

*The Official Newsletter of
NJ Merged Branch 38, NALC*



THE SENTINEL

August 2019



President

by Mike O'Neill

It seems that we are busier than ever here at Branch 38, and we often forget to stop and thank the people who do the work to make this organization vibrant and successful. Branch 38 is truly a team effort, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank those responsible for making it go.

We recently went through another round of unilateral route inspections, and we are facing another round in the fall. We provide training for every office involved in route inspections off site and in the evening. Almost every class was conducted by Roy Jancio, and I thank him for his time and efforts. We also assign observers in each office during the week of inspection to review all of the forms and data, and to assist the carriers by answering all of their questions. They are Anthony Feliciano, Mike Hedglin, Pete Marchesani, Sergio Montoya, Ernie Rivera, Rory Starr, John Tollefsen, Amy Vega, and Joe Zammito. Thanks to their efforts we are able to minimize the damage created by these often rushed and poorly done route inspections, until we can get them fixed.

We held our annual Retiree Luncheon to honor the members who retired in 2018 and many fifty year gold card awardees. It is one of the most enjoyable events of the year, and I want to thank Ron Villegas and Mark McGrady for putting it together. It's important that we honor our retirees for all they have done for us, and Ron, Mark, and the entire staff do a great job organizing this event every year.

Preparing for retirement can be a confusing and difficult task. That's why we conduct two Retiree Training Seminars each year to help our members through the process. I want to thank Ron Villegas and Dan Szucs for developing and presenting this valuable program. The room is always full, and their dedication is very much appreciated.

We also offer Advanced Shop Steward Training several evenings throughout the year, and I want to thank all of the shop stewards who take time out of their schedules to attend and improve their knowledge and ability to represent our members. The job of a shop steward is very difficult, and I want to thank each of them for their efforts and dedication. They are the foundation on which our Union is built.

The Branch calendar is full of fund raising events for MDA, which is why Branch 38 was, once again, the leading money raiser for MDA in 2018. Our most recent event was the Day at the Races at Monmouth Park. Thanks go out to the committee of Armando Pedreira and Clint Colie, along with the entire staff, for running this very enjoyable event. Thanks also to everyone who attended this event, and to everyone who support our efforts in raising money to assist families battling this awful disease, and to aid in the search for a cure.

One of our most important programs is increasing our members' participation and support of the Letter Carrier Political Fund. Having the funds necessary to make our Representatives in Congress aware of our issues and to garnish their support is critical in defending our jobs and benefits. Without the support of Congress, our financial future is in constant jeopardy. The good news is that the number of Branch 38 members contributing to the LCPF has nearly tripled over the past two years. This is thanks in large part to Pete Bednarz, who has spear headed our efforts in this program. Thanks also to all of our officers and staff who organize the Station Meetings and encourage the participation of the carriers in their offices. Thanks mostly to all of the members who are aware of the importance of the Letter Carrier Political Fund and who contribute through payroll deduction or electronic transfer. I would ask all of our members to pitch in a few dollars a pay period in support of our efforts in Congress. As we always say, we don't need a lot from anyone, just a little from everyone.

NEW JERSEY MERGED BRANCH 38

National Association of Letter Carriers

**374 Morris Avenue
Springfield, NJ 07081**

**Phone
973-564-7244**

**e-mail
NALC38@VERIZON.NET**

**FAX
973-564-7673**

Branch Officers

Michael J.O'Neill	President
Dan Szucs	Executive Vice President
Joseph S. Rutkoski III	Treasurer
Mark McGrady	Director of City Delivery
Christine A. Strasser	Financial Secretary
Pete Bednarz	Full-Time Area Rep
Sergeant-At-Arms	Roy Jancio
Ron Villegas	Director of Retirees

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Joseph Otero	Armando Pedreira
	Dominic Walton

PART TIME AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Clint Colie	Roy Jancio
Joe Otero	Armando Pedreira
Dominic Walton	Joseph Zammito

NATIONAL BUSINESS AGENT

Larry Cirelli 212-868-0284

BRANCH 38 ATTORNEY

Donald Millman, Esq. 973-669-9776

MUTUAL BENEFIT REPRESENTATIVE

Tamara Humphrey 973-444-5128

DATES TO REMEMBER

BRANCH MEETINGS

September 4, 2019
October 2, 2019
November 6, 2019
December 4, 2019

SPECIAL EVENTS

NJSALC Convention
September 15-17, 2019

Retirement Training Seminar
October 6, 2019

Columbus Day Golf Outing for MDA
October 14, 2019

Advanced Shop Steward Training
October 16, 2019

Tough Mudder Challenge for MDA
October 20, 2019

Retiree Breakfast - Belleville
October 27, 2019

Beefsteak Dinner for MDA
November 9, 2019

**NJ Merged Branch 38
Web Site**

<http://www.branch38nalc.com/>

Protect Your Pay



Executive Vice President

by Dan Szucs

What is your responsibility when you wake up and feel that you cannot report to work or a family member needs medical attention? The language of the ELM (Employee and Labor Relation Manual) is the policy that must be followed in order for you to be paid properly. Section 513.332 reads as follows, "Unexpected Illness or Injury, An exception to the advance approval requirement is made for unexpected illness or injuries; however, in this situation the employee must notify appropriate postal authorities of his or her illness or injury and expected duration of the absence as soon as possible." This needs to be done by calling the ERMS system (1-877-477-3273) and request the appropriate leave that you need. Make sure that you DO NOT hang up the phone until you record the confirmation number. That number will be used if a grievance must be filed.

The two most commonly used sick leave requests are for your incapacitation or caring for a dependent. The language of the ELM is clear. Section 513.11- Sick Leave for Employee Incapacitation reads: "Sick leave insures employees against loss of pay if they are incapacitated for the performance of duties because of illness, injury, pregnancy and confinement, and medical (including dental or optical) examination or treatment." Section-513.12 Sick Leave for Dependent Care reads: "A limited amount of sick leave may also be used to provide for the medical needs of a family member. Bargaining unit employees, if provided in their national agreements (Article 10), are allowed to take up to 80 hours of their accrued sick leave per leave year to give care or otherwise attend to a family member as defined in 515.2(a), 515.2(b), and 515.2(c) with an illness, injury, or other condition that, if an employee had such a condition, would justify the use of sick leave."

What are you required to do when you return back to work? The ELM is very clear on this subject as well. Section 513.34, PS Form 3971, Request for or Notification of Absence. YOU, not management, are required to fill out the PS Form 3971. Section 513.341 provides: "Request for sick leave is made in writing, in duplicate, on PS Form 3971. If the absence is to care for a family member, this fact is to be noted in the Remarks section."

If management provides you with a computer generated PS Form 3971 upon your return, PLEASE read it over before you sign it. Management is providing carriers a PS Form 3971 with the box checked off as "other" under type of leave and AWOL typed in next to it, not sick leave. You will also see under the remarks section "NOT IOD (Injured On Duty), NOT FMLA-No Call Received". This is why you must fill out your own PS Form 3971. If management has a PS Form 3971 that has your signature on it with AWOL checked off, you will not be PAID! The ELM goes on to read "The supervisor is responsible for approving or disapproving requests for sick leave by signing PS Form 3971, a copy of which is given to the employee. If a supervisor does not approve a request for leave as submitted, the Disapproved block on the PS Form 3971 is checked and the reason(s) given in writing in the space provided."

If you are required to submit medical documentation, it is important that you understand the language of the ELM section 513.364 which reads: "When employees are required to submit medical documentation. The documentation should provide an explanation of the nature of the employee's illness or injury sufficient to indicate to management that the employee was (or will be) unable to perform his or her normal duties for the period of absence. Normally, medical statements such as "under my care" or "received treatment" ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE evidence of incapacitation to perform duties." If you have any questions contact your shop steward, area representative or call the branch office.

Charlie Connell Memorial Columbus Day Golf Outing

Monday, October 14, 2019

8:30 AM Shotgun Start

BUNKER HILL GOLF COURSE

GRIGGSTOWN, NJ

FEE - \$110 per Golfer

**Price Includes: Golf, Cart, Dinner, Beer, Soda, Hot
Dogs & Prizes**

Contact Chris Strasser at 973-564-7244 (Ext. 20)

Safety is Your Job



Director of City Delivery

by Mark McGrady

We now have at our fingertips the most advanced technology at any point in history. The Postal Service has real time scanners, MSP scans, satellite imagery, and we have our own cell phones. Simply put, the Postal Service knows where we are most of the time. Among all of the duties and responsibilities required of a letter carrier outline in the M-41 and M-39, perhaps the most important is to operate a Postal Vehicle and deliver the mail safely. This is certainly a complex and often stressful aspect of our job.

We are, at times, so consumed with all of the various duties and responsibilities we have as carriers, that we forget the single most important responsibility. That is to work in a safe manner. Distracted driving has become one of the most common causes of motor vehicle accidents, and it is something we must avoid at all times.

National studies have shown a serious spike in motor vehicle accidents caused by distracted drivers. Such distractions include

texting, talking on the cell phone, eating, drinking, and adjusting a GPS device or radio. During the period of 2010 thru 2014, the State of New Jersey reported 817,000 motor vehicle accidents in which distracted driving was a contributing factor. Nationwide there were 3,179 people killed as a direct result of distracted drivers.

One of the most alarming distractions while driving is the use of a handheld device. New Jersey State law prohibits the use of handheld devices while driving. This includes answering a phone call, reading a text message, or sending a text message or e-mails. As letter carriers, we are required to obey all New Jersey Motor Vehicle regulations. Postal Regulations also prohibit the use of headphones, ear buds and the use of blue tooth devices while operating a Postal Vehicle.

A first time offense has a penalty from \$200.00 to \$400.00. A second offense will cost you \$400.00 to \$600.00. A subsequent third offense carries a fine of \$600.00 to \$800.00, three motor vehicle points on your license, a possible 90 day suspension of driving privileges and court costs. The financial penalties are severe, but the pain and suffering that a person endures knowing that they killed or injured someone lasts a lifetime. The billboards on our state highways have some catch phrases, "Put it Down, Just Drive," "U Drive U Text U Pay," "Better unread than Dead."

Letter carriers must also adhere to these same safety practices while delivering the mail. Keep it safe, do not text while driving. Do not finger mail while driving. Do not stack parcels or mail too high on the front tray of the LLV, obstructing the view of the side mirrors. Do not text or use the cell phone while delivering the mail house to house. Avoid working out of the back of the truck, check your park points. Remember you are the single most important person when it comes to safety.

**Sign Up for the Letter
Carrier Political Fund
Now!!!**

Go to: <http://nalc.org/>

By making a contribution to the Letter Carrier Political fund, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your contribution is not a condition of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers or of employment by the Postal Service, nor is it part of union dues. You have a right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal. The Letter Carrier Political Fund will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office and undertake other political spending as permitted by law. Your selection shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled. Contributions to the Letter Carrier Political Fund are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the Letter Carrier Political Fund from soliciting contributions from individuals who are not NALC members, executive and administrative staff or their families. Any contribution received from such an individual will be refunded to that contributor. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.

Opting - Hold Downs



Treasurer

by Joseph Rutkoski

Article 41 of the National Agreement allows certain groups of letter carriers to opt on (hold-down) vacant duty assignments. Opts are also called "hold-downs." PTF's, CCA's, full-time reserve letter carriers, full-time flexible schedule letter carriers and unassigned full-time carriers have the right to hold down any full time assignment which is vacant for five days or more. The employee must submit a request in writing to their supervisor. An employee who has been awarded a hold down is entitled to work the days and hours of that assignment, for the duration of the vacancy. Management can only remove an employee on a hold down under limited circumstances, such as to provide sufficient work for full-time employees.

A CCA may be bumped in order to provide a part-time flexible employee (PTF) assigned to the same location with 40 hours of straight time work to which they are entitled under Article 7.1.C of the National Agreement.

Question 71 of the national parties' Joint Questions and Answers 2011 USPS/NALC National Agreement clarifies this situation.

Question 71. Can a CCA be taken off an opt (hold-down) in order to provide a part-time flexible employee assigned to the same work location with 40 hours of straight-time work over the course of a service week (Article 7, Section 1.C)?

Yes, a CCA may be "bumped" from an opt if necessary to provide 40 hours of straight-time work over the course of a service week to part-time flexible letter carriers assigned to the same work location. In this situation the opt is not terminated. Rather, the CCA is temporarily taken off the assignment as necessary on a day-to-day basis.

Another situation in which management may be proper to remove an employee off of their hold-down would be to provide sufficient work for full-time employees.

Part-time flexible employees and city carrier assistants may be "bumped" from their hold downs to provide sufficient work for full-time employees. Full-time employees are guaranteed forty hours of work per service week. Thus, they may be assigned work on routes held down by PTF or CCA employees if there is not sufficient work available for them on a particular day. In such situations, the part-time flexible or city carrier assistant employee's opt is not terminated. Rather, the employee is temporarily "bumped" on a day-to-day basis.

Bumping is still a last resort, as reflected in a Step 4 settlement (H1N-5D-C 7441, October 25, 1983, M00293), which provides that: A PTF or CCA, temporarily assigned to a route under Article 41, Section 2.B, shall work the duty assignment, unless there is no other eight-hour assignment available to which a full-time carrier could be assigned. A regular carrier may be required to work parts or "relays" of routes to make up a full-time assignment. Additionally, the route of the "hold-down" to which the PTF or city carrier assistant opted may be pivoted if there is insufficient work available to provide a full-time carrier with eight hours of work.

Another situation in which it may be proper for management to remove an employee off their hold down occurs if the Local Memorandum of Understanding (LMOU) allows the regular carrier on a route to "bump" the carrier technician to another route when the regular carrier is called in on a non-scheduled day to work on his/her own route.

On these occasions, the carrier technician is allowed to displace an employee who has opted on an assignment on the technician's string if none of the other routes on the string are available. In this instance a part-time flexible or city carrier assistant employee's opt is not terminated. Rather, he/she is temporarily "bumped" on a day-to-day basis.

Opting is an important right. It gives the employee the opportunity to work a more consistent schedule and allows them some choice over what work they will do. If management improperly removes a employee off a hold down it would be a violation of Article 41.2.B.4 of the National Agreement and a grievance should be filed. The appropriate remedy would be a "make whole" remedy in which the employee would be compensated up to the number of hours he or she would have worked on the hold down.

We have had problems in some offices where the POOMS are ordering CCA's to work in another installation. If a CCA is on a hold-down, this would be a violation. If your supervisor or Postmaster attempts to deny you of your right to Opt/Hold-Down a vacant duty assignment, or if you are improperly removed from a hold-down, let you Shop Steward and/or your Area Representative know immediately.

MDA Day at the Races

We would like to thank everyone who attended our recent MDA Day at the Races. We had a wonderful turnout and a good time was had by all. Most importantly, we were able to raise over \$3,500 for the families dealing with this terrible disease. Special thanks to our sponsors!

Thanks to Our 2019 Sponsors:

Millman & Millman Attorneys at Law

Lynch & Murray, CPA

The Chandelier Restaurant - Belleville

Marty Gras - Lyndhurst

Black Jack Mulligans Bar & Grill - Secaucus

Sons of the American Legion Squad 139

NALC Branch 42, Jersey City, NJ

NALC Branch 380, Trenton

NALC Branch 754, Cranford, NJ

NALC Branch 4102, Scotch Plains, NJ

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Trenton Printing

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NALC Branch 36, New York, NY

NALC Branch 99, Staten Island, NY

NALC Branch 444

NALC Branch 2189, Vally Stream, NY

NALC Branch 5420, Brick, NJ

NJ Merged Branch 38 ***Retiree Breakfast***

Sunday - October 27, 2019

On Sunday, October 27, 2019, at 9:00 AM, NJ Branch 38 will be holding our annual Retiree Breakfast. The Breakfast will be held at the Chandelier Restaurant located at 340 Franklin Ave, Belleville, NJ 07109. To reserve a spot, and to get directions, call Director of Retirees, Ron Villegas at 973-564-7244 (Ext. 21). All Branch 38 retirees are welcome to attend. There is no charge to retired members and a guest.

Invited guest speakers include NALC President Fred Rolando, NBA Larry Cirelli, RAA Bruce Didriksen, and NJSALC President Rich O'Connell. Several United States Congressional Representatives have also been invited. All NJ Merged Branch 38 officers and staff will be in attendance as well. This is an excellent opportunity for retirees to come together to exchange old stories, renew old friendships, and hear the latest news from Branch 38, NALC, and Washington affecting letter carriers and retirees.

Job Related Injuries



Financial Secretary

by Christine Strasser

From the moment we begin each tour, letter carriers are constantly on the move. The duties we perform daily, both in the office and on the street, involve repetitive movements such as: continuously standing, reaching, twisting, bending, lifting, climbing, and walking. Most letter carriers perform their daily activities without ever incurring a traumatic or occupational injury. Some letter carriers, unfortunately, are unable to avoid a job related injury, despite following all Postal Service safety related rules and regulations. If an injury happens to you, knowing the proper procedures to follow in order to have your claim approved by the Office of Workers Compensation (OWCP) is critical.

If you think you are injured on the job, the first step is to report the injury to a supervisor or manager immediately. A traumatic injury is an injury which happens in an instant or over a period of one work shift. The Postal Service must be able to investigate the location where the injury happened. Reporting where the injury occurred enables the Postal Service to gather valuable information, to see if there was negligence on the homeowner or business, and if any safety regulations were violated by the letter carrier.

If the injury requires medical attention, request to file a CA-1. Once the CA-1 is submitted, a CA-16 to authorize medical treatment must be provided. The Postal Service may send you to their doctor for an evaluation, along with a CA-17, Duty Status Report. You have the right, however, to be evaluated and treated by your own doctor. We strongly suggest that you do. Be sure your doctor accepts cases involving federal workers compensation. If not, contact our office and we will provide contact information for doctors who do.

Be aware, if you see a doctor provided by the Postal Service twice, that doctor will become your doctor of record. In order to change doctors at that point, you will need to write to the Department of Labor (DOL) for approval.

If you think you have suffered an occupational injury, an injury which developed over a period of more than one day, request to file a CA-2. There is no authorization for medical treatment involved when filing an occupational injury claim. The letter carrier completes the CA-2 and attaches a "rationalized" medical narrative from their doctor.

Regardless of a which injury claim form is filed. A few quick reminders:

- * Always complete the forms yourself. This may sound funny but if the forms are not completed in their entirety or honestly, the claim could be denied.
- * Always get a copy of the completed form from management. You are entitled to a copy. Begin a folder to keep all of the OWCP forms and DOL letters. This will be useful, if your claim is denied.
- * The supervisor or manager completes their section on either form. At that point, the Postal Service has ten days to notify OWCP of the injury.
- * OWCP will notify you if more information is required for your claim, and if the claim has been approved or denied.
- * The Postal Service could issue discipline if you are injured on the job. The discipline would only have merit, if the actions of the letter carrier violated Postal Service safety rules or regulations.

No carrier plans or expects to incur an injury at work, but accidents happen. If you are injured, notify your shop steward and your area representative as soon as possible. Both can help with obtaining the forms and guiding you through the procedures. As a union member, you have many resources available to you. It is important you utilize them when you are injured. Most letter carriers never encounter an on the job injury. It may be difficult to remember the procedures if you are injured, but familiarizing yourself with the proper procedures will help avoid further problem.

MDA FUND RAISERS

Tough Mudder Challenge

October 20, 2019

Contact Roy Jancio

973-564-7244 (Ext.24)

Beefsteak Dinner/Tricky Tray

November 9, 2019

Contact Armando Pedreira

973-564-7244 (Ext.19)

NALC Health Plan Benefits



**Full-Time
Area Rep**

by Pete Bednarz

If you are one of the many Branch 38 members who have the NALC Health Benefit Plan, you are eligible to receive a free Fitbit simply by filling out a Health Assessment on the NALCHBP webpage. A Fitbit is a wearable activity tracking device that monitors your steps (miles), calories burned, sleep patterns, and much more. Now you can finally know how many miles you walked on your route or pivot.

The Health Assessment takes about 10-15 minutes to fill out. Basically it is a health questionnaire that analyzes your health related responses and gives you a personalized plan to achieve your specific health goals. Your family covered members (18 years or older) are also eligible to complete the Health Assessment. Once you complete the Health Assessment, you may choose one of the three following options:

- CignaPlus Savings discount dental program.
- Waiver of two \$20 PPO medical office visit copayments. If two or more family covered members fill out the Health Assessment, there will be a waiver of four \$20 copays.
- Free Fitbit. (limit two devices per enrollment)

This article is written to show our branch members the different steps to take to complete the Health Assessment and take advantage of receiving a free Fitbit, or one of the other two options listed above.

First and foremost, you MUST to be a member of the NALC Health Benefit Plan. This past open season there have been over 160 new carriers, clerks and even

supervisors from Branch 38 who switched to the NALC Health plan. Also, the many CCAs that have been converted to career employees have opted to choose the NALC health plan over all the other FEHB plans available.

If you currently are not in the NALC Health Plan, take the time in Open Season to compare the health coverage and pricing of all the plans available. You will see that the NALC Health Plan (which is run by union members) offers quality service, excellent coverage, and affordable pricing compared to other health plans. Switching health plans may be one of the most important economic decisions you make. You and your family could be saving hundreds or thousands of dollars just in premiums alone.

Take the Health Assessment for a free Fitbit with the following steps:

- Go to the website Nalchbp.org
- On the front page go to Quicklinks
- Click on to Health Assessment
- The page will say Customer Login
- If you do not have a Username or Password, click on register and fill out all information
- Once you are registered, click on take my health assessment
- It will take 10-15 minutes to complete, when finished, pick the free Fitbit or one of the other choices. You are done
- The Fitbit will arrive in the mail within two weeks
- When the Fitbit arrives, you will download the free app Fitbit from either the Appstore or Googleplay, pick the correct model of Fitbit and you are ready to go walking.

**Health Benefit Plan
Open Season**

November 11 - December 9

Retirees - We Need Your Help



Director of Retirees

by Ron Villegas

It is important to me and all of the officers at NJ Merged Branch 38 that all of our retirees understand that you are an essential part of our union. This is not only for what you have done in the past to battle for and earn the salary and benefits letter carriers enjoy today, but also for the contributions you continue to make.

Our retirees are active participants in every aspect of our organization. You are eligible to vote in our officer elections, both local and national. You are able and encouraged to attend union meetings, both the monthly Branch meetings and local station meetings. You support all of our community based efforts such as the NALC Food Drive and our support of the Muscular Dystrophy Association. You represent all that is good about unions, and the NALC in particular.

One area in which your support has been vital in the past, and we hope will continue and expand in the future, is in the area of politics and legislation. Our retirees, as does our membership in

general, support all of America's political parties and views. Your political beliefs run the entire spectrum from conservative to liberal, and everything in between. This is an incredibly important asset to the NALC in our efforts to gain the support of all of our Representatives throughout the nation and across the political spectrum.

I encourage all of you to be aware and knowledgeable about current legislation and who in Washington supports the Postal Service, letter carriers, and America's working families. They are aware of your numbers, and are anxious to win your vote. They are, after all, in the business of getting elected.

Another thing candidates for political office need in addition to votes is money to finance their campaigns. That is why the NALC Letter Carrier Political Fund is so important. When we support candidates that support us with votes and dollars, they remember that support when the time comes for them to vote on issues that affect our jobs and the benefits of both active and retired letter carriers.

If you already contribute to the LCPF, I thank you. To those who have not yet signed on, I strongly ask that you consider it. We support candidates from both parties and from every section of the political spectrum. Our only consideration is whether or not they support letter carriers' interests.

If you would like to join the fight, give me a call and I'll help you to sign up. I will be calling many of our retired members asking for your support of the LCPF. I will be prepared to answer any and all of your questions, and I thank you in advance for your time. We don't often contact our membership directly, but the battle to defend our benefits and our standard of living requires that we take these unusual measures. Again, thank you in advance.

Retirement Seminar

Sunday, October 6, 2019

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**WOODBIDGE ELKS LODGE #2116
665 RAHWAY AVENUE
WOODBIDGE, NJ 07095**

*Contact your Area Rep
To Reserve a Spot*

We Need a Count for Packets & Food

Membership Recognition

The NALC provides lapel pins in recognition for membership of 25 years or more, for each additional five years. We also award Gold Cards for 50 years of membership, and plaques for 70 & 75 years of membership. The Gold Card comes with the added benefit of no more dues. All of these special awards are available upon request. If you believe that you are entitled to any of these awards, contact Director of Retirees, Ron Villegas at 973-564-7244 (Ext.21) and we will check our records and request the awards from NALC Headquarters. Thanks to all of you for your support.

2019 Scholarship Winners

The four NJ Merged Branch 38 2019 Scholarships were recently awarded to four incredibly deserving students. Kunal Bhatt is the son of Rimple Bhatt, a letter carrier at the Rahway Post Office. Kunal has been awarded the Michael J. McTigue Scholarship. Giuseppe Moffino, the son of Belleville letter carrier Leena Serquen, has been awarded the Gil Hampton Scholarship. Emma Sperr, the daughter of South Bound Brook letter carrier Mark Sperr, has been awarded the Richard P. O'Connell Scholarship. Rosemary Stanchak, the daughter of Clifton letter carrier Greg Stanchak, has been awarded the Tony Massa Scholarship. We wish each of them well as they continue their education at the collegiate level. Best of luck!



Pictured above: NALC Director of Retired Members, Dan Toth, Giuseppe Moffino, Rosemary Stanchak, and Branch 38 President Mike O'Neill; Rosmary, her parents, and FT Area Rep Pete Bednarz.



Pictured above: Branch 38 Director of City Delivery Mark McGrady with Giuseppe Moffino and his parents; Mike O'Neill with Rimple Bhatt and his Mom.

Region 15 RAA, Bruce Didriksen and Mike O'Neill recently presented Joseph DeBlasio with a plaque honoring him for seventy years of membership in the NALC.

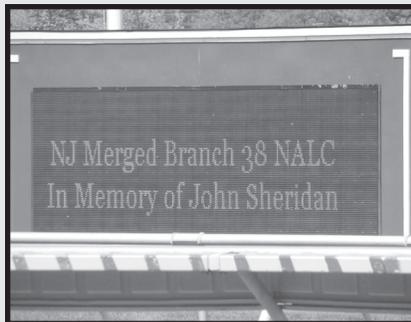


Class of 2018 Retiree Luncheon



NALC Director of City Delivery, Chris Jackson, Bruce Didriksen, and Mike O'Neill joined the Branch 38 Officers in honoring members who retired in 2018, and several members celebrating fifty years of membership in the NALC. Congratulations and thank you for your many years of support and participation!

MDA Day at the Races

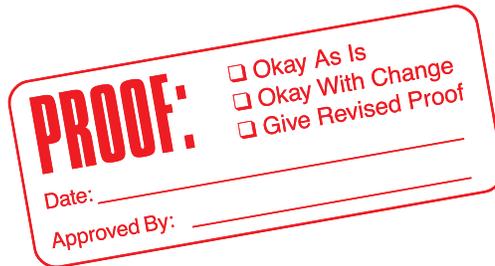


THE SENTINEL

NJ Merged Branch 38, NALC
374 Morris Avenue
Springfield, NJ 07081

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PAID
PERMIT #398
TRENTON, NJ

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Branch Meeting Information & Directions

Meetings are held at 7:30 PM on the first Wednesday of each month, except July & August.

The Branch Meetings are held at:

ELKS BPO LODGE #2116
665 RAHWAY AVENUE
WOODBIDGE, NJ 07095
732-634-2116

Directions:

SOUTH on Garden State Parkway. Take Exit #129 to Route 9 North to Woodbridge Exit (Just after the Forge Restaurant on your right). At the end of the Exit Ramp, turn right onto Main Street (Route 514) and proceed until you reach a monument at City Hall. Bear left onto Rahway Avenue. The Elks is @1/2 mile down the road on your left.

NORTH on Garden State Parkway. Take Exit #127 to Route 9 North and follow directions above.

NJ Turnpike. Take Exit 12 (Carteret). Bear right after toll booth and turn left at light after overpass. Proceed through industrial park to Rahway Avenue and turn left. The Elks is 1 mile ahead on your right.