

# NALCASTER

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

## Pagoda Branch 258

READING, PA.

August 12, 2020

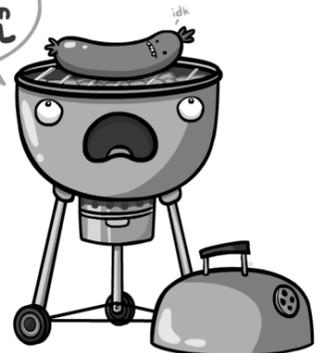


### Look Whats Inside

- Presidents message
- useful safety info
- food drive info
- beat the heat tips
- fido fightin'

**MONTHLY  
MEETING  
CANCELLED**

DAWG  
why you gotta  
be all up in  
my GRILL





**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.

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

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



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

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

<b>Officers</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
President	Fred Ranalli, Jr	610-678-2512

Vice President	Rich McDonough	484-955-4267
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Treasurer	Jason Taylor	570-617-1124
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Secretary	Paul Purcell	610-451-0244
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**Trustees:**

Tammy Jones		610-960-7498
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Dominic Tumminello		610-775-4263
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Dave Dry		484-797-7906
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HBR MBA OWCP	Bill Lodek	610-914-1253
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AFL-CIO	Sharon Unger	610-921-0394
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Sergeant at Arms	Ed Gensemer	484-638-3067
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NALCaster editor	Andy Gelsinger	610-378-0417
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Director of Archives	Andy Gelsinger	610-378-0417
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**Committees**

Step A designee	Jason Taylor	570-617-1124
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Associate Off. Grievance Chmn	Rich McDonough	
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**Labor Management Team**

Fred Ranalli Jr.		610-678-2512
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Rich McDonough		484-955-4267
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Food Drive	Tammy Jones	610-960-7498
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Legislative	Ed Gensemer	484 638-3067
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HBR-MBA-OWCP	Bill Lodek	610-914-1253
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MDA	Jason Taylor	570-617-1124
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CCA Rep	Juan Munoz	610-373-8201
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Director of Retirees	Jerome Kerns	484-256-4906
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**Shop Stewards**

<b>Stations</b>	<b>Steward</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
19601	Darryl Shaak	484-219-7034

19604-05	Juan Munoz	610-373-8201
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19606-02	Jess Iezzi	610-914-4614
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19607	Mark Swarmer	610-856-1662
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19608-09	Paul Purcell	610-451-0244
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19610-11	Dave Dry	484-797-7906
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19508	Rich McDonough	484-955-4267
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19518	Rich McDonough	484-955-4267
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19526	Judy Snitzer	570-573-2689
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19522	Steve Fenstermacher	484-201-0193
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19530	Tim Fisher	610-207-0204
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19540	Jessica Mountz	610-914-9843
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19551	Rich McDonough	484-955-4267
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19555	Robert Oswald	610-451-5114
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19560	Terry Stefansky	610-781-3221
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19565	Kim Brunner	610-763-1674
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19567	Robert Clark	610-589-1469
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**Colleen Gensemer, MA, LPC**

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

**TTY: 1-877-493-7341**

**[www.EAP4YOU.com](http://www.EAP4YOU.com)**

Moving soon?

**let your steward**

**know!** send the

branch an email...

or mail in your new

address to

PO Box 12584



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Everyone,

I hope this finds all of you healthy. Where do I start? So many changes. We have a new President appointed PMG. Starting times have been moved later. Management is dictating leaving times, Curtailing 1<sup>st</sup> class, 2<sup>nd</sup> class, packages and all other mail. Routes are left to sit and not delivered. Overtime carriers are left at home while non OTDL carriers are being forced every day. Outgoing mail left to lay for another day. Reading Station selected to be a test site with no casing mail in the morning and returning to case the delayed mail for the next day. All retail windows closed for 1 hour every day. Sound familiar. What effect will these changes have on our business? Who with any knowledge of postal business would implement these changes? Too many questions to ask with unknown answers. These policies are nationwide. Top postal executives deny knowing anything about these changes. It was the first time they heard or saw anything about it. A lot of denying by the people in charge. Sound familiar.

In the standup talk given to employees, postal management warned against employees feeling they were untouchable. They reference US Steel and GM. I feel this is a direct threat to the postal unions and you. If any of you still think this administration cares anything about your employer or you, better think again. Your job and livelihood are in real jeopardy. Every past and current employee better pay attention here. Everything you have worked and fought for may be gone if we keep blindly following this path.

I have been on many telecoms and our National NALC officers are working tirelessly to save the USPS. Employees are being disciplined for speaking to customers and posting things on social media about the current changes. National has asked we do not talk to anyone or post anything dealing with these changes. They are working hard to correct these policies and will keep us informed when we need to take action. The USPS and its employees are always the top rated trusted government agency with scores in the 90 percentile. These cutbacks will only destroy our customer's faith in our business. We all need the USPS to be financially sound. America needs the USPS. Imagine your most vulnerable customers (Elderly, Medically Challenged, Poor) with no national postal service. How will they receive their medications and the other services we provide them? Already with the present changes, customers are asking carriers for medication that are days late.

This administration from the beginning has put forth that they are not interested in helping the USPS and that the president would veto any bills that included funding for the USPS. Fed EX and UPS were included and received funding in the first package passed. The House of Representatives passed The Heroes Act. In this bill the USPS will receive \$25 billion funding. We now are waiting for the senate to move on this legislation. We can only hope that our funding remains in this bill if it moves on to the President. At that point we will all find out where he really stands about the USPS. There is speculation he truly wants the USPS to fail because of the Vote by Mail

process. I do not need to remind all of you the long fight we have waged against powers to be to privatize our business. Prefunding, service cuts and plant closures to name a few. We have fought off all of these and still have support of our customers. With these new cuts in service how long will that remain?

Enough Already. I am extremely disappointed that management has again returned to forcing non OTDL carriers to work while carriers on the list are not worked. There is no logic with this clear violation to our National Agreement. The new PMG writes about reducing and eliminating overtime. It's not happening with these changes. Forcing employees who prefer not to work are being forced to work and employees who want to work sit at home. How does that eliminate overtime? The union now is forced to file grievances which result in costly work hours. The grievance process and violation payouts costs the USPS financially. A few years ago they had to pay out hundreds of thousands of dollar just in our district for this same violation. What disturbs me most is their disregard for their most valuable resource, you who are their employee. How do many of you shuffle your family obligations when you continually are facing changes to your expected schedule. How are parents supposed to fulfill their duties to their children when working from 8 AM till 8:30 PM day after day? You are faced with hard decisions when these thing happen. I pray we can stop this insanity soon.

On top of all of this, Carriers are putting themselves and their families at risk by working while Covid 19 numbers rise. You are also out in 90 plus degree temperatures. We have had several carriers suffer heat related injuries. Please don't put yourself at risk. Drink plenty of fluids all day and every day. Read the signs of heat related illnesses. If you experience any symptoms, take them seriously. Take a break, find somewhere to cool off and drink fluids. If you continue to feel bad seek help. Please don't ignore the signs. Things can get bad really quickly. Please remember while management might have expectations, your health is always the most important factor when performing your duties. Please see your steward or give any of us a call if you are given a hard time about protecting yourself. If you don't care about yourself no one else will. If you experience heat related symptoms please let any steward or board member know right away. We are asked to reports these illnesses to our business agent.

At times like these we must remain united. Currently with our country so divided dealing with numerous pandemic, social and political issues we must remember we are all letter carriers. Together we have faced many obstacles and have always survived and have come out on top by putting our differences aside and focusing on our common goals. We are the face of the USPS. We give our customers the best service management allows us to give. We look out for one another when someone is in need. I ask all of you to take care of each other. Stay united. We shall prevail.

Sincerely,

Fred A. Ranalli Jr.

## Update on the Food Drive

As many of you know the NALC Annual Food Drive was cancelled in May due to Covid19. National felt in everyone's best interest it be postponed till they find it's safe to have. In the mean time, they came up with Donor Drive in a way to help Food Banks across the United States. As many of you are aware, all our donations went to Helping Harvest in Sinking Spring.

A way for our members, family and friends to help with the Donor Drive is so easy.

1. Log on to <http://nalc.org/food>
2. Select your state.
3. Choose Helping Harvest.
4. Make a contribution!

It's that easy!!

When donating to Helping Harvest, please make a notation either "Stamp out Hunger" or "NALC Food Drive" so it can be tracked by National. For every dollar donated, National will match it.

Thank you for your continued support.

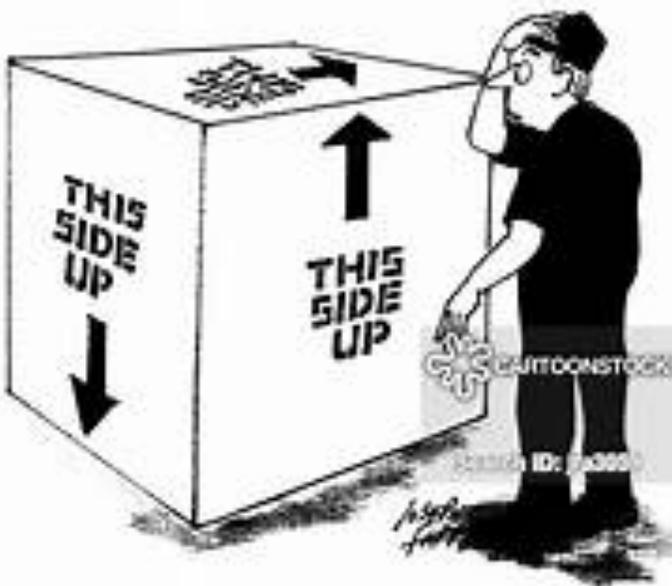


# Dog Bite Prevention

## Dog Bite Facts:

- Each year, more than 4.5 million people in the U.S. are bitten by dogs.
- Almost 1 in 5 people bitten by dogs/foxes require medical attention.
- Every year, more than 800,000 Americans receive medical attention for dog bites; at least half of them are children.
- Children are, by far, the most common victims of dog bites and are far more likely to be severely injured.
- Most dog bites affecting young children occur during everyday activities and while interacting with familiar dogs.
- Senior citizens are the second most common dog bite victims.

There are many things you can do to avoid dog bites, ranging from **properly training and socializing your pet** to **educating your children** and yourself about how - or whether - to approach a dog. Information and education are the best solutions for this public health crisis.



The best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something. Don't wait for good things to happen to you. If you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill the world with hope, you will fill yourself with hope.

*Barrack Obama*

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

# **VISIONS**

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1800-327-4968**

**[www.EAP4YOU.COM](http://www.EAP4YOU.COM)**



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610-678-2512 Home/Fax  
610-914-8436 Cell**

**BONUSES FOR FULL ALLOWANCE**







