

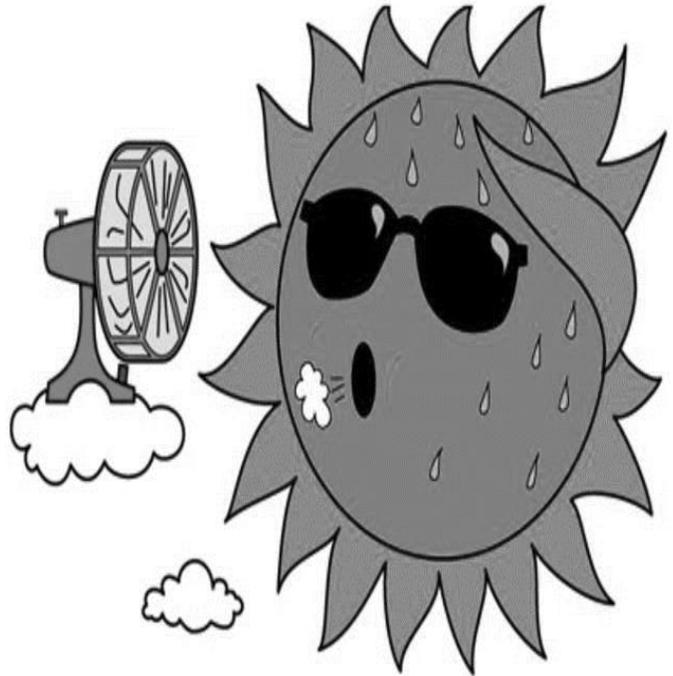
# NALCASTER

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

## Pagoda Branch 258

READING, PA.

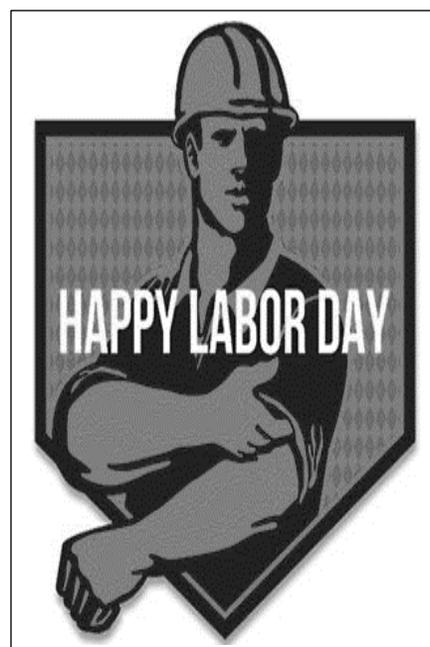
August 11, 2021



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**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	Bill Lodek	610-914-1253
AFL-CIO	Sharon Unger	610-921-0394
Sergeant at Arms	Ed Gensemer	484-638-3067
NALCaster Editor	Andy Gelsing	610-378-0417
Director of Archives	Andy Gelsing	610-378-0417



**SHOP STEWARDS**

<u>Zone</u>	<u>Steward</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
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19604-05	Juan Munoz	610-373-8201
19606-02	Jess Iezzi	610-914-4614
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	Rich McDonough	484-955-4267
19555	Robert Oswald	610-451-5114
19560	Terry Stefansky	610-781-3221
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MDA	Jason Taylor	570-617-1124
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**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](http://www.nalc258.com)  
 Join our NALC Branch 258 Facebook page

Many thanks to Jerome Kern, Sharon Unger, Breakthrough Visuals.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.

## Letter from the Editor

I want to begin my letter for this issue by welcoming people to our Branch publication. During the first few months of my stewardship as editor of the Nalcaster, I received feedback from several members that they were either not getting their copy or that their newsletter was going to a former address. As I conducted a careful review of the mailing list, I realized that this problem was far more widespread than I first guessed. So I embarked on a major overhaul of the mailing list by updating new addresses, adding addresses for people who were relatively new, restoring addresses for people who had disappeared from the list, and purging those who should not receive the newsletter anymore (deaths, resignations, transfers, etc). At this point, I'm happy to announce that the mailing list is up to date. Realizing that there is a degree of constant flux in the list, I am now in a position to make the little constant changes inherent to an organization where people are regularly being hired, moving, retiring, etc.



Also, if you or a Branch member you know are still not receiving your Nalcaster, or need to receive it at a different address, please let me know – I'd like to think that nothing was missed, but realize that it could have happened. Finally, I want to let everyone know that copies of back Nalcaster issues have been scanned into our Branch website at [NALC258.com](http://NALC258.com). Just hover over the "information hub" drop down menu and click on NALCaster, and you will find a list of back issues for

several years. Simply click on the issue you want to see in order to get caught up on information, events, or contributions. As always, you can contact me with any contributions, questions, or critiques that you might have (email or text message work best for me, but phone tag is fine too).

Andy Gelsinger, Nalcaster Editor

## Meetings Back On!

The easing of Covid restrictions and immunizations of many of our members has enabled us to hold our regular meetings in person. Therefore, we are happy to announce that we have resumed our regular schedule, and will meet on August 11 and September 8. Food will be



available at 7PM, and the meetings will start at 7:30. We want to thank our members for their patience and flexibility as we have been forced to endure cancelled meetings, changing locations, and zoom calls for these past many months. Given the current issue of long hours at the workplace, latecomers are expected and will be accommodated as well as possible. We have also returned to our traditional meeting location at 1251 Front St. Information is power!

Come out to stay informed, participate in the betterment of your job, and enjoy some good eats and fellowship!

## President's Message

I hope this message finds all of you happy and healthy. The past year and a half has been challenging in many ways. The pandemic, extreme weather, understaffing and the postal service's downsizing all have made life difficult. Through it all, we as letter carriers continue to make the best of the situation and serve our customers to the best of our abilities, as far as these situations have allowed. All across our nation, Americans have depended on 200,000 plus letter carriers to pick up and deliver their mail in some of the worst situations most of us have ever faced. You are all a true inspiration, a great example of doing your best in a bad situation. I applaud all of you. Thank you for doing your part to keep our country moving forward. You are America's true Heroes.

In the past few weeks, I have been privileged to participate in a few last-day ceremonies as some long time carriers retired. Gary Bucher and Bob McLean both retired in July and we all wish them a long, happy and healthy retirement. These celebrations have led me to think back on my own career as a letter carrier. Through my years, I have witnessed the best and worst of humanity. As a carrier, I have seen the joy of a grandmother seeing her grandson for the first time when she opened the packet of pictures that were sent from England by her daughter. I have seen children being born and many years later seeing themselves become parents. I have had the pleasure of meeting so many great and wonderful people. Some I worked with and some were my customers. I have always felt so lucky to be a letter carrier. My postal experience has made me a better person. A big part of that has come from my involvement with the NALC. It has been one of the best choices I have ever made.

In the early 1990's I took it upon myself to learn all about the route adjustment process in the M-39 handbook. That process taught me so much about the proper ways to be a better letter carrier. From there I got more involved with Branch 258. I have been a trustee, secretary, Vice-President and now for many years your President. I have been a shop steward, district safety team member, Formal A rep and a District joint route inspection team member. For the past few years I have also been the Pennsylvania NALC State Association Vice President. I never felt worthy enough to do any of these positions. Even now it's hard for me to see myself as a president of anything. My point is not to brag but to show all of you that if you get involved in our branch and the NALC there are great

rewards and many opportunities to be had. This is your branch and your union. Come to a meeting. Ask questions. If you see something you do not agree with, get involved, and educate yourself as to why it is done that way. Every member can be the start of a change with new ideas. Our union is run as a democracy. Every member has one vote. Make your vote count.

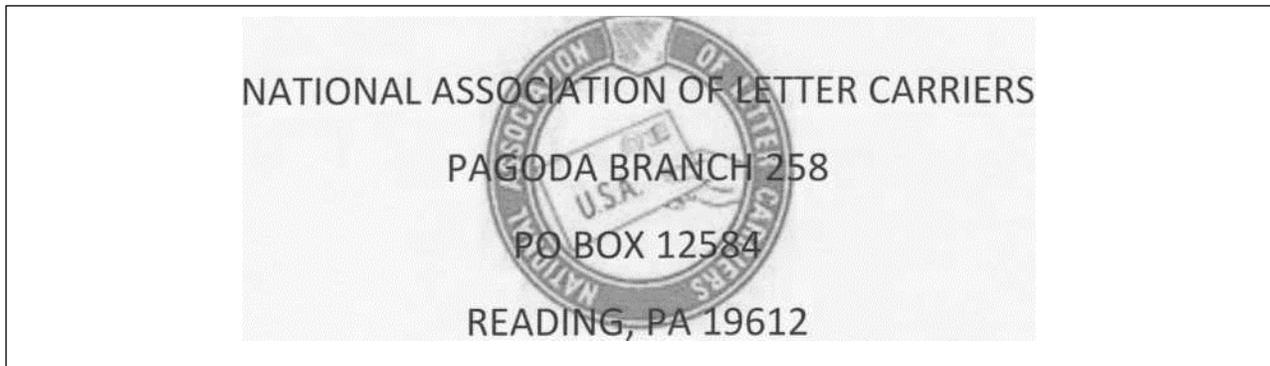
My union involvement has had so many rewards. The brotherhood and sisterhood has helped me in so many ways. Meeting other letter carriers from all over the country at union functions have inspired and helped me and other board members to serve all of you better. We are lucky to have so many talented members in the NALC. They come from all walks of life and have experienced many of the same postal life experiences as we all do. As members we sometimes do not see the big picture of what and how the union makes all our lives the best it can be. Every benefit, pay increase and joint work rule you have is because of the NALC. I have always lived by the saying 'knowledge is power'. If you educate yourself about letter carrier rules you will become a better letter carrier and will not be able to be bullied by an overzealous supervisor. I also try to live by the saying 'Do the Right Thing'. If we follow postal rules and make a decision to follow all safety and postal rules you always will be OK no matter what your supervisor says. I hope more of you make the choice to get more involved in our branch. There are many rewards and you will be able to help many fellow letter carriers. Our late president George Cook and I always referred to union work as "God's Work" - helping people who cannot stand up for themselves. Please get involved. I guarantee you won't regret it.

On another note, I urge all of you to continue to contact your congressional representatives and asked them to support HR 3076 and S1720 the postal reform legislation now in congress. As of today only 2 representative from PA have signed on to these bills. We all need to take this seriously and get these bills supported and passed in this Congress. Letters were sent to every one of you with instructions on how to easily do this. Please take action. If you are reading this, please take action now and every day. I am so proud of all of you. Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,  
Fred A. Ranalli Jr.

Our project to compile a master email and best phone list of the membership is ongoing. To add your information, please contact Andy Gelsing at 610-413-8158 (text) or [slice710@aol.com](mailto:slice710@aol.com) (email), Ed Gensemer at [caddy1217@aol.com](mailto: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 to the branch.

The following is reprinted from a mailing that went out to our membership last month. Included are letters from Branch President Fred Ranalli, NALC State Association President Paul Rozzi, and information on how to use the NALC app and website to contact your Congressional representatives. While we have mentioned on several occasions during the past few months how important it is to use the unique political opportunity which is at hand right now, we feel that the degree of importance in helping to make this happen cannot be overstated.



Brothers and Sisters,

6/28/2021

Fellow Branch 258 member, State President Paul Rozzi and I both write you to urge you to do what is needed at this time. What each of us, needs to do, is take 5 minutes a day and contact our Congress persons. This pressure on our congressional leaders is crucial to pass legislation that will stabilize the Postal Service and allow much needed reforms to take hold and make our careers better into the future. The friends we have in Congress right now on both sides of the aisle along with the best legislation which addresses all of our issues, is actually in reach.

Thankfully, our new contract was negotiated and ratified. Let's not jeopardize all the hard work done by our national officers, through no action from members. I am calling on all Branch 258 members to go to the NALC APP, or to [nalc.org](http://nalc.org), EVERY DAY and, TAKE ACTION. The directions on how to do so are included with the two letters, I sent each of you. (Call me if directions are not clear).

I cannot stress enough how important this is to our future, but as PA State President, Paul Rozzi states in his letter, if the political balance

changes in the next Congressional elections — we could lose our opportunity for postal reform. This is not about a political party; we have members in our branch who belong to each of them. This is about us and the stabilization of the Post Office for active and retired letter carriers.

As Branch President and fellow union member, I urge each member to please TAKE ACTION every day with me, to secure our union jobs for us and our families.

Sincerely,

Fred A. Ranalli Jr., President  
Branch 258, NALC

6/28/2021

#### A Call to Action

I tend to be an optimist and I remain optimistic about the possibilities the future could hold for letter carriers and the Postal Service. There are many positives to support that point of view. The key word however is could. Current circumstances present our best opportunity to attain meaningful, lasting postal reforms. That being said, there are also many reasons to be very concerned. Chief among them is the apathy of many of our members. The number of contacts made to Congress in support HR3076 and S 1720 to this point by PA letter carriers has been painfully small. WE should not expect others to stand up for us when we won't stand up for ourselves. This issue must stay our priority. Please use the NALC App and any other means to make these contacts. Don't let this opportunity slip away. Believe me, we cannot afford the consequences of failing to take action. By the end of the 117<sup>th</sup> congress the political winds may change making necessary reforms unattainable. That could spell disaster for us and for the postal service. Use the App multiple times every day. Get others to take action. Let congress know this our priority and let us make it their priority.

Paul Rozzi, President  
PA State Assoc Letter Carriers

## INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTACT YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS

ON THE *NALC APP* OR *NALC.ORG*

- *NALC.ORG*, HOME PAGE OR *GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS* TAB
- *NALC LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER*>>
- SCROLL TO THE BOTTOM AND LOGIN
  - FIRST NAME, LAST NAME, ZIP, LAST 4 DIGITS OF SSN
- UNDER *NALC* LOGO TAP THE THREE BARS OR IN RED BAR
  - TAP "*TAKE ACTION*"
- PASS THE POSTAL REFORM ACT OF 2021
  - FOLLOW THE PROMPTS TO SEND AN EMAIL TO YOUR REPRESENTATIVE AND SENATORS

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO CONTACT YOUR  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THIS IMPORTANT  
LEGISLATION



# USPS Employee COVID Update

As of the writing of this Nalcaster, the COVID related mask policy for employees has been changed. A copy of the new policy appears below:

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DOUG A. TULINO  
DEPUTY POSTMASTER GENERAL AND  
CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER



July 16, 2021

OFFICERS

SUBJECT: Revised Face Covering Policy

Our face covering policy is revised as follow as result of guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Effective immediately, all postal employees and contractors who have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 are not required to wear face coverings consistent with the guidance enumerated below.

In accordance with guidance from the CDC and OSHA, "fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance." According to the CDC and OSHA, people are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 two weeks or more after they have completed their final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in the United States. Supporting verification of COVID-19 vaccination status will not be required and should not be requested.

Employees who have not been fully vaccinated are required to wear face coverings in any situation in which they cannot achieve or maintain social distance—at least six feet and in public-facing settings where there is a state or local face covering order or directive in place.

This policy update has been shared with the leadership of our national unions and other stakeholders. Please ensure this update is immediately communicated to all managers, supervisors, and bargaining unit employees.

A stand-up talk and other material will be circulated in the near future for further reference.

Any questions regarding this policy should be directed to Joseph Bruce, Director, National Human Resources, at [Joseph.R.Bruce@USPS.gov](mailto:Joseph.R.Bruce@USPS.gov).

  
Doug A. Tulino

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WASHINGTON DC 20260-4000  
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## Pamela Heyman, MS, LPC

EAP District Consultant

Tel (610) 688-2180

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

TTY: 1-877-492-7341

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

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Best Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

# The Retirees Route

Hello to all of Branch 258 retiree's,

We are recovering from Covid and have started up the monthly breakfast gathering again. Every third Thursday of the month @ 9:00am. Our August breakfast will be @ Leesport Diner. We had requests to do a picnic again along with some other activities. I would like to have a planning committee for this, so if you are interested in being on the committee, please let me know.

Congratulations to all the new retirees that we've had over the last year and a half. I send out monthly emails to those who have given me their email address. It consists of the breakfast location and important news and events. If you would like to receive the emails, please contact me with your email address and I will add you to the list. Phone or text 484-256-4906.

In Solidarity,  
Jerome Kern  
Director of Retirees

## 32nd ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

### ■ Brothers, Sisters and Friends of Labor,

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual United Labor Council Golf Tournament is scheduled for Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the Manor Golf Club, 153 Bran Rd, Reading PA 19608. Shotgun start is at 1:30pm this year. Everyone starts and finishes at the same time. No long wait to eat and draw prizes. For \$80.00 per person, your registration includes greens fees, golf cart, food, drinks, door prizes and a chance to win Hole-in-One contests. Since this is a fundraiser for our all of our upcoming events, your support is especially needed. Prizes will be awarded at the end

We are limited to 22 foursomes so sign up early. Payment must accompany this request. Names are not necessary upon registration, but must be supplied at least two weeks prior to the tournament.

In addition to golfers, we also need door prize donations, as well as hole sponsors. If you are unable to compete in the tournament but still wish to support the Labor Council by donating prizes or sponsoring a hole, please return the enclosed form or contact the United Labor Council office at 610-374-2725.

Thank you in advance for participating in this important fundraiser. As you know, the costs associated with hosting our future events increase every year. We hope you'll agree that the benefits to the community are well worth it by joining us at Manor Golf Club on August 29<sup>th</sup>.

In solidarity,

Robert Hoffmaster, President  
United Labor Council

As this Nalcaster issue is published, the time will be growing late to get into this this event. Therefore, if you are interested in participating, please contact your shop steward or a board member immediately. The Branch has voted to sponsor a hole and a limited number of golfers for this event, and hopes that all participants enjoy their afternoon. Hit 'em straight!

# About Our Members



## Congrats to...

Branch 258 is proud to congratulate Bob McLean and Gary Bucher on their recent retirements after 37 and 47 years of carrying mail in the Reading area. Time to hang



up the bag for good and enjoy the permanent leave that you've earned!

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We also want to congratulate Nicolas Singleton, son of Branch 258 member Tim Singleton, for announcing his commitment to play college football at Penn State after his graduation from Governor Mifflin HS. Our best wishes go out to you as you enter your senior year and look beyond! We Are! Editors note – if you didn't already know that your Nalcaster editor is a PSU alum, you know now.



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

Roy Kline Jr, 38 years; Jon Steiger, 31 years; Christopher Feist, 27 years; Christian Kulpcavage, 27 years; Raymond Knoll, 27 years; Stephen Lightner, 27 years; George Kurowski, 24 years; John Watycha, 21 years; Sandra Betz, 21 years; Jose Velazquez, 17 years; Richard Power Jr, 17 years; Janice Ciesla, 14 years; Marlon Bowen, 14 years; Marcy Cirulli, 14 years; Shawn Paffhousen, 13 years; Thomas Sauer, 13 years; Allan Unger, 8 years; Katherine Nieves, 5 years; Carlos Ng Jr, 5 years; Jason White, 5 years; Stephanie Piccone 4 years; Darryl Shaak, 3 years; Thomas Birch, 3 years; Jair Ramirez, 3 years; William Landis, 2 years; Adia Staton, 2 years; Anthony Leonti, 2 years; Alejandro Cadena, 2 years; Brian Bradley, 2 years; Awilda Rodriguez, 2 years; Richard Grab, 2 years; Kevin Pham, 2 years; Wesley McCarthy, 2 years; Mykel Tucker, 2 years, and in CCA service time: Jahaira Paris, 2 years; Adrian Pun, 2 years; Donte Wilkins Sr, 1 year; Edwin Rosario, 1 year; Zakary Yakaitis, 1 year; Khalil Eaddy, 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, it does not reflect time before transferring or before career carrier appointment: carriers at AO's can be included on this list by forwarding a seniority list for that office to the editor

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READING, PA 19612-2584  
TIME VALUE-PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

**VISIONS**  
**FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**



Serving US Postal Service  
Over 55 Years!

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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