

# News and Views

Official Publication of Central Kentucky Bluegrass Branch 361, NALC

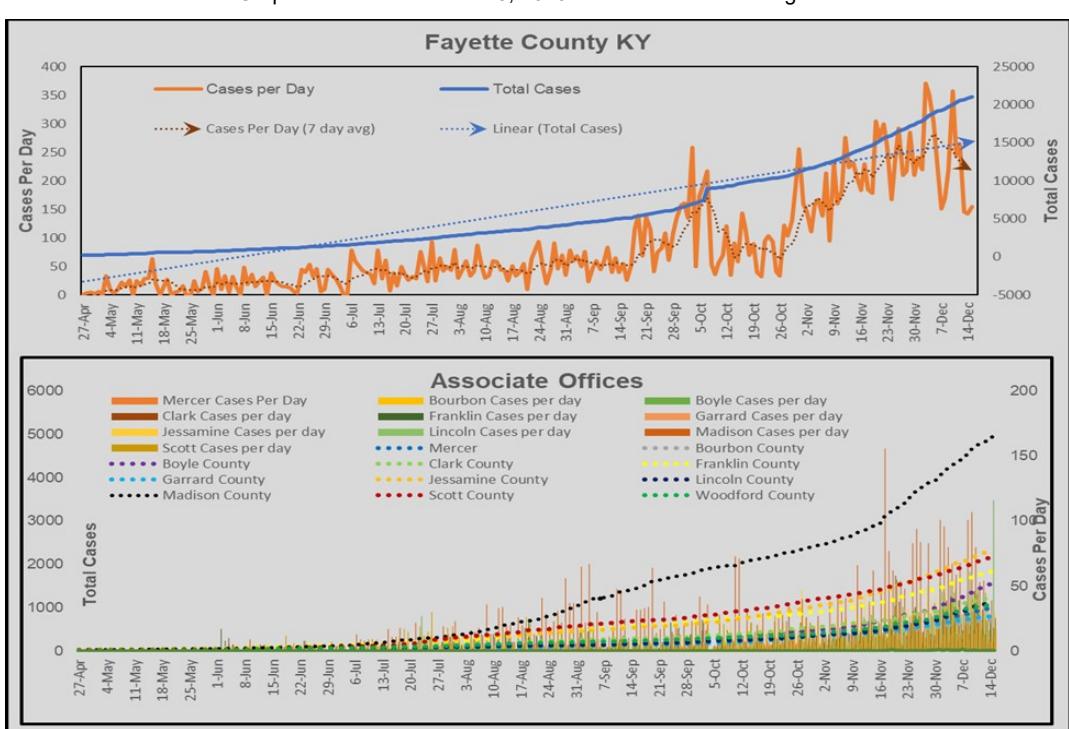
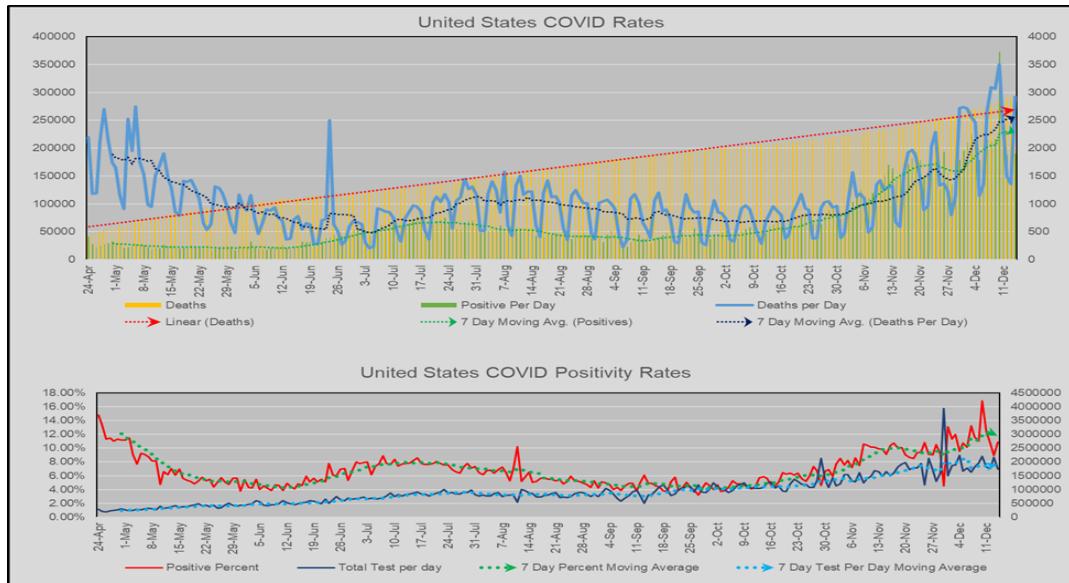
2021 Issue 1

Jan. 2021

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## President's Page - Ken Becroft



## Vice President - Denise Preston

I would like to start out by saying thank you to the members that voted for me for Vice President. I will do my best for our union.

The next thing I would like to touch on is that management is mandating us on our days off including Sundays. The post office has to get the mail and the parcels out, and I realize with COVID-19 and the carrier craft being understaffed, we all have to put in lots of hours and we are losing precious time with our families. While it sucks and we all realize it, the financial benefit from the overtime comes at a time we can all use a little extra income and many of our customers are suffering a reduction or complete loss of income. While this is happening all over the country and we are all having to work terrible hours and our days off, hang in there and hopefully after Christmas it will get better and maybe we can get some new CCA's hired.

Be safe as the weather is changing. Make sure you have extra gloves and socks with you for when the weather gets colder. If anyone has any extra, mildly used or new, winter uniform items please share them with the CCA's and help them out to get them prepared for the cold.

Denise

**The Branch 361 Executive Board will be accepting bids from individuals to provide the following services through January 31st, 2021. Preference will be given to branch members or their relatives.**

### **Hall cleaning - Mowing and yard work - Building Maintenance**

**Individuals interested in submitting a bid for any of these services should submit a written bid for performing these services either per hour, week, month or year. Mail your bid to Branch 361 P. O. Box 911203 Lexington, KY 40591 or give it to any Executive Board Member before the 31st.**

**Hall cleaning after the monthly meetings resume at the hall should be the day before the meeting and again approximately 2 weeks later. Mowing should commence in April and run through October. Maintenance will be as issues arise or as directed by the trustees.**

## Sgt. at Arms - Robbie Yost

Hello my fellow union brothers and sisters of Branch 361! I'm honored to be elected by acclimation as your new Sgt. at Arms and continue to serve as a delegate for our union. I've been a letter carrier and member of the union since starting the post office in 2004. I've served on a budget committee, an election committee, and by-laws committees as well as being a union steward and a delegate of Branch 361.

I believe this job along with others are important in sustaining a strong union and a strong membership. I encourage you all, new hire and long-standing carriers, to join us at our monthly meetings for not just the fellowship but more importantly to learn about the job you are doing, changes that occur which have an immediate effect on your job, and the rights you have in doing your job.

I want to thank you again for your support and hope to do more in making this a better union for us now and for future letter carriers.

Robbie

## Robert's Ramblings– Bob McNulty

Your 3 Trustees are ready to protect and track the property and financial resources of Branch 361. The trustees of the Branch are now Bill Craig, Jim Smith (both retirees) and myself. The Branch has voted to remodel the two obsolete and leaky restrooms, so we have taken bids and will closely monitor the eventual work. Thanks to all our carriers who give to the Letter Carrier Political Fund, and especially the Retirees who participated in the election process. Virtual calling, texting, and emailing, were our only safe options in 2020. With the assistance of Letter Carriers from other states, we were able to help elect the Biden-Harris Team which supports us and a

strong US Postal Service. We did call into other States on Sunday nights, thanks to the coordination of the National NALC. Rest assured, we dodged a bullet in 2020. The former President seemed to despise US Mail and workers like us because we make democracy work by delivering mail on a daily basis. Stay tuned to see if the current PMG gets to serve President Biden. Remember that in 2020 we have gotten zero support from our elected 6<sup>th</sup> District US Representative in Congress. Not much more was offered by our 2 US Senators. We must keep contacting them when our legislation comes up a vote going forward.

MAC

## Branch 361 invitation to the January Zoom meeting.

**Monthly Meetings:** Due to COVID Social Distancing guidelines and the fact most of the counties covered by the branch are in the RED ZONE we will be doing meetings via ZOOM until further notice. Please allow enough time to get logged on and admitted prior to the 7pm start time. Type in the URL below or contact Ken to receive a clickable link by e-mail or text.

**Topic: Branch 361 November Monthly Meeting      Time: January 5, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5325217930?pwd=ZTRhdkdRaVRZQ2ZvcCtqMEo0czh3QT09>

Meeting ID: 532 521 7930

Passcode: Br361\*\*Zoo

One tap mobile

+1646558656,,5325217930#,,,,0#,794941# US (New York)

+13017158592,,5325217930#,,,,0#,794941# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 532 521 7930

Passcode: 794941

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbbGu0bmIM>



**NOW OPEN**

**NEW MAIN OFFICE**  
124 Louie Place  
in Townley Center

**BRANCH OFFICE**  
1088 Nandino Boulevard  
Behind the main post office

## Health Benefits - Mark Whitcomb

Quite frankly I wish I had better news for our members. The message that I'm going to say has been the message all along .We're in a higher risk environment now. So as you may recall we went through March and were able to suppress a rise in COVID-19 and then in July and then again at the beginning of school in September but our case counts have never been so high .

The risk for our members has never been so high. It's not where we wanted to be on heading into the Holiday season .I understood that people want to socialize and to get together like they have done on previous holidays but with this trajectory it is a setting for disaster for our members. But we can get through this .I'm asking you to WAIT especially to visit elderly or anyone with a chronic disease or risk for covid19 because we don't want this holiday season to be a high risk transmission for covid 19 when we're already seeing risk accelerate in our city. So I'm asking please stay to your immediate household, yes there's going to be elderly and vulnerable members of your family but please do not visit them we don't want to spread this virus.

Please consider using any virtual means to keep connected to them to keep supporting them and to stay connected with them through this difficult time as well consider especially if you're elderly or vulnerable to order online and or curbside pickup and continue to support our local economy because our local economy is suffering as a result of covid 19. Support local restaurants as well through ordering takeout and or delivery if you can .The vaccine's not far off so the next holiday season we should have anyone who's elderly or with chronic disease should have been offered the vaccine and taken it and we should have a much safer next holiday season .it's going to be difficult but we don't want to get through this by having an increased risk of covid heading in to January.

Be Safe. Happy New Year.

Mark

## Trustee - Jim Smith

You have just finished the busiest time of the year at the Post Office. The increase in parcels made you have many more dismounts. Along with this the unpredictable fall and winter weather makes for more stressful working conditions If all this wasn't enough you are choosing and purchasing Christmas gifts for family and a few friends maybe. That is the magical and fun part of Christmas until the bills for them come in January.

If you find yourself too stressed out and maybe even worried that you can't handle it all there is a wonderful program called EAP-(Employee Assistance Program.) Sometimes, especially this time of the year, it can feel like your world is caving in on you. It is in these times that it may take a person you don't know to give you the help you need. EAP has people who are trained in different areas. They might suggest something that has never occurred to you. Help is just a phone call away. the number is 800-327-4968 or by visiting the EAP website at <https://usps.rdbh.com/EAP>. It is free, confidential and available in several formats. Counselors are available for in-person sessions, phone sessions, or through the "talkspace" online chat platform.

Veterans here is another source for you to use if you do not want to go through the DVA. And on of that it is available for family and or personal problems. Any stress burden, whether work-related or not that affects the physical or mental wellbeing of our members. You do not have to worry about management or co-workers finding out about you using EAP. I would like to take this time to thank everyone that voted for me and trust me to be your trustee. I am retired from Beaumont Station going on 9 years. I am just a phone call away in you ever needing anything.

Until the next time stay safe and be careful.

Jim

## Trustee - Bill Craig

Brothers and Sisters, As a newly elected member of Board of Trustees, I would like to thank all the members that took enough interest to return their ballots and participate in the election process. A special thanks to those that honored me by casting your vote for me to be one of Branch 361's Trustees and Convention Delegates.

For those of you who may not know me, my name is William (Bill) Craig and I have been a member and faithful participant of Branch 361 for close to 40 years. It is a privilege to take on a position of responsibility with expanded opportunities to serve this great union!

Bill

## MDA Report - Ron O'Bryant

It was my pleasure as my last official act as MDA coordinator to donate the \$50 door prize to MDA. I have decided to step down for health reasons and allow Renee Zyla assisted by Mark Whitcomb to take over the job of challenging us to raise funds for this worthy cause. If it takes two to fill my shoes, there must be a fat joke in there somewhere, but I digress. Please support them as you did me to help the children, adults and families affected by these diseases.

Until the cures are found

Ron

## Financial Report for November 2020

Deposits	\$11,898.21
Checks	\$ 9,545.64
<u>Balances</u>	
Checking	\$84,012.05
Savings	\$71,738.47
Building Fund	\$10,184.40
Retiree Fund	\$14,047.85
Hall Rental Fund	\$11,976.38

## December Door Prize Winner

Ron O'Bryant \$50.00      Donated to MDA

## Director of Retirees - Mike Holbrook

Usually around this time I am finalizing the arrangements for our Retiree Luncheon in March, however this year we won't really have an idea when it will be safe to hold the luncheon until February as more information on the country wide vaccination plan becomes available. At this point I predict the earliest possibility would be May, but what happens between now and February may change that projection. I hope to be able to announce a firm date in the March newsletter.

In the mean time I am working on contacting the Members who have retired towards the end of 2020 (earlier retirements have already been contacted) to discuss their choice of retirement gift from the Branch. If you fall into this group of year end retirements and I have not contacted you by the time you receive this newsletter contact me at 859-248-2401 to complete the process.

While we are waiting for the vaccination program to progress and our turn to receive the vaccine to come about, please don't let your guard down and become lax in the precautions you take to keep from becoming infected with or spreading the virus. As we get this close to a solution for the nightmare of this pandemic, it would be a real tragedy for one of us or a family member to have died needlessly so close to the end.

Also sometime in 2021 we will resume retirement seminars at the hall. Till then call me if you have any retirement questions.

Mike

**Jim Smith is collecting pull tabs off cans for the Ronald McDonald House, toothpaste & brushes, shampoo, soap, lotion and socks for the homeless. Ron is using the product codes inside coke products to bid on gift cards for MDA raffles. To help, bring any of these items to the monthly meeting.**

## Recording Secretary - Crystal Smith

Thank you to everyone who voted in the Branch Election! Regardless of who you voted for; I applaud each of you for exercising your right to vote! With that being said, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you I have not yet had the privilege of meeting.

My name is Crystal Smith, I have served as a Letter Carrier at the Brentwood Station in Lexington for nearly ten years. I have also served as the shop steward at Brentwood for the previous four years. I have been given the honor - as successor to Randy Wiles - to serve as the new Recording Secretary. I ask that you all remain patient during this transition period as we continue to adapt to new ways of training and conducting Monthly Meetings due to COVID-19. I look forward to continuing to grow and learn with the members of Branch 361 and look forward to serving you all in my new role.

Crystal

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## Retiring Secretary - Randy Wiles

Here we are almost into a New Year, I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and has a Happy New Year. Since retiring I have remained in contact with carriers to be told of the stories of constantly being forced to work due to sick calls, being short staffed and the increase in packages during the holiday season. Thank-You for all you have done and will continue to do to get the job done. This whole COVID pandemic has really thrown a monkey wrench into everyone's life. Now that a vaccination is going to be distributed, we can only hope it can slow down or stop the virus. I wonder how long it is going to be before the essential workers such as postal employees can get the vaccine.

Let us put 2020 behind us and make the best of things during 2021. With the installation of Officers and Stewards during the December meeting, good luck to all, please give them all your support for we are all in this together and the more we work together the stronger we are as a union.

## Financial Secretary - Cindi Lindsay

As many of you may know, I have been the branch treasurer for the past 6 years. I went back and forth with myself about whether I would run for another term. Obviously, I decided to commit to three more years. This will however be my last term as treasurer. I was hopeful that someone would be interested in running for Assistant Financial Secretary/ Treasurer so that I would have these next three years to train them to take over my position. If you've kept informed about our recent branch election, then you know that there was no one who was interested in becoming my assistant. The branch needs more members to participate in our union. We need some of our younger members to step up and learn how to run the branch. Once the next election cycle starts, many of the current officers and stewards may decide that they have done their part in helping out their fellow carriers and opt out. Please consider what you can do to make our branch stronger. Even if it's just attending/joining the monthly meetings, it's a start! We have several steward positions available along with the assistant treasurer position. If you are even a little bit interested in any of these jobs, contact Ken Becraft. Our branch president can let you know what your duties/responsibilities would be. That way you know what you're getting yourself into!

Don't forget to vote on the new (proposed) national contract. You can go to the NALC app to read up on this proposed contract and the changes that are under consideration. Stay safe everyone!

Cindi

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If you really want to help step up and get involved be a Steward, help with hall clean up, show up to meeting and speak up to have your voice heard.

Remember if you have any change in your status, name change, address change, being promoted to career, phone number, work location etc...., please contact your steward or the Branch Secretary or other Officer so the database can be updated. Best of Luck to everyone, and I hope 2021 is good to all.

Randy

## Share Your Views!

The deadline for submissions to News and Views is the 1st of each month. Interested parties are encouraged to submit articles to be printed subject to space available and approval of the President. To submit an article to News & Views please send it to;

President Ken Beccraft  
P O Box 911203  
Lexington, KY 40591  
or electronically to;  
kbeccraftbranch361  
@gmail.com

Editor Mike Holbrook  
PO Box 371  
Richmond, KY 40476  
mhkynalcde@aol.com

All articles must be typed in Arial 11 font and signed by the author, or submitted on electronic media.

The articles in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or the local Branch. The Editor reserves the right to edit, delete, or reject any article in the interest of the good of the Branch.

In the interest of benefitting the goals of the NALC, permission is hereby granted to other parties to use any part of this newsletter as long as credit is given.

**Due to Fayette and surrounding Counties being in the red zone, the January meeting will be by Zoom. You must RSVP to Ken, Denise, Cindi, Mike, or Crystal; by phone, text or email to receive a clickable link to join the meeting. Please provide an email address by January 4th. to receive the link.**

Ken 859-940-8645 kbeccraftbranch361@gmail.com  
Denise 859-221-2854 ilovejoseph95@icloud.com  
Cindi 859-494-3187 cindi.lindsay@gmail.com  
Mike 859-248-2401 mhkynalcde@aol.com  
Crystal 859-396-8648 crystald.smith03@gmail.com

## New Members

Please welcome the following new members, whose applications were approved at the December 1st Monthly Meeting.

Candice Grace  
Melissa Morber  
Taylor Bradley  
Jemmeia Samuels  
Jeffery R. Peake  
Parmeshwar Bartaula  
Ricky Arnett

**Interested in learning new skills? We are currently seeking a member to be the assistant editor of the news and views newsletter. It will be a paid position, with the volunteer learning all aspects of producing and mailing the newsletter with the eventual goal of taking over as editor, when they are thoroughly trained and comfortable in the position. If interested contact any officer to request to be considered.**

**Convention Delegates, remember you are required to attend 80% of meetings from the time of nomination to receive Branch funds to attend State and National Conventions. Attendance by Zoom counts but be sure to turn your video on, it is required. If you do not have video capability you must contact Ken or Denise prior to the meetings.**

## Central Kentucky Congressional Delegation

	Local Phone #	D.C. Phone #
Rand Paul, Senator	1-270-782-8303	1-202-224-4343
Mitch McConnell, Senator	1-859-224-8286	1-202-224-2541
Bret Guthrie, 2nd District Rep.	1-270-842-9896	1-202-225-3501
Thomas Massie, 4th District Rep	1-859-426-0080	1-202-225-3465
Hal Rogers, 5th District Rep	1-606-679-8346	1-202-225-4601
Andy Barr, 6th District Rep	1-859-219-1366	1-202-225-4706

**Central Kentucky Branch 361**  
**NALC, AFL-CIO**  
**P.O. Box 911203**  
**Lexington, KY 40591-1203**

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# NEWS AND VIEWS

## Grievance Report November 2020

OFFICE	FILED	SETTLED	OPEN
Beaumont	0	0	0
Berea	0	0	0
Bluegrass	0	0	0
Brentwood	0	0	0
Danville	0	0	0
Frankfort	1	0	1
Gardenside	1	0	1
Georgetown	0	0	0
Harrodsburg	0	0	0
Lancaster	0	0	0
Liberty	2	0	2
Nicholasville	0	0	0
Paris	0	0	0
Richmond	0	0	0
Stanford	0	0	0
Versailles	2	0	2
Wilmore	0	0	0
Winchester	0	0	0

## Donate to Stamp out Hunger

For the last 27 years, the National Association of Letter Carriers has been proud to hold the Stamp Out Hunger food drive, the nation's largest one day food drive, on the second Saturday in May. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we weren't able to safely collect and distribute food in May this year. However, we will schedule the 28th annual Stamp out hunger food drive when it is safe to do so.

In the meantime, the need for food assistance is more urgent than ever and we want to give everyone the opportunity to continue to help meet that need. The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is a drive with a single mission—to feed the hungry in America, and as always, with your help, we will **Please donate what you can to a food bank in your community. Simply find your state below and click on the link to donate directly. All collections stay in the local community.** <https://www.nalc.org/community-service/food-drive/2020-donor-drive>

