

THE SENTINEL



The Official News Letter of NJ Merged Branch 38, NALC

Volume XXXV
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June 2009

Interim Route Adjustments



Pete Maglio calls the Modified Route Adjustment Process training session to order.

Last fall it became clear that the nation was already in the throes of a deep recession. Financial institutions were failing and many traditional giants of industry struggled to keep afloat. Workers in all walks of life, from auto workers to health care providers, faced layoffs and reduced wages and benefits. The Postal Service was not immune to the crisis as volume plummeted and revenue disappeared. It became clear to all, especially the leaders of the NALC, that drastic action was required in order to keep the USPS solvent and letter carrier jobs safe.

The NALC reacted quickly and agreed to a streamlined route adjustment process that would address the decline in volume and minimize inefficient daily operations. Thousands of routes were adjusted leading to a savings to the USPS of 1.3 billion dollars. President Young was able to point to the cooperation of the NALC and the savings that resulted when he appeared before Congress to discuss the financial status of the USPS.

The economic crisis continues both in the nation and within the Postal Service. Once again the NALC has reacted quickly and appropriately. The Interim Route Adjustment Process has been modified and extended. Problems which arose during the first round of adjustments have been addressed and should be corrected. Once again the NALC has retained a level of control over the process insuring that the rights and interests of its members are protected.

“Drastic action was required in order to keep the USPS solvent and letter carrier jobs safe.”

Branch 38 has also responded quickly and effectively to inform the membership about the new process and to make certain that the agreement is honored by management and implemented as it was intended. President Pete Maglio immediately called for a special training session for all of Branch 38’s Local Contacts and worked with NBA Larry Cirelli to schedule that training as soon as possible. All of the Branch’s Local Contacts were encouraged to attend the training, and it was made available to other branches throughout Region 15.

The meeting hall was packed and RAA Tom Mathews did an excellent job of outlining the process and describing in detail the role of the Local Contacts. The text of the training is available on the Branch 38 web site along with a check list

by Michael O’Neill

to be used by the carriers and the Local Contacts during the consultations.

The Branch would like to thank Brothers Cirelli and Mathews for their assistance in these efforts. We also want to thank our members who have stepped forward to fill critical roles as the adjustment process is implemented in both the Northern and Southern NJ Districts. Dominic Walton has agreed to serve as the NALC District Leader in the NNJD and the following carriers have volunteered to be District Evaluation and Adjustment Team members: Dave DeFrancisco, Rich Gaeta, Joe Ottero, Sam Wright, Tony Laurino, and Ron Villegas.

As always, if we stick together in solidarity through these difficult times we will survive this economic crisis and become stronger in the end.



RAA Tom Mathews takes questions from the floor.

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

Pete Maglio	President
James Stasse	Executive Vice President
Paul Biggs	First Vice President/Treasurer
Michael O'Neill	Second Vice President
Tony Massa	Third Vice President
Ralph Silvestri	Director of City Delivery
John Sheridan	Corresponding Secretary
Pat Flannery	Recording Secretary
Jim Eagen	Director of Retirees/HBR
Peter Bednarz	Sergeant-At-Arms

PART TIME AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Mark McGrady	Dan Szucs
Richard Gennes	John Dock

BRANCH 38 TRUSTEES

Keith Hemmings	Richard Mitchell
Richard O'Connell Jr.	William Trudell
Dominic Walton	

NATIONAL BUSINESS AGENT

Larry Cirelli 212-868-0284

BRANCH 38 ATTORNEY

Donald Millman, Esq. 973-669-9776

MUTUAL BENEFIT REPRESENTATIVE

Martin Spielman Jr.

DATES TO REMEMBER

BRANCH MEETINGS

September 2, 2009
October 7, 2009
November 4, 2009
December 2, 2009

SPECIAL EVENTS

September 7, 2009
Labor Day

October 12, 2009
Columbus Day Golf Outing

October 18, 2009
Retiree Breakfast

November 11, 2009
Veterans Day

December 19, 2009
Branch 38 Christmas Party

January 10-12, 2010
Shop Steward Training

A Pretty Good Start



The officers of Branch 38 are continually looking for ways to improve all aspects of the branch including representation and participation. At the beginning of 2009, Pete Maglio assumed the office of President of Branch 38. At that time, Pete, with the support of the Executive Board, set a number of goals for the branch, and I think we have made great progress in pursuit of those goals during the first six months of the year.

We made a number of changes to our shop steward training in Atlantic City, hoping to make it more informative, fun, and efficient. We added a Sunday night reception to give the stewards a chance to socialize informally with each other, the branch officers, and guests from other branches. We scheduled training sessions for the stewards with their own area representatives on Tuesday morning to provide a more relaxed atmosphere intended to encourage open discussion. All of the changes were designed to make the training more effective and informative for our stewards. Based upon the response from both the shop stewards and guests from other branches, the improvements were very well received.

In January, National President Bill Young met with the Branch 38 Executive Board to discuss the branch's participation in COLCPE. President Maglio agreed with President Young who believed that

there was much room for improvement in that area. Pete took an aggressive approach, and with the support of the other officers and local shop stewards, set out to increase our automatic COLCPE contributions. In less than six months we have doubled the number of Branch 38 members who have signed on as automatic contributors, and that campaign is still going strong.

The annual Retiree Brunch, honoring recent retirees and fifty and sixty year members, was given special attention and many improvements were made. After all, retirees have always been the backbone of our organization and deserve our respect and appreciation. As a result of the improvements, twenty five honorees and their guests attended the function, and over ninety retirees received gifts and certificates of appreciation.

“We will continue to strive to make Branch 38 the best it can be.”

Pete wanted to place an emphasis on the NALC Food Drive this year because of the increased number of families in need of assistance as a result of the recession. We aggressively included all Branch 38 offices in our food drive and collected a record breaking 1.05 million pounds of food. We couldn't have accomplished this without the help and dedication of all Branch 38 members. Many of the less fortunate in our communities, especially during these hard times, benefited greatly from the caring hard work of Branch 38 letter carriers on the day of the food drive.

We have included more towns in our 2009 MDA campaign, and will encourage

by Jim Stasse

offices to hold individual fund raisers such as roadside collections as we've done in years past. We will also be asking post offices to allow Letter Carrier MDA money canisters to be placed in post office lobbies.

President Maglio has instituted cost cutting and cost saving measures without affecting our member's representation, and has recommended changes in our by-laws to more efficiently fund the events that are important to our members. The branch officers, with the support of the membership, will continue to move forward, constantly striving to make Branch 38 a better and more efficient organization. Look for my future article on the end of the year review to see how we do during the next six months.

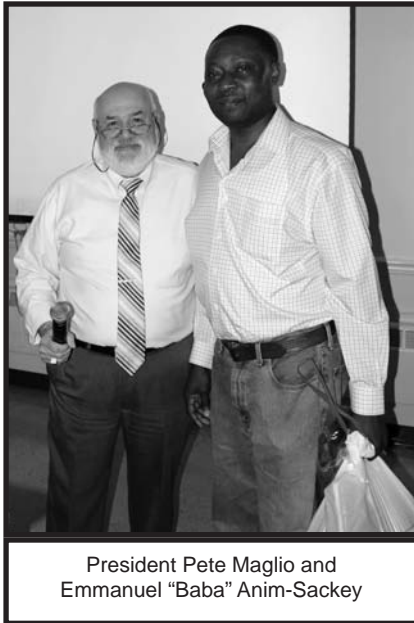
**Happy Birthday
America!!!
July 4, 2009**

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

The Declaration of Independence

Imagine the fortitude and insight of the men who put their names to these words in 1776. Consider also the courage of those who fought in defense of those words as the journey that is America has continued and has brought us to where we are today. We must forever be grateful for all of those men and women who are responsible for our freedom and our way of life. God bless them and God bless America.

West Orange Carrier Gives Back



President Pete Maglio and Emmanuel "Baba" Anim-Sackey

On Wednesday May 5, 2009, Branch 38 held its monthly meeting and paid a special tribute to Emmanuel "Baba" Anim-Sackey, a letter carrier from the West Orange Post Office. Baba emigrated from a small village in Ghana, Abetifi-Kwahu. This is an extremely impoverished area of Africa where the average income is about \$1,500.00 per year.

Baba came from an exceptionally poor neighborhood in Abetifi-Kwahu and, after arriving in the United States, he wanted to give something back to his community. Baba went about collecting used clothing, shoes, books, and toys which were normally discarded by folks in his town. He visited garage sales and collected items left at the curbside for pick-up along his route in West Orange. Baba personally paid the cost of shipping the items he collected back to his homeland and transported the rest on periodic trips to Ghana.

Baba's deeds soon became the talk of West Orange. Local residents and business groups throughout the community galvanized their efforts and solicited donations on his behalf. One resident helped organize a drive to collect school supplies. When the mayor of West Orange heard of Baba's story, he invited him to appear on a local cable television show, and the town of West Orange introduced an official proclamation "adopting" the village of Abetifi-Kwahu. An article appeared in the Newark Star Ledger, and the Postal Record dedicated an article in the April 2009 issue entitled "*Man on A Mission*" describing in depth Baba's personal crusade.

The donated items grew with the media exposure and eventually filled a twenty (20) foot shipping container which was used to transport the items back to Ghana. A number of supporters of Baba's efforts donated over \$4,000.00 to pay the shipping cost. Congressman Pascrell of the 8th Congressional District heard about Baba's story, got involved, and was able to expedite the shipment to Ghana.

Baba traveled back to Abetifi-Kwahu to personally supervise the distribution of the collected items to the neediest villagers. He was shocked to find hundreds of his countrymen there to greet him. His ultimate goal is to raise enough money to build a library in his village.

At the Branch Meeting, President Pete Maglio personally thanked Baba on behalf of Branch 38 for his outstanding efforts and noted that Baba was receiving offers of help from carriers across the nation as a result of the Postal Record article. Baba addressed the members thanking them for their continued support. He stated how proud he is to be a letter carrier and a member of Branch 38. He noted that his

by John Sheridan

efforts are only one example of unionism at work, and that he was grateful to Branch 38 and to the NALC for their support. Baba was leaving for Ghana on the day after the Branch Meeting to make another delivery to his village.

If anyone is interested in making a donation of any kind, you can contact Baba at 1-973-518-2260. He will be happy to hear from you and will greatly appreciate the support.



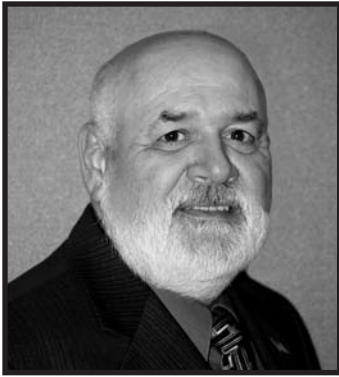
Executive Vice President Jim Stasse, Baba, and President Pete Maglio.

Let Us Know!!!

If any member is aware of a story similar to Baba's, or one that you would like to share with our members, please give us a call.

Military Buy Back

Know The Facts



by **Pete Maglio**

Those who have served in the United States Armed Forces, and later entered into civilian government service such as the Postal Service, should make certain to maximize their annuity options for retirement. You may be required to make deposits (buy back) into your civilian service retirement system for active military time in order to collect full benefits from both Social Security and your Postal Service annuity. Whether or not you need to buy back your military time and how much it will cost depends on a number of factors.

When you performed your military service, when you entered into your civilian government service, and which Postal Service retirement system you are under are all factors that will affect your annuities and your decision. The various scenarios are far too extensive and complex to cover in this short space. Details regarding the regulations can be found in the following publications which are available on the NALC Web Site (nalc.org): Q&A on CSRS; Q&A on FERS; NALC Retirement Manual. You can also contact the Branch 38 Office or the NALC Retirement Department for further assistance.

Part of your decision will be based upon the cost you will incur by buying

back your military time. In order to obtain that information, you must contact the branch of the armed services in which you were enlisted. The addresses for each of the branches of service are available on the Branch 38 web site (www.branch38nalc.com) under "Tools & Research - Military Buy Back." You will also find in the same location the form used to request your personal information, RI 20-97. When filling out the form you need only to complete blocks 1 through 10 and block 19.

Deposits for military service must be made to your employing agency before you retire. It is important, therefore, that you not wait until the last minute before looking into your options. You may find out that you owe more than you expect and you will want to have enough time to make the payments, if you decide that will be in your best interest.

"Those of you who served honorably in service to our country and who continued to worked hard in civilian service deserve and are entitled to be properly compensated for that service."

I'll use my own situation as an example. I served in the US Army from 1966–1968. I bought my military time back after learning my Postal Service annuity would decrease when I applied for Social Security. The initial amount I owed after leaving the Army was \$246.68. I didn't buy my military time back until June of 2002. The total interest charged for that period of time

was \$563.85. It cost me a total of \$810.53 for my military buyback. Keep in mind that you can make payments from payroll deductions or pay the full amount at once.

Those of you who served honorably in service to our country and who continued to work hard in civilian service deserve and are entitled to be properly compensated for that service. Be sure to take the time to find out what action is best for your situation and make the necessary arrangements well before your retirement date rolls around. Make sure you get everything you have coming to you. You, more than anyone, deserve it.

MDA *Night at the* *Races*



On Saturday night, June 6, 2009, Branch 38 held its annual MDA fund raiser, "Night at the Races." The event attracted over 150 members and guests to the Meadowlands Race Track for an evening of racing, food & drink, and good times with good friends. Over \$400 was raised for MDA. Special thanks go out to Paul Biggs and John Sheridan, the co-chairs of this very popular fund raiser.

Branch 38 Carriers Deliver for the Hungry



Midland Park carriers bring back the goods.

The Officers and Staff of Branch 38 would like to express our thanks for the cooperation and effort put forth during the recent National Food Drive Day on May 9, 2009.

This year we asked all the offices within the branch to participate in the Food Drive and help the many families in our area who need assistance due to the recent economic problems throughout the state. Branch 38 distributed almost 1.5 million Campbell Soup Card flyers prior to this event informing every household how

they could help us and the other companies involved to assist those who needed our help.

A total of approximately 1,044,374 pounds of food was collected by our members. These donations were brought to local food banks and local churches to help support many of the patrons within the towns we serve.



Melvin Wesley of Mahwah picks up another bucket for the food bank.

by Paul Biggs



Waldwick carriers get the job done.

Once again Branch 38 letter carriers came through when asked to get involved. This is another example of why letter carriers are considered to be such a valuable asset in every community, and why Branch 38 continues to be one of the most respected branches throughout the National Association of Letter Carriers!

Additional photographs are available at www.branch38nalc.com.

A Day for America's Workers

The first Labor Day was celebrated on September 5, 1882 in New York City. As labor organizations spread throughout the country, so did the celebration of the American worker on Labor Day. In 1894 Congress passed a law making Labor Day a national holiday. As we head into the summer months, we thought it appropriate to acknowledge the holiday that celebrates the American worker.

Labor Day was designed to acknowledge the contributions of the American worker, as well as the achievements of labor organizations made on behalf of the American worker. It is a day set aside to honor the contributions of the men and women who built this great nation and who continue to make it work. It is also a reminder that the strength of the American workforce is centered on the solidarity and brotherhood found in America's unions.

"The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pays tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership — the American worker." The United States Department of Labor Web Site

Your Branch Web Site



by **Pat Flannery**

One of the most important and effective resources offered to the members by Branch 38 is the Branch 38 web site, www.branch38nalc.com. The site is available to every member of the branch 24/7 and offers an incredible amount of information about the NALC, Branch 38, and the Postal Service.

There's a page with photographs from recent Branch 38 events, as well as a schedule of upcoming events. There are links to other useful web sites, most notably the NALC web site which provides the latest news and information relevant to the NALC and the Postal Service. Each Branch 38 officer and member of the staff has a separate page, and links are provided to enable you to e-mail your officers directly. We make an effort to include the most recent

information received from Washington, including news, memoranda of understanding, and legislative updates.

Whether you are a letter carrier or a shop steward, knowing your rights and responsibilities is crucial to dealing with the stresses of working in today's Postal Service. One of my favorite sayings is, "if you don't know your rights, you don't have any". To that end, your branch has created one of the best web sites in the country. Everyone has heard the old adage "knowledge is power". That saying has never been truer than it is today.

The Branch 38 web site provides links to important Postal Service handbooks and manuals such as the M-41, M-39, and the Employee & Labor Relations Manual. There are also links to the National Agreement and the Joint Contract Administration Manual. The NALC Materials Reference System offers countless information from past grievances and agreements on every topic you can imagine. Information on anything related to your union and the Postal Service can be found through this web site. Everything from regulations regarding transitional employees to NALC publications on retirement is at your finger tips.

One of the most important sections of the web site is the Tools & Research page. That page is where you will find an A to Z listing of forms, tools, and information that can be invaluable to the individual carrier or steward. To list and describe every item on the Tools & Research page would consume this entire publication and probably the next few issues. The best way to see the potential and value of your Branch 38 web site is to take a few minutes to visit it. There is even a search engine for the site to locate your topic of interest.

The average carrier, or even the best shop steward, cannot be expected to have all the rules and regulations of the Postal Service memorized. That is an impossibility. Another favorite saying of mine is, "true knowledge is not knowing everything but rather knowing where to find the answers". That is where your branch web site comes in.

One of the primary responsibilities of the branch is to keep the membership educated and informed. Our web site is one of the best tools available to achieve that goal. It's only effective, however, if you avail yourself of the opportunity. Take a few minutes to check it out. It may become one of your favorite sites to visit.

NJ MERGED BRANCH 38 – COLUMBUS DAY GOLF OUTING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2009

BUNKER HILL GOLF COURSE - GRIGGSTOWN, NJ

FEE - \$95 per Golfer

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

To reserve a spot for your foursome call:

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

All Proceeds Go To MDA

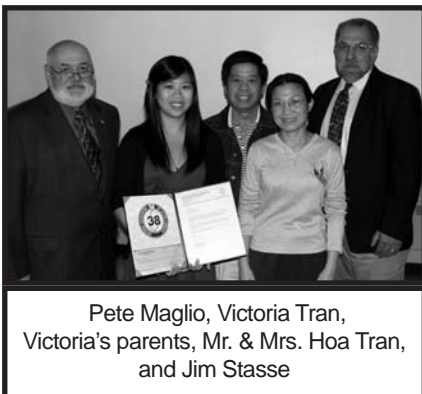
NJ Merged Branch 38

Scholarship Night

On June 3, 2009, Branch 38 celebrated the twenty fifth anniversary of the Annual Scholarship Awards. The tradition began in 1984 with one \$1,000 scholarship which was named after Michael J. McTigue, a former Executive Board member of the branch. Some years later, a second scholarship was added and dedicated to the memory of Branch 38 Chaplin, Gil Hampton. A third scholarship was recently added in memory of former National Secretary Treasurer, and Branch 38 favorite son, Richard O'Connell. At that time, the scholarships were all increased to \$1,500.

The scholarships are awarded to dependents of Branch 38 members in their final year of high school who intend to continue their education in the fall. The competition is intense, and the winners should be quite proud of their achievements. The winners are selected by a college professor who weighs the applications employing a number of important criteria.

Scholarship Night is always held at the June Branch Meeting, and is always cause for celebration. The pleasure of meeting such brilliant young people as they head off to college never loses its magic. The meeting attracted a number of special guests including Region 15 National Business Agent, Larry Cirelli



Pete Maglio, Victoria Tran, Victoria's parents, Mr. & Mrs. Hoa Tran, and Jim Stasse

and NALC Director of Safety and Health Brian Hellman.

Victoria Tran, the daughter of Berkeley Heights letter carrier Hoa Tran, was awarded the Michael J. McTigue Scholarship. She attended South Plainfield High School and has established an incredible grade point average of 5.05. She ranks third in a class of 288. Victoria is a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society.

In addition to her strong work in the classroom, Victoria has participated in many extracurricular activities. She is an accomplished violinist, a member of the



Pete Maglio, Zachary Dreiss, Zachary's Dad, Thomas Dreiss, and Jim Stasse.

varsity tennis team, and is a member of the Jerseyan History Club, the International Cub and the Photography Club at South Plainfield High. Victoria has applied to attend Stevens Institute of Technology and Rutgers University.

Zachary Dreiss, the son of Secaucus letter carrier Thomas Dreiss, was awarded the Gil Hampton Scholarship. Zachary attends Secaucus High School and is ranked first in a class of 143 with a GPA of 4.28. He is a member of the National Honors Society, the English Honors Society, the Foreign Language



Pete Maglio, Jessica Cyr and her parents Mr. & Mrs. Robert Cyr, and Jim Stasse.

Honor Society, and the American Technology Honor Society. During his senior year he served as president of Mu Alpha Theta, the Mathematics Honor Society.

Zachary also participates in the Engineering Club and the Science Club. He plays in the school band and was a member of the soccer and indoor track varsity teams. Zachary has applied to attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Jessica Cyr, the daughter of Old Bridge letter carrier Robert Cyr, was awarded the Richard O'Connell Scholarship. Jessica attends Toms River North High School. Her 4.97 GPA has earned her a ranking of 19 in a class of 581. She has been on the high honor roll every marking period throughout her high school career. Jessica was in the Honors Academic Program in mathematics, English, and science, the advanced placement program in history, environmental science, and US Government and Politics, and the accelerated academic program in Spanish.

Jessica was equally accomplished in athletics. She was a four time varsity letter winner in track and field and won numerous titles and awards for her performance in pole vault. She holds the school record in the pole vault and the pole vault relay team. (cont. p.9)

COLCPE Drive is Paying Off

The success of the NALC in last year's election and the critical nature of the economic crisis as it relates to the Postal Service and letter carrier jobs made the decision easy. At the beginning of 2009, Branch 38's Executive Board, under the leadership of President Pete Maglio, pledged to make a concerted effort to increase the Branch's participation in the automatic contribution program for COLCPE.

COLCPE is the NALC's political action fund. It is money collected from members' voluntary contributions used to further the legislative interests of letter carriers. It is used to support candidates that support our issues and to keep our representatives informed about legislation important to our members. Automatic contributors to COLCPE have their

contributions deducted directly from their pay check or checking account. This enables the NALC legislative department to budget the funds effectively.

"Let's protect our hard earned wages and benefits and sign on for COLCPE"

Branch 38's campaign began with a letter to all of our shop stewards and alternate shop stewards from President Maglio asking them to sign on automatic contributors. The letter was well received and our numbers immediately began to grow.

We then began signing members up at branch meetings and station meetings. We are in the process of asking shop

stewards to help us contact members by phone in an effort to get everyone involved.

Since the campaign began, the number of Branch 38 automatic contributors has more than doubled. We have advanced significantly in the "Gimme 5" category which refers to members who contribute at least five dollars each pay check. If you haven't been contacted to sign up, you will be. It is our hope that every member sees the importance of protecting our hard earned wages and benefits from attack in Washington and agrees to join the program. You may sign up for as little as a dollar a check, but we're hoping for as many "Gimme 5" members as possible. When you think about it, thirty six cents a day is not much to ask when your economic future is at stake.

Branch 38 Scholarships (cont.)



Pete Maglio, Tony Massa, Mario Perricone, Mario's Dad Richard Perricone, and Jim Stasse.

Also recognized at the Branch Meeting was the winner of the NJ State Association Scholarship, Mario Perricone. Mario is the son of Branch 38, Iselin letter carrier Richard Perricone. Mario achieved notable success both academically and athletically during his four years at J.P. Stevens High School in Edison.

All four of the awardees expressed their heart felt gratitude to the members of Branch 38 for their financial and emotional support. Branch 38 wishes each of them well in the future.

Jessica attributes much of her success as a student and athlete to her close relationship with her grandmother. The challenges she faced as she pursued a career in gymnastics also proved to be lessons in determination. Jessica has been accepted to attend Penn State University, Rutgers University and the University of Delaware.



Pete Maglio, Don Millman, Larry Cirelli, and Brian Hellman with the scholarship winners and their families.



President Maglio made another special presentation on Scholarship Night. Victor Varanay, retired carrier from the Iselin Post Office, was awarded his sixty year pin, representing sixty years in the NALC. Victor has been retired since 1980 and said that he is enjoying his retirement thoroughly. He thanked Branch 38 for his award and praised the NALC and Branch 38 for the many benefits won on his behalf and on behalf of all letter carriers. It was a treat to witness the energy Victor exhibited as he addressed the meeting, and we look forward to presenting him with his seventy year pin in 2019.

Why Customer Connect?



by Dan Szucs

When folks stop buying cars, car makers file for bankruptcy and auto workers lose wages, benefits, and jobs. If you think the same formula will not hold true for the Postal Service, think again.

Customer Connect is a venture implemented jointly by the NALC and the Postal Service. The program is designed to allow letter carriers to take advantage of the special relationships they have with their customers. Carriers are asked to encourage their business patrons to use the USPS instead of private delivery services. The carrier asks the customer if there is any interest in changing their delivery company and then passes along the lead to the USPS sales department.

Since the startup of Customer Connect in 2003, letter carriers have generated more than \$656 million in new annual revenue. Branch 38 carriers have contributed greatly to that number. Many of our own members have convinced companies on their routes to send their business to the USPS. During the first three months of 2009, letter carriers in the NNJ District and the CNJ District have brought in \$4,380,391 of new revenue. This impressive number is the result of 1046 leads submitted by 624 carriers which led to 272 sales.

The Postal Service has a golden opportunity to recapture the package business it gave away during the 1990's. Back then, the

volume of flat and letter mail was sufficient to support the operation of the USPS. In 2009 the volume of flat and letter mail has plummeted, and the USPS needs to develop other sources of revenue. The economic crisis is adversely affecting our competitors as well. Those other guys are out there working their butts off to get all the new business they can. The advantage the USPS has is the special relationship all carriers have with the customers on their routes. It is the key component in the entire Customer Connect program.

We have all watched first hand the impact the struggling economy has had on the Postal Service. Less volume means that carriers have had their routes expanded. Hiring has been essentially frozen, and overtime has dried up significantly. The Central New Jersey District has been absorbed into the other two NJ Districts, and management employees have been forced to find other openings or face being laid off. I know many of those employees personally and have had the opportunity to work with them. They care about their jobs, and they care about the success of the Postal Service. It hurts to see them treated this way, but it also serves as a warning of what letter carriers may be facing down the road.

We've seen what happened to management workers in the CNJD and to workers in other industries such as the men and women of the United Auto Workers Union.

We must do everything in our power to prevent the same things from happening to us. It is up to us to utilize all of our resources to avoid layoffs and the loss of wages and benefits. Of course our greatest resource is solidarity and brotherhood as members of the NALC.

Branch 38 has called for the mobilization of our members behind COLCPE to buttress our influence in Congress. We have also asked for everyone's support of the Food Drive and MDA to help those in need and to enhance our popularity with

the general public. The Customer Connect program is another opportunity to protect what we have all worked so hard to attain.

The country has changed and so has the Postal Service. We cannot sit back and wait for someone else to protect our jobs. It won't happen. The Customer Connect program is more important than ever. In the interest of my family and my fellow union brothers and sisters, I pledge to do all I can to ensure the future of the Postal Service. As union members we all have the right and obligation to do exactly that.

And that is why programs like Customer Connect are so important and deserve our full support.

In Memoriam

Louis A. Donadio

Louis was a letter carrier in the Middletown, NJ Post Office and a member of Branch 38 for more than seventeen years. Louis passed away on May 15, 2009 at the age of 52 after numerous bouts with cancer over the past few months. Louis was remembered by his fellow carriers as someone who could always be counted on in a friend's time of need, and never expected anything in return.

Edward DeGraaff

Edward was a letter carrier at the Ironbound Station of the Newark, NJ Post Office and a member of Branch 38 for over seven years. Edward passed away at the result of a heart attack on April 19, 2009 at the age of 46.

Important:

Please notify the Branch Office immediately in the event of the death of a member in your office.

Let's Pull Together for MDA

One of the most devastating impacts of the failing economy has been the loss in revenue for many charitable organizations. Folks that were always willing to share their good fortune with those less fortunate are, in many cases, no longer able to do so. MDA is one charity that has felt the negative results of the recession. In fact, although Branch 38 continues to raise the most money in the NALC each year for MDA, our fund raising campaign took a downturn for the first time last year.

We rely heavily upon our mailing for most of our contribution, and the response last year, for the first time ever, showed a significant decline. We are working hard to reverse that trend by streamlining the mailing list and reducing expenses. The MDA people have been a great help with that process.

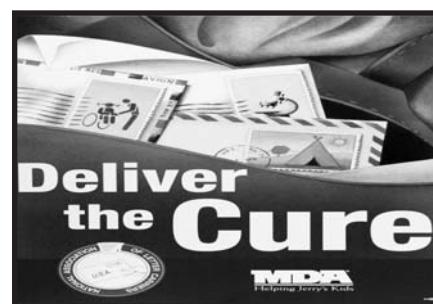
Unfortunately, it seems inevitable that the response will continue to drop as a result of the economy.

“The kids still need wheel chairs and braces and a chance to go to camp.”

The fact is, although less people are able to contribute to charities such as MDA, the needs of the children with neuromuscular diseases do not go away. These kids still need wheel chairs and braces, and still need a chance to go to camp for a week like healthy kids. Money is still needed for research and assistance for families taking on these awful diseases.

In order to supplement the mailing this year, we are asking the stations to

help out by conducting some fund raisers. It doesn't have to be anything monumental. A canister night at a busy intersection or supermarket can raise a lot of money and is easy to organize. If your office is willing to get involved and help out, contact your area representative and he'll help you get started. All ideas are welcome, and we'll get you all the help you need. It's difficult times like these when a little extra effort is important to help those who need it most. It is, after all, what letter carriers have always done.



Retiree Breakfast - October 18, 2009

Branch 38's Annual Retiree Breakfast will be held at the Chandelier Restaurant, 340 Franklin Ave., Bellville, NJ on Sunday, October 18, 2009. This important legislative event will commence promptly at 9:00 AM.

All of New Jersey's Congressmen, Senators and Members of the House have been invited to attend and share their views regarding legislation important to letter carriers and retirees. National Business Agent Larry Cirelli and a Resident National Officer will be present and will bring us up to date on Postal Service issues at the national level.

Please join us for breakfast and an opportunity to meet with your Congressional Representatives. There is no charge for this event, however we do ask that you contact us in advance so that we are able to make arrangements with the restaurant. Please detach the form below and return it to us no later than October 1, 2009.

If you have any further questions, please contact Jim Eagan at 973-564-7244 (Ext. 21). We look forward to seeing you at the breakfast!

NJ Merged Branch 38 - Retiree Breakfast 2009

Name _____

**Mail To: Jim Eagan, Director of Retirees
NJ Merged Branch 38, NALC
374 Morris Avenue
Springfield, NJ 07081**

Office _____

Phone # _____

Number Attending _____

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.
(There is no Branch Meeting in July or 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.