

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



THE SENTINEL

Summer 2017

Special Retiree Edition



President's Report

by Mike O'Neill

As you already know, the NALC takes great pride in the fact that retirees are encouraged to renew their membership upon retirement. The dues are minimal, and the benefits to our retirees and the union are substantial. Retired members can attend all Branch functions, including Branch Meetings and social events. The NALC is grateful to have the support of our retirees in our legislative efforts and our MDA fund raising efforts. The wisdom derived from many years of experience on the workroom floor is a valuable asset that can benefit our active members. We thank you for your continued support and participation. It's great to have you still part of the NALC family.

This issue of the Sentinel is directed exclusively to our retired members. We intend for it to be a reminder of what is available to you as a member of the NALC, and as encouragement to increase the participation of our retirees in the many Branch 38 activities. We want to remind you that you are an integral part of this union, and we want to see more of you.

Within these pages, we have attempted to share some memories of recent Branch 38 functions, advertise upcoming functions, and remind you how you can remain involved with the NALC and our continuing efforts to advance and protect the interests of all letter carriers, both active and retired. Our retirees represent a significant percentage of our membership, and we are indebted to your efforts in building this union into one of the most prestigious labor organizations in America. We acknowledge and thank you for those efforts and sacrifices, and we ask you to continue your enlightened leadership.

The challenges facing the Postal Service, the NALC, and America's labor movement are enormous. Your help in facing these challenges is required. Our retirees are a valuable asset, as we fight to protect the rights and benefits you struggled so hard to achieve. You may have thought your fight was over, but those who would take back those rights and benefits have other ideas. Unity is the power that makes organized labor work. You remain part of that brotherhood, even into retirement. Your help, advice, and support are critical to our future success.

It is my hope that we will see more of you more often at our meetings, social events, and fund raisers. Please take a few minutes to see what upcoming events we have scheduled for Branch 38, and join us when you can. I look forward to seeing you.

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 O'Neill	President
Dan Szucs	Executive Vice President
Joseph Rutkoski	Treasurer
Mark McGrady	Director of City Delivery
John Sheridan	Financial Secretary
Charlie Connell	Director of Retirees/HBR
Pete Bednarz	Sergeant-At-Arms

BRANCH 38 TRUSTEES

Keith Hemmings	Roy Jancio
Richard O'Connell Jr.	Christine Strasser
Dominic Walton	

PART TIME AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Pete Bednarz	Clint Colie
Jeff Fezza	Roy Jancio
Joe Otero	Armando Pedreira
Christine Strasser	Dominic Walton

NATIONAL BUSINESS AGENT

Larry Cirelli 212-868-0284

BRANCH 38 ATTORNEY

Donald Millman, Esq. 973-669-9776

MUTUAL BENEFIT REPRESENTATIVE

Christine Strasser 973-564-7244 (Ext.20)

DATES TO REMEMBER

BRANCH MEETINGS

September 6, 2017
October 4, 2017
November 1, 2017
December 6, 2017

SPECIAL EVENTS

Southern Retiree Breakfast
September 7, 2017

NJ State Convention
September 24-26, 2017

Columbus Day Golf Outing
October 9, 2017

Northern Retiree Breakfast
October 22, 2017

Retirement Training
October 29, 2017

Holiday Party
December 16, 2017

**NJ Merged Branch 38
Web Site**

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

The Golden Age



***Director of
Retired Members***

by Charlie Connell

Retirement is often known as the "Golden Age." It is a time to reap the benefits of many years of hard work and sacrifice. You no longer have to miss the events and activities with family and friends, when working Saturdays and overtime. No more punching a clock, scanning everything in sight, or tolerating less than enlightened supervisors. If the weather is bad, you can roll over and sleep in. These are some of the reasons why I enjoy seeing the smiles on the faces of so many retirees.

Perhaps the only thing you do miss when you retire is the camaraderie of your coworkers and the customers on the route. It is important and beneficial for retirees to stay active, both mentally and physically. Don't become a "couch potato."

Unlike most other unions, the NALC welcomes and encourages retirees to continue their membership, and to have an active voice in union activities, especially our legislative efforts.

Branch 38 has a retirement luncheon in April every year. At that time we honor recent retirees and 50 and 60 year union members. There is also a breakfast in October for retirees and spouses. A National Officer is always in attendance, along with local representatives. Both events are held at the Chandelier Restaurant in Belleville, NJ.

This September we are looking forward to having an additional breakfast for Branch 38 retirees located in the central and southern regions of New Jersey. Many members have relocated to these areas. We hope many of you will be able to join us. Spouses are also invited to this event. If successful, it will become an annual event.

The breakfast will be held on Thursday, September 7th at 9:30 AM at the Toms River Elks Lodge 1875. The Elks Lodge is located at 600 Washington St., Toms River, NJ. We hope to see many of you there to renew your camaraderie with your fellow retirees.

Branch 38's 2017 Retiree Luncheon



Retirees & Legislation

by Mike O'Neill

The American public is constantly bombarded with an unending barrage of propaganda from all sides of the political spectrum. It seems that the people, whose job it is to represent us, spend more time demonizing those who disagree with them than they do getting anything done. It's sometimes hard to watch, and we are often tempted to just walk away and ignore the entire circus. Unfortunately, we have too much to lose if we allow decisions to be made without our input.

The NALC did not support President Trump in the 2016 election. It's not surprising, therefore, that his proposed budget includes many items that will adversely affect the Postal Service and letter carriers. We did, however, support many members of Congress, both Republican and Democrat, whose help we will need to protect the Postal Service and the benefits we fought so hard to achieve.

The President's proposed budget would reduce the pay of all letter carriers hired after 1983 by increasing their contribution to their pension under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). The budget would eliminate cost of living increases for all current and future FERS retirees, and reduce the COLAs for all CSRS retirees. Pension benefits would be calculated based upon the high five years of salary rather than the current high three average used today. The Social Security supplement for FERS carriers retiring before age 62 would be eliminated. The budget also attacks Saturday and door-to-door delivery. This would jeopardize the very future of the Postal Service, and further endanger active and retired letter carrier benefits.

We know that the NALC has in its ranks both con-servatives and progressives; both Democrats, Republicans, and independents. We have brothers and sisters on every side of every issue on the political and legislative gamut. This is, after all, America, and we all have the right to voice our own opinions and beliefs.

Every American has the right to utilize their free-dom of speech and to offer their support with their own self interests in mind. That includes active and retired letter carriers. The NALC is dedicated to promoting our self interests, which includes protecting the future of the Postal Service, and the hard earned benefits of our active and retired carriers.

We take on that challenge in two ways. We first strive to educate our members and to keep them informed of the most recent developments in Washington. The information that is critical for you to know is disseminated through the monthly Postal Record, Branch 38 publications such as this one, and Branch Meetings. It is also important to be registered as an e-Activist. That will enable the NALC to provide you with the most up to date information through periodic emails. If you haven't yet signed up, go to www.nalc.org, or call the Branch office. It's quick and easy, and important. You can also download the NALC App. Help with that is also at the NALC web site and in the Postal Record.

Finally, your financial support for the Letter Car-rier Political Fund is critical to our success. Your dollars, deducted from your monthly annuity check or directly from your bank account, are used to support the candidates, both Republican and Democrat, who support our issues. Politicians pay attention to two things, votes and money. That's what they need to get elected. That's what gets us in the door to explain our issues and solicit their support. Without money and numbers, it will be someone else in that room, someone who is not interested in our best interests.

If you do not already contribute to the Letter Car-rier Political Fund, please consider doing so now. Every dollar counts, and every contributor makes a difference. This not only seems like a never ending battle, it is. The chain is only as strong as its weakest link. We need every member, active and retired, to be pulling in the same direction. You will not only be helping your brother and sister letter carriers, you will also be protecting your family's future.



SIGN ME UP!

How to contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund using your retirement **ANNUITY**

Using your **Annuity**, retired NALC members can contribute directly from their CSRS or FERS annuities to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (NALC's PAC) on a monthly basis. This is a convenient way to make regular donations to the political action fund similar to the payroll system available to active carriers.

Enroll by Phone

Call the NALC Retirement Office at 202.662.2877 anytime or toll-free at 1.800.424.5186 Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon or 2 to 4 p.m. (ET). (Note: you will need your CSA retirement Claim number.)

Enroll Online

1. Go to www.servicesonline.opm.gov
2. Enter your CSA number, beginning with the letter A and ending with a zero. SAMPLE: A22222220
3. Enter your PIN (Personal Identification Number). If you don't know it, click Using Services Online for help with one.
4. Once you've entered your CSA number and PIN, click Log In.
5. On the next page, click ALLOTMENTS TO ORGANIZATIONS.
6. Click START
7. Select the Letter Carrier Political Fund (Formerly COLCPE)
8. Enter the amount of your monthly contribution. (Maximum yearly amount is \$5,000)
9. Click SAVE
10. On the next page click YES (if correct), then print the next page for your records.

Enroll by Mail

Complete this form and send to:

NALC Retirement Department, Attention: Letter Carrier Political Fund, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144

I, _____ (your name) wish to contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund. I authorize the Office of Personnel Management to withhold the amount below from my *monthly* annuity payments:
 \$25 \$20 \$15 \$10 \$5 Other: \$_____ (Maximum amount per year is \$5,000) and forward that amount to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (NALC's PAC). I make this authorization voluntarily and may revoke it at any time by notifying the Letter Carrier Political Fund in writing.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Full Name (please print): _____ Branch: _____

CSA or Social Security Number: _____ Phone: _____

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 guideline amounts listed above are merely suggestions, and you may contribute more or less than the guidelines suggest and the union will not favor or disadvantage you by reason of the amount of your contribution or your decision not to contribute. 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.

NJ Merged Branch 38 *Retiree Breakfast South*

On Thursday, September 7, 2017, at 9:30 AM, NJ Merged Branch 38 will be holding our first annual Retiree Breakfast in the Southern end of New Jersey. The Breakfast will be held at the Toms River Elks Lodge 1875 at 600 Washington Street, Toms River, NJ. To reserve a spot, and to get directions, call Director of Retirees, Charlie Connell at 973-564-7244 (Ext. 21). All Branch 38 retirees are welcome to attend. There is no charge to retired members and guests.

Your Branch Officers will all be in attendance. This is an excellent opportunity for retirees who have relocated to the southern end of New Jersey to come together to exchange old stories, renew old friendships, and hear what's going on in Branch 38. This is planned to be a less formal event, so casual attire is encouraged.

The NALC and Branch 38 values the participation and support of our retirees. This is another opportunity to get together and stay in touch. We're hoping for a good turn out. We would like very much for this to become an annual event on the Branch 38 calendar. Hope to see you there.

NJ Merged Branch 38 *Retiree Breakfast North*

On Sunday, October 22, 2017, at 9:00 AM, NJ Merged Branch 38 will be holding our annual Retiree Breakfast. The Breakfast will be held at the Chandelier Restaurant located at 340 Franklin Avenue, Belleville, NJ 07109. To reserve a spot, and to get directions, call Director of Retirees, Charlie Connell at 973-564-7244 (Ext. 21). All Branch 38 retirees are welcome to attend. There is no charge to retired members and guests.

Invited guest speakers include NALC President Fred Rolando, NBA Larry Cirelli, RAA Bruce Didriksen, and NJSALC President Rich O'Connell. 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 Washington affecting letter carriers and retirees.

All of New Jersey's Congressional Representatives have also been invited and, based on years past, some will be sure to attend. This is a critical time in our nation's history, and for the Postal Service as well. The Retiree Breakfast will be an excellent opportunity to hear first hand from our friends in Washington, find out where our country is headed, what they are doing to protect the interests of letter carriers and retirees, and what we need to do to get involved in this most critical of elections. Please join us.

Columbus Day Golf Outing

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2017

BUNKER HILL GOLF COURSE - GRIGGSTOWN, NJ

FEE - \$110 per Golfer - Price Includes:

Golf, Cart, Continental Breakfast, Steak Dinner, Beer, Soda, Hot Dogs & Prizes

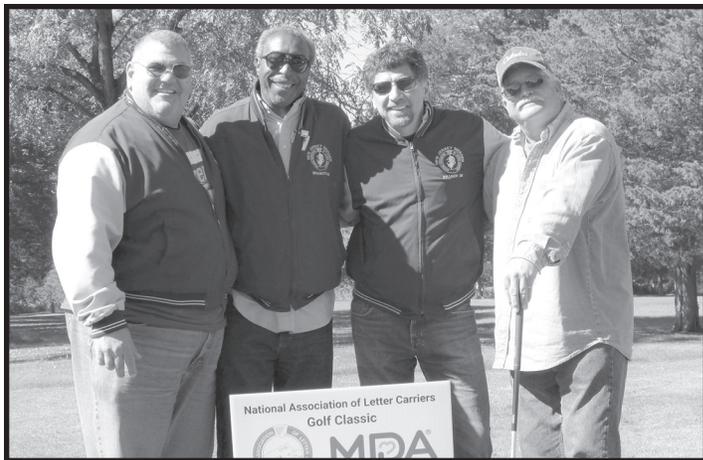
To reserve a spot for your foursome, or to make a donation, call:

Mike O'Neill (973-564-7244 Ext. 18) or Charlie Connell (732-634-6104)

or

Mail a check with the names of the golfers in your foursome(s) to the Branch Office

All Proceeds Go To MDA



THE SENTINEL

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

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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.