</u> |
|                | <u>Director of Archives Andy Gelsing</u> | <u>610-378-0417</u> |

Shop Stewards

| Stations        | Steward                    | Telephone           |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| <u>19601-11</u> | <u>Jason Taylor</u>        | <u>570-617-1124</u> |
| <u>19602-06</u> | <u>Aaron O'Brien</u>       | <u>484-955-0917</u> |
| <u>19604-05</u> | <u>Juan Munoz</u>          | <u>610-373-8201</u> |
| <u>19607</u>    | <u>Mark Swarmer</u>        | <u>610-856-1662</u> |
| <u>19608-09</u> | <u>Paul Purcell</u>        | <u>610-451-0244</u> |
| <u>19610</u>    | <u>Dave Dry</u>            | <u>484-797-7906</u> |
| <u>19508</u>    | <u>Rich McDonough</u>      | <u>484-955-4267</u> |
| <u>19518</u>    | <u>Harry Enright</u>       | <u>610-385-9078</u> |
| <u>19526</u>    | <u>Judy Snitzer</u>        | <u>570-573-2689</u> |
| <u>19522</u>    | <u>Steve Fenstermacher</u> | <u>484-201-0193</u> |
| <u>19530</u>    | <u>Tim Fisher</u>          | <u>610-207-0204</u> |
| <u>19540</u>    | <u>Rich McDonough</u>      | <u>484-955-0917</u> |
| <u>19551</u>    | <u>Rich McDounough</u>     | <u>484-955-0917</u> |
| <u>19555</u>    | <u>Robert Oswald</u>       | <u>610-451-5114</u> |
| <u>19560</u>    | <u>Bea Shurr</u>           | <u>610-926-3279</u> |
| <u>19565</u>    | <u>Rich McDonough</u>      | <u>484-955-0917</u> |
| <u>19567</u>    | <u>Robert Clark</u>        | <u>610-589-1469</u> |

Committees

|                                      |                         |                     |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| <u>Step A designee</u>               | <u>Rich McDonough</u>   | <u>484 955 4267</u> |
| <u>Associate Off. Grievance Chmn</u> | <u>Rich McDonough</u>   |                     |
| <u>Labor Management Team</u>         |                         |                     |
|                                      | <u>Fred Ranalli Jr.</u> | <u>610-678-2512</u> |
|                                      | <u>Rich McDonough</u>   | <u>484-955-4267</u> |
| <u>Food Drive</u>                    | <u>Paul Purcell</u>     | <u>610-451-0244</u> |
| <u>Legislative</u>                   | <u>Ed Gensemer</u>      | <u>484 638-3067</u> |
| <u>Workman's Comp Rep</u>            | <u>Bill Lodek</u>       | <u>610-678-9031</u> |
| <u>MDA</u>                           | <u>Jason Taylor</u>     | <u>570-617-1124</u> |
| <u>CCA Rep</u>                       | <u>Rich Miller</u>      | <u>610-568-8902</u> |
| <u>Director of Retirees</u>          | <u>Dale Conrad</u>      | <u>610-944-9072</u> |

# LABOR UNIONS:

**THE FOLKS WHO BROUGHT YOU THE WEEKEND.  
CHILD LABOR LAWS, OVERTIME,  
MINIMUM WAGE, INJURY PROTECTION,  
WORKMENS COMPENSATION INSURANCE,  
PENSION SECURITY, RIGHT TO ORGANIZE . .ETC.**

## 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*

*August 10th*

*At our new location!  
1251 North Front St.  
Reading, Pa 19601*

**CHECK OUT OUR WEB PAGE  
@ [NALC258.COM](http://NALC258.COM)**

**OR FIND MORE INFO @  
NALC.ORG**

*IF you aren't falling down a  
lot, you aren't trying hard  
enough!*

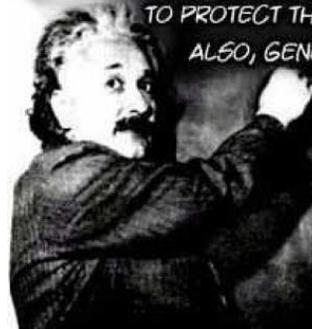
*"It's not the mountain we  
conquer, but ourselves."*

Edmond Hillary



**EINSTEIN WAS SMART ENOUGH  
TO JOIN A UNION...ARE YOU?**

*"I CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT, INDEED URGENTLY NECESSARY  
FOR INTELLECTUAL WORKERS TO GET TOGETHER, BOTH  
TO PROTECT THEIR OWN ECONOMIC STATUS AND  
ALSO, GENERALLY SPEAKING, TO SECURE  
THEIR INFLUENCE IN THE  
POLITICAL FIELD."*



**Albert Einstein**  
charter member AFT Local 552  
Princeton University, comments  
in 1938 on why he joined union

# President's Message,

As I sit down to write this message, I asked myself what I need to share with the members of our branch. Hit teams watching every move everyone makes comes to the forefront. So here we go.

Locally, the stress level seems to have been reduced by our new acting Postmaster Keith Krempa. He has stated he is here to straighten things out and to try to make Reading successful again. A few years ago, Reading was considered successful and we lead the district in many performance areas. Keith tells me that our performance is very bad and sometimes we are the worst in the whole Eastern Area. What has happened? The Reading plant was shut down, the annex and downtown carriers were moved out to the GMF, numerous employees have retired and a good number of supervisors have left Reading and have been replaced with inexperienced ones. We have had several OIC Postmasters placed here from out of town to run probably one of the most difficult cities in the Central Pa. District. Their inexperience with Reading and the complexities of our operation led to total chaos which still remains to the present. Management in Harrisburg has sent in numerous teams and hit squads to correct the problems. These teams and people have been parked here for more than a year and a half and Keith still states that we are using 30 hours more office time daily than we need. Their reports show Reading carriers at the GMF are using too much time to complete their office duties. Management has had many people here watching all of you daily. I would think someone could figure out or find something that might be causing this problem. They have moved the furniture more times than I care to remember and now have put it back to almost the original placement. They have taken our office breaks and moved them to the street. They have tried to intimidate carriers to work in an unsafe manner. They have scheduled improperly and forced non OTDL carriers for months on end that will finally be grieved and settled. They shut down our union for months by not providing time for our stewards to grieve all the violations. Months later time was given and the union has prevailed on 99% of the issues and carriers are made whole. Somehow this story is familiar. Every time new management comes in, they repeat the same violations. A few years back this same scenario took place and it cost the USPS hundreds of thousands of dollars and created the same Chaos. Thousands are being spent to have these people here and they have not come up with any real solutions. I have offered numerous times to work together with them to find a solution to why this so called excessive time usage continues. They are stuck on the carriers are just not doing what they are supposed to do. The excessive time amounts to about a half an hour per route. It is just too hard for me to believe that 70 carriers are wasting that much time all of a sudden. So where does that leave us.



They keep bringing in more and more Watchers trying to find any mistakes any carrier makes. They want to discipline as many of you as possible. Keith keeps telling me they are here to train the Reading supervisors. The only problem is some of them are 204B's from Lancaster, some have been kicked out of other places for their unacceptable behavior and none of them care one bit about Reading or you. Some have been caught lying or trying to make a name for themselves by dishonestly attacking carriers. We will have none of it. If any of these people treat you inappropriately contact us right away. Incorrect volumes, incorrect credit for what you do and improper clock punching could have a big impact on this time being used. If any member has any suggestions to why our numbers are inflated please let us know.

Enough of the negative talk. On the positive, our contract is still being worked on at the National level making me feel a contract might be worked out instead of arbitration. It's always better to work the problems out ourselves then have someone from the outside make decisions for us. We will let you know as soon as any information comes out. The election process is moving along and registered voters will select a new president along with a few Senate and House of Representative seats up for grab. Make sure you are registered and get out and vote. There is so much hoopla about the presidential race, please don't forget about the other congressional races. Congress is where all the bills originate and have a great impact on the USPS and its employees. We have been successful fighting harmful legislation recently and would not want that to change. All I will say is educate yourself and vote for candidates that support Letter Carrier issues. Your job should be one of your main priorities when making these decisions. Without the good paying job and benefits we enjoy the other issues might not seem so important.

Stay safe, hydrate yourself, use your seatbelts and united we will prevail.

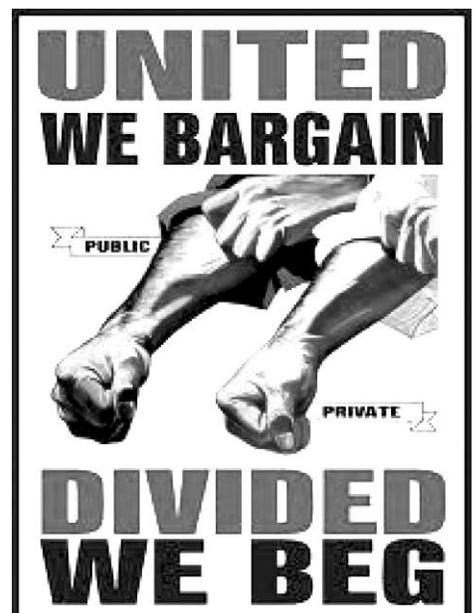
Fraternally,

Fred Ranalli Jr.

## Making a Deal with the Devil



*Understand what you're getting into.*



# THE WILLIAM BECK & ROBERT BEAR SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Local 258 National Association of Letter Carriers has established two scholarship awards, \$300.00 each, payable for students attending a college, university or trade school.

**Term of Award:** Each scholarship shall be awarded for one academic year and will not be renewed.

The intent of this award is to help a son or daughter of a member of Local 258 NALC with a trade school or college education.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Eligibility is to a son or daughter of any DUES-paying member that is in good standing in Local 258 NALC.

Applying students must have graduated from high school in 2016.

All applicants are required to be freshman or first year student.

All applicants are required to have a letter of acceptance from the college or trade school that they plan on attending.

## **METHOD OF SELECTION**

Applications will be reviewed, then put into a drawing box and selected by pulling a name from the drawing box at the union meeting of Local 258 NALC during the October 2016 union meeting. The selected winners will be notified by mail.

We will pick an alternate if the first one picked does not meet all of the qualifications.

The Local 258 NALC Scholarship Awards will be presented at the union meeting.

The Beck and Baer Scholarship Award Committee must receive your completed application by October 5<sup>th</sup> 2016. Please mail to:

**William Beck & Robert Bear Scholarship Award Committee  
NALC BRANCH 258  
P.O. Box 12584  
Reading, PA 19612**

## **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I am the son/daughter of active/retired member of Local 258 Reading, PA.

Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of NALC Parent:

\_\_\_\_\_

# SAFETY

Lately it seems we have a new flavor of the week that management, or the visiting teams from district, chooses to look at whether it be the street or office times, how our parcels are distributed or the furniture is moved 5 or 6 times in the past 2 months. One thing that is not a flavor of the day, week or month is safety, we must work safely everyday that is not an option! In the past week we had teams made up of management people from offices throughout the Central PA District doing street observations on carriers in just about every installation in the district. Accidents are climbing at an alarming rate and this has the attention of the district manager. He wants answers as to why these accidents are happening.

Most of the accidents are hitting stationary objects while we are driving. There could be several reasons for these types of accidents such as not aware of our clearances, or distracted driving (i.e. cell phone usage while driving, fingering mail while driving). Some may think CCAs are having the majority of the accidents which is true but we also have senior carriers having accidents, it's not just one group of employees. During these safety observations management found different safety violations such as carriers not wearing seat belts properly, driving with truck doors open or driving with headphones. Again, it's just not CCAs being caught for safety violations it's carriers with various amounts of service years. When management notices these violations then we can definitely count on observations taking place weekly if not daily.

Recently all region 12 branches received an email from our NBA, Bill Lucini, stressing the importance for carriers to be working in a safe manner including safe driving practices. Brothers Lucini, Napadano and Thompson will back up every carrier in this branch for any reason but they stressed safety issues are becoming harder to defend, especially for safety violations which should not be happening. So far this year the Eastern Area has had over 25 roll away/runaways with postal vehicles and these are the type of accidents which in no way should be happening.

As a reminder, I am going to go over some of the postal safety policies in place. It's my recommendation that you review each postal safety policy. If you are currently not following them I would suggest you start getting in the habit of doing them, daily.

## **Securing our vehicles:**

There are 5 steps we must do to secure our vehicles:  
Curb our wheels, engage the emergency brake, place the vehicle in park, remove the key from the ignition and lock our doors. If you follow these steps there is no way you can have a roll away/runaway accident.

## **Seat belt Usage:**

The lap belt and shoulder belt must be worn whenever the vehicle is in motion. The only exception is when doing curb line delivery, the shoulder strap can be removed but the lap belt must still be worn. However, once you cross an intersection the shoulder belt must be securely in place and worn with the lap belt.

### **Driving with doors open:**

When you are operating a vehicle on delivery routes and traveling in intervals of 500 feet (1/10 mile) or less at speeds no greater than 15 miles per hour between delivery stops, you may leave the door on the driver's side open. However, you must close the door when traveling through intersections. There really isn't any benefit to drive with your door open when doing mounted delivery. If you are doing mounted delivery driving the door should remain closed because the door works as a barrier in case a dog would charge you. The door also acts as a barrier in the event you would have a collision on the driver side of the truck.

### **Carrying Mail satchels:**

The mail satchel must be carried at all times except when doing dismount deliveries of 3 or less stops. When doing dismount deliveries you should have your dog spray on you at all times.

Safety is about making choices. We make choices everyday on what we do whether it be at home, work or driving. So, think about what you do and ask yourself, is what I am doing or about to do, SAFE? If you are unsure it's safe then the odds are it is unsafe.

The new OIC is the Co-Chair on the Central Penna. NALC/USPS Joint Safety Task Force, which I am part of, and he is making safety a priority here in Reading. We have started up the Reading Safety Captain program again and the first thing on the list will be implementing a hazard abatement program. The abatement program will start at Reading Station and will work it's way throughout the rest of the installation. The goal is to get rid of hazards on the routes that we deal with everyday. The safety captains will also be working on route maps, descriptions and developing safety talks. We are also working on a safety contest to be rolled in a couple of months.

Safety is everyone's responsibility and for the safety captain program to succeed we need everyone to get involved. If you have suggestions, concerns or questions please see myself, the OIC or one of the safety captains. The safety captains are: Jim Frank, Steve Nelson, Brad Snyder, Corky Steiger, Juan Munoz.

Also, just some late summer safety tips. We are still in the thick of the summer heat so please make sure you are taking precautions for the summer weather.

-Drink plenty of water throughout the day, stay away from sodas, or other caffeine based drinks.

-Utilize shade to stay cool. When possible, use shaded areas to stay out of direct sunlight.

-Know the signs of heat stress. You should understand what heat stress is, and how it can affect your

health and safety.

-Finally, it's important to notify your supervisor or call 911 if you're experiencing signs of heat-related illnesses.

Additionally, be careful when severe weather hits. If severe weather hits such as lightning or hail do not continue delivering. Find cover (NOT under a tree) until the **storm passes**.

For more safety information or tips, check out Brother Peralta's page the NALC website (Nalc.org)

**Be safe out there!! Paul Purcell**

# MDA MUSCLE walk

**Make a Muscle, Make a Difference!**

**When: Sunday, September 25th, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**Where: Cedar Beach Park, Allentown, PA 18104**

- All MDA Muscle Walk participants who accumulate more than \$100 in donations will receive an event T-shirt upon arrival to the Muscle Walk.
- Anyone who isn't interested in walking, but is interested in making a donation, may contact their shop steward and sponsor a Muscle Walk participant.
- Funds raised through the Muscle Walk help MDA invest in research to find treatments and cures, support families with resources, support services like clinics, support groups and summer camps, and rally communities like ours to fight back through education, advocacy and local programs.

**To find out more information about participating in the MDA Muscle Walk, contact Jason Taylor at 570-617-1124.**



## Legislative Updates

### House appropriations subcommittee advances bill with six-day mail provision

May 26, 2016

On May 25, the House Committee on Appropriations' Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) passed [an appropriations measure for Fiscal Year 2017](#). Of particular note to letter carriers is the committee's decision to uphold the long-standing tradition of recognizing the importance of continuing six-day mail delivery by including language in the bill stating that "6-day and rural delivery of mail shall continue at not less than the 1983 level," and that "none of the funds provided in this Act shall be used to consolidate or close small rural and other small postal offices."

Last year, when the full Appropriations Committee considered [similar budget legislation](#), lawmakers also included amendments to restore service standards to pre-July 2012 levels. It's unclear whether the same efforts will take place when the full committee considers the measure in the coming weeks.

"[Just two years ago](#), we were fighting tooth and nail to get this language included in an appropriations bill," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "This legislation reflects a shifting Congress that is no longer dedicated to slashing service standards.

"It's increasingly clear that, with new leadership in Congress and at the Postal Service, there is no longer a 'shrink to survive' philosophy," Rolando said. "Letter carriers must harness this momentum to promote [our coalition's consensus proposals](#) in any comprehensive postal reform legislation currently being considered in the House."

The FSGG appropriations package also includes an increased salary budget for the Postal Regulatory Commission—\$16.2 million—to cover the costs of PRC's staff increase ahead of its rate-setting review next year. This reflects a \$1 million increase over FY 2016 levels and \$1.5 million under President Obama's request of \$17.7 million.

Besides the Postal Service, FSGG has jurisdiction over agencies such as the Internal Revenue Service, the Treasury Department, the Office of Management and Budget, the General Services Administration, the Judiciary, the Small Businesses Administration, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the District of Columbia. This broad jurisdiction can often fuel partisan funding battles.

Traditionally, the appropriations process is kicked off with a guiding budget resolution that serves as a blueprint for the 12 individual appropriations measures considered each fiscal year. This year, however, House Republicans were unable to pass such a guiding resolution, opting instead to move forward without providing each subcommittee with individualized spending caps that would allow the subcommittees to determine their spending priorities. This strategy has created difficulties and tension as the appropriations process advances. FSGG's legislation calls for \$21.7 billion in funding, reflecting a \$1.5 billion decrease below the FY 2016 funding level and \$2.7 billion below the President Obama's budget request.

Official notice of nominations for branch officers will be held at the NALC Branch 258 monthly meeting to be held on Wednesday, October 12, 2016 @ 7:30 PM at the Steel Workers Hall 1251 N. Front Street Reading, Pa 19601

Nominations will be held for the following positions for a 2(two) year term:

President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Health Plan Rep, Labor Council Rep, Sargent at Arms, Director of Retirees, Director of Archive (webmaster)

Nominations for the following position for a 3 (three) year term:

Trustee

Any member in good standing is eligible to be nominated, but must be in attendance at the October meeting or must have a letter of nomination acceptance turned into the Branch Secretary prior to the nominations taking place.

## **RETIREES CORNER**

Retiree's Breakfast,

On the Third Thursday of every month, retiree's gather for breakfast and share stories and brotherhood and sisterhood. Wives, husbands and significant others are always welcome. Join us on August 18<sup>th</sup>, September 15<sup>th</sup> and October 20<sup>th</sup> at the Boscov's East Garden Restaurant at 9:00 AM. Call



NALC-BRANCH 258  
NALCASTER  
PO BOX 12584  
READING, PA 19612-2584  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
TIME VALUE-PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

## **EAP**

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