

News and Views



Official Publication of Central Kentucky Bluegrass Branch 361, NALC

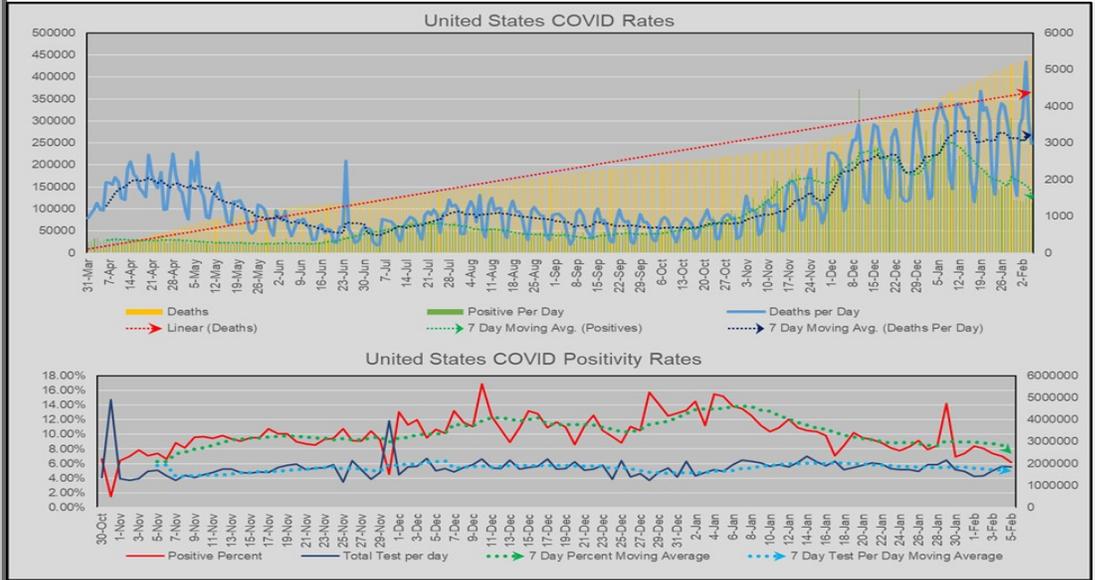
2021 Issue 3

Mar. 2021

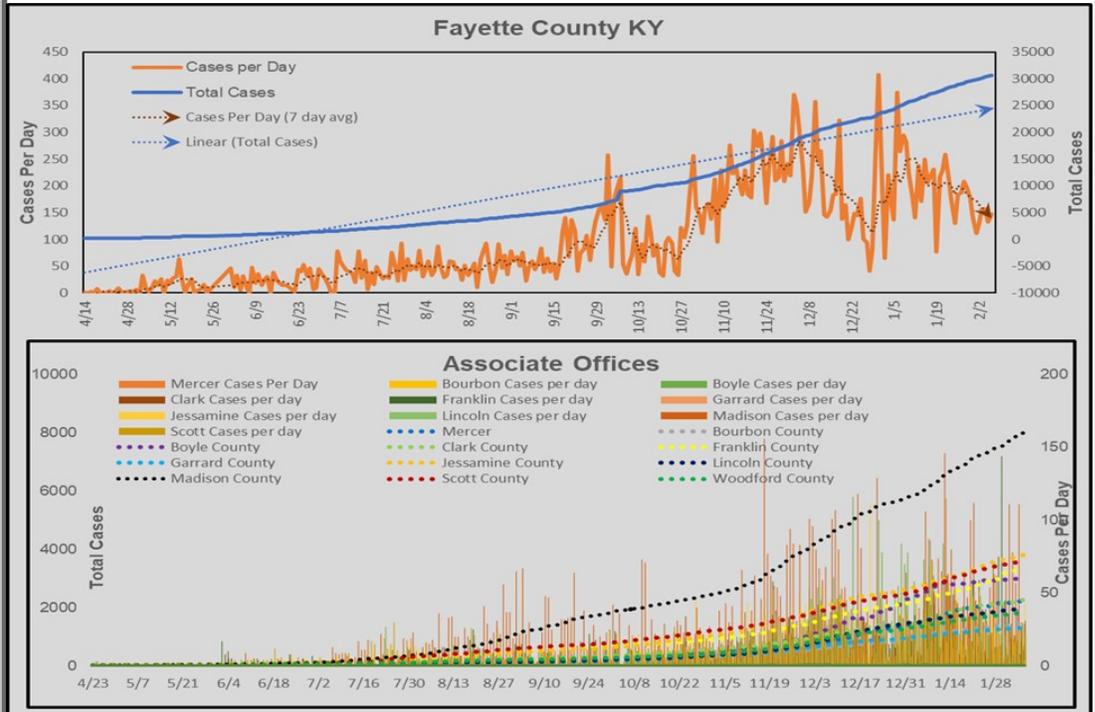
Inside this issue:

- Pres. Page cont. 2-3
- ZOOM Invitation 3
- Pres. Page cont. 4-5
- Pres. Page cont 6-7
- Pres. Page cont 8-9
- Pres. Page cont 10
- Door Prize Winner 10
- Financial Report 10
- Share Your Views 11
- New Members 11
- Announcements 11
- Central Kentucky Congressional Delegation 11
- Grievance Report 12
- NALC Food Drive 12

President's Page - Ken Becraft



Graph 1: As of February 5, 2021 Data from covictracking.com



Graph 2 As of February 5, 2021 Data from govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19

President's Page continued

I hope everyone will take the time to read this instead of tossing it in the garbage unopened. If you do open it, I hope that you learn something and have a better understanding of some of the issues we have to address as a Branch, a National Organization, and as current and former Postal Employees.

I am taking up most of the space in this newsletter with my article, but be sure to look at the routine information too, such as Announcements, Treasurer Report, and New Member List. I also have a couple of items on different topics at the end of my main article.

We are sending this Newsletter to all carriers represented by the branch in the hope that non-members will see the importance of membership and understand that we all have common goals. Our branch, like most, is about 90 percent organized. This means that 60 to 70 of the people you work with daily are not members of the Branch. We want *all* carriers involved and I hope this article illustrates the *need* for union membership and participation.

“Recognition and Collective Bargaining” We will begin with a history lesson of sorts. In fact, I doubt that the majority of people receiving this newsletter were alive when this lesson begins. Up until the strike of 1970, and the resulting Postal Reorganization Act (PRA), the Postal Service as we know it didn't exist. It was instead known as the Post Office Department and headed by the Postmaster General, a position which was on the President's Cabinet from 1872 to 1971.

The PRA transformed the Post Office Department into an independent establishment of the government of the United States; “The United States Postal Service” (USPS). The PRA also gave postal employees the right to **bargain collectively** over their wages, hours, and working conditions. The law states that the Postal Service “shall accord exclusive recognition to a labor organization when the organization has been selected by a majority of the employees in an appropriate unit as their representative.” This PRA mandate followed the concept of “exclusive recognition” that had long served as the basis for collective bargaining in the private sector. The doctrine holds that only one labor organization can represent “all employees in such unit for the purposes of collective bargaining in respect to rates of pay, wages, hours of employment, or other conditions of employment.”

The National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) is the exclusive bargaining agent representing city delivery carriers. The NALC is the exclusive representative of all city letter carriers; the *only* organization entitled to represent us in our collective bargaining relationship with the USPS.

The reason this is so important for Letter Carriers is that prior to the PRA, the Post Office Department could only grant pay raises authorized by Congress, creating unlivable wages for Letter Carriers across the country. Since Collective Bargaining began, however, Letter Carriers have seen pay increases and better working conditions in *almost every contract cycle*. As comparison, over the last 10 years Letter Carriers have seen \$13,620 in pay increases while, if using the same percentage approved by congress for other Federal Employees, the increase would have been \$6,583. This is obviously a significant difference, and one that should matter to every letter carrier. The following table shows the data.

Year	Bargaining	Estimated on Congressional Approval
2008	\$2,890	\$1,270
2009	\$935	\$1,510
2010	\$911	\$804
2011	\$978	\$0
2012	\$0	\$0
2013	\$566	\$0

President’s Page continued

2014	\$2,221	\$544
2015	\$565	\$549
2016	\$739	\$555
2017	\$1,381	\$560
2018	\$2434	\$792

I will discuss it in more detail later, but the recent Task Force on the United States Postal System recommended the *elimination* of collective bargaining over wages for Letter Carriers and aligning our pay with other Federal Employees. I’m sure that most carriers will agree that this is not a good solution for us. Any way you look at it, \$13,620 is substantially better than \$6,538.

Continued on page 4

Branch 361 invitation to the March Zoom meeting.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Zoom I recommend logging on early to ensure you are able to attend the meeting. Zoom is fairly straight forward but may require the download and installation of Zoom software. When you log onto the meeting you will be placed in a waiting room, you will not be allowed to join the meeting unless we know who you are. As such it is recommended your user name is displayed to avoid delays in being able to join the meeting. **RSVP to Ken (859-940-8645) by the 2nd to receive an email or text message with clickable links.**

Topic: Branch 361 March Monthly Meeting Time: Mar. 2, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5325217930?pwd=ZlFTN2lmYk5vUG5ZT0RmNVpseUhzUT09>

Meeting ID: 532 521 7930 Passcode: br361MM*

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,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: 716362105

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5325217930?pwd=ZlFTN2lmYk5vUG5ZT0RmNVpseUhzUT09>

DUE TO SECURITY ISSUES, PLEASE REQUEST A NEW LINK. PRIOR LINKS WILL NOT WORK



NOW OPEN

NEW MAIN OFFICE
 124 Louie Place
 in Townley Center

BRANCH OFFICE
 1088 Nandino Boulevard
 Behind the main post office

President's Page continued

Article 43 covers the Separability and Duration of the National Agreement. In short, and of particular importance to us, is Article 43.1, which states: *"Should any part of this Agreement or any provision contained herein be rendered or declared invalid by reason invalid by reason of any existing or subsequently enacted legislation or by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidation of such part or provision of this Agreement shall not invalidate the remaining portions of this Agreement, and they shall remain in full force and effect."* This basically states that if any part of the Agreement is invalidated by legislation or court order the other parts remain intact. All carriers should be aware that congressional acceptance of the Task Force report will *eliminate* significant parts of the collective bargaining processes that our predecessors worked so hard for.

"Previous Presidential Commissions" In 1967, President Johnson formed a Commission on Postal Organization, the Kappel Commission, to examine the Department. The Commission's findings served as the basis for the 1970 (PRA). In 2003, President George W. Bush created the President's Commission on the United States Postal Service. The commission's report was used by Congress as basis to pass the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 (PAEA). The PAEA made four major changes to the USPS: (1) products were divided into monopoly (mainly mail products) or competitive (generally packages and express mail) products; (2) monopoly product rate increases were capped at the growth of the consumer price index for urban consumers; (3) the USPS was given latitude to set rates on competitive products, as long as competitive product revenue met certain minimum cost coverage thresholds; and (4) the USPS was required to begin prefunding accrued retiree health benefit liabilities.

Under PAEA, the USPS was forced to prefund its future health care benefit payments to retirees for the next 75 years *in an astonishing ten-year time span*, meaning that it had to put aside billions of dollars to pay for the health benefits of employees it hasn't even hired yet, something that *no other government or private corporation is required to do*.

"Prefunding" As reported in the Postal Service's annual 10-K financial statements, the mandate has cost an average of \$5.4 billion annually since 2007 and is responsible for 92 percent of USPS losses over the last twelve years. It accounts for 100 percent of losses over the past six years. Were this burden not imposed, USPS would have recorded surpluses of nearly \$4.0 billion since 2013!

Fiscal Year	Reported Net Income	Retiree Health Benefits Pre-funding	Net income without prefunding
2013	-5 billion	5.6 billion	600 million
2014	-5.5 billion	5.7 billion	200 million
2015	-5.1 billion	5.7 billion	600 million
2016	-5.6 billion	5.8 billion	200 million
2017	-2.7 billion	4.3 billion	1.6 billion
2018	-3.9 billion	4.5 billion	600 million

I believe that this shows the damage that Congress can do to the USPS and the potential damage it can do to our pay and benefits. This brings us to the December 2018 report by the Task Force on United States Postal System.

"Current Task Force Report" Remember, we discussed that this report recommended elimination of collective bargaining on wages, but it also included numerous other recommendations that would affect our livelihood as Letter Carriers. The following are just some of the damages the recommendation would cause to our wages, benefits, retirement, and working conditions.

Raises federal employees' pension contributions between 6 and 7.25 percent of pay over the next six years. **This would cost active Letter Carriers up to \$3,600 - \$4,350 per year.**

President's Page continued

Eliminates cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for current and future retirees under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). **The average FERS annuitant would lose \$23,430 over 10 years, \$99,471 over 20 years, and \$246,185 over 30 years.** Reduces COLAs for the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) annuitants by $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 percent each year. **The average CSRS annuitant would lose \$12,598 over 10 years, \$60,576 over 20 years, and \$169,874 over 30 years.**

Eliminates Social Security supplement for FERS employees who retire before 62. If the supplement is eliminated through legislation, here is what you would lose if you retire at age 57 with 30 years of career federal/postal service: **From age 57 – 62 (5 years) you will lose \$1,100 a month. \$1,100 a month for 12 months is \$13,200 a year. \$13,200 a year for 5 years is \$66,000 of your retirement. This would obviously force many of us to have to work another 5 years.**

Slashing the rate of interest paid on assets invested in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Government Securities Fund (G Fund), costing active and retired Letter Carriers alike \$32 billion over 10 years.

\$46 billion in vaguely defined cuts and revenue changes to the Postal Service, most likely through reducing the frequency of delivery (eliminating Saturday delivery) and scaling back door to door delivery.

“Prior Bills” In July 2014, the Promote Accountability and Government Efficiency Act (H.R. 3257) was introduced by Congressman Todd Rokita (R-IN). Some of the key points of the bill include the following:

Allow federal employees to be removed or suspended “without notice or right to appeal, from service by the head of the agency at which such employee is employed for good cause, bad cause, or no cause at all.”

Allow agency heads to immediately suspend federal employees for misconduct or poor performance “if the head determines that the misconduct or performance of the employee warrants such suspension.”

The bill would place a limitation on appeal rights.

Annual pay raises would be prohibited if an employee did not receive at least a score of 4 or 5 out of 5 (or an equivalent rating with respect to a performance appraisal system that does provide for such a scoring system) on his or her latest performance review under the performance appraisal system.

Employees would be denied their CSRS or FERS annuities if convicted of a felony.

An agency may transfer an individual occupying a Senior Executive Service position who is not an at-will employee to a position within the General Schedule.

Official time would not be authorized for an employee serving as an exclusive representative when negotiating a collective bargaining agreement, and employees would be prohibited from using government property in carrying out any activities relating to the internal business of a labor organization.

This bill is dead in the house, and Mr. Rokita is no longer in office, but if you compare this to the Current Task Force Report, you will see some of the same cuts to our benefits, and a disturbing theme.

I point your attention to Number 7 above; this provision would have stopped most **on the clock** Union Representation and is what brings us to Article 17 of the National Agreement, which covers Representation.

President's Page continued

“Representation” The contract is very clear about the right to steward time on the clock when it states: *“Although a steward must ask for supervisory permission to leave his or her work area or enter another one to pursue a grievance or potential grievance, management cannot “unreasonably deny” requests for paid grievance-handling time. Additionally, . . .*

Management may not determine in advance how much time a steward reasonably needs to investigate a grievance (National Arbitrator Garrett, MB-NAT-562/MB-NAT-936, January 19, 1977, C-00427). Rather, the determination of how much time is considered reasonable is dependent on the issue involved and the amount of information needed for investigation purposes (Step 4, NC-S-2655, October 20, 1976, M-00671).

Steward time to discuss a grievance may not be denied solely because a steward is in overtime status (Pre-arbitration Settlement, W4N-5C-C 41287, September 13, 1988, M-00857). It is the responsibility of the union and management to decide mutually when the steward will be allowed, subject to business conditions, an opportunity to investigate and adjust grievances (Step 4, N-S-2777, April 5, 1973, M-00332).

If management delays a steward from investigating a grievance, it should inform the steward of the reasons for the delay and when time will be available (NALC-USPS Joint Contract Administration Manual - July 2014 Page 17-5). Likewise, the steward has an obligation to request additional time and give the reasons why it is needed (Step 4, NC-C-16045, November 22, 1978, M-00127).

An employee must be given reasonable time to consult with his or her steward, and such reasonable time may not be measured by a predetermined factor (Step 4, H1C-3W-C 44345, May 9, 1985, M-00303).

Although Article 17.4 provides that the grievant and a steward shall be paid for time actually spent in grievance handling and meetings with management, there are no contractual provisions requiring the payment of travel time or expenses in connection with attendance at a Formal Step A meeting (Step 4, N8-S-0330, June 18, 1980, M-00716). Nor does the National Agreement require the payment of a steward who accompanies an employee to a medical facility for a fitness-for-duty examination (Step 4 Settlement, NC-N-12792, December 13, 1978, M-00647).

The appropriate remedy in a case where management has unreasonably denied a steward time on the clock is an order or agreement to cease and desist, plus payment to the steward for the time spent processing the grievance off-the-clock, which should have been paid time.”

A steward may conduct a broad range of activities related to the investigation and adjustment of grievances and of problems that may become grievances. These activities include the right to review relevant documents, files, and records, as well as interviewing a potential grievant, supervisors, and witnesses. All of which is permitted on the clock by our current National Agreement.

“Union Membership” I hope this look at previous commissions, prior bills, and the current task force report shows the need for, and benefits of, membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers, but there's even more to consider. As the sole representative of city delivery letter carriers in the United States, since 1889 the NALC has defended the rights of letter carriers before abusive supervisors, unfair administrations, and indifferent Congresses. *The NALC is the only force fighting to protect your interests as a letter carrier.* Most of all, the NALC is the hundreds of thousands of carriers like you united to protect the quality of their jobs and the integrity of the United States Postal Service.

President's Page continued

“Job security and benefits” Since 1889 the NALC has helped win every pay increase and improvement in benefits letter carriers have gained. Before 1970, the union had to persuade Congress to pass a law to raise letter carriers' pay, but with passage of the Postal Reorganization Act in that year, NALC won letter carriers the right to bargain over wages, benefits, and working conditions **“Justice on the job”** The USPS can be an impersonal and sometimes hostile bureaucracy. Yet because of the NALC, letter carriers can fight unwarranted discipline, discrimination, and other abuses. When you have a grievance, NALC will represent you every step of the way.

On the local level, NALC stewards iron out day-to-day problems and keep an eye on safety and health conditions in the workplace. Stewards and branch officers provide strong support when you file a grievance—including third-party arbitration if necessary.

On the national level, a computerized arbitration index assists NALC representatives in preparing your grievance. In addition, the union takes unresolved disputes with the Postal Service over the interpretation of the contract to Arbitration. NALC has helped thousands of letter carriers win reinstatement, back-pay, unpaid overtime, and seniority rights.

“Democracy at work” *The NALC is one of the most democratic unions in the United States.* Members vote directly for local and national officers and on proposed contracts. The convention, held every two years, is the supreme body of the union; where members who are elected to serve as delegates chart the course of the union and set NALC policy.

Today, the NALC is comprised of more than 270,000 active and retired letter carriers, in 2,500 branches across the country. National headquarters officers in Washington, DC keep an eye on congress and the USPS. Fifteen National Business Agents coordinate activities within their postal regions while state associations promote grassroots legislative campaigns. Union members can speak out at branch meetings, vote in local and national union elections, run for office, and otherwise promote the policies and programs they support.

“Improving your work life” The NALC is committed to improving relations between postal management and letter carriers. While this seems to be a never-ending task, the problems that remain are not for lack of effort by the NALC. Any investigation of the matter will reveal as much.

“Make the difference” The NALC is more than representation on the job and in Congress. NALC is thousands of letter carriers like you, all working together to preserve and improve their jobs and to ensure that the Postal Service will be going strong in the 21st century. Joining NALC means taking charge of your job and your career and gaining more control over your future. Like all democratic institutions, the NALC gets its strength from its members. By joining the union and keeping the NALC strong, you will be helping yourself and thousands of other letter carriers and their families obtain the support they need.

“Hatch Act Overview” Previous to 1993, active letter carriers were barred from taking significant volunteer roles in any political campaign. The primary sentiment behind the law was to protect federal employees from being strong-armed and intimidated into helping their bosses run for re-election. However, as times and campaigns changed, many recognized that federal employees were being wrongfully left out of the political process. So, in 1993 Congress amended the Hatch Act to allow federal employees to take an active part in political campaigns. While there are still some restrictions on what federal employees (including you and your fellow active carriers) can do, there is now much greater latitude for letter carrier political participation in campaigns for President, the Senate, and the House of Representatives, as well as for state and local elected officials. Incidentally, retirees, spouses, and family members (including NALC Auxiliary members) are *not* bound by the Hatch Act.

President's Page continued

“Hatch Act Do’s” While off the clock, out of uniform active Letter Carriers may, on their own time, away from work, out of uniform, and without using a postal vehicle: **(1)** Be candidates for public office in non-partisan elections (i.e., elections in which none of the candidates are to be nominated or elected are representing a political party). **(2)** Register and vote. **(3)** Sign and circulate candidate nominating petitions and ballot initiative positions. **(4)** Assist in voter-registration drives. **(5)** Speak and write publicly and otherwise express opinions about candidates, ballot measures, and issues. **(6)** Attend political rallies, meetings, and other events. **(7)** Attend fundraisers and contribute money to political organizations and campaigns. **(8)** Volunteer for political campaigns and encourage others to volunteer. **(9)** Participate in phone-banking and precinct-walking for candidates and ballot measures. **(10)** Display bumper stickers, lawn signs, and other campaign paraphernalia. **(11) Raise money for the Letter Carrier Political Fund from other NALC members.** *(Note: Letter carriers, while detailed to 204b or other higher-level assignments, should not solicit contributions to the Letter Carrier Political Fund from postal employees who may be viewed as their subordinates.)* **(12)** Volunteer, run for, and hold an office in a local or state political party or club.

“Hatch Act Don’ts” While on the clock, at the workplace, in uniform or in a postal vehicle, active Letter Carriers may not engage in any of the otherwise permissible political activities listed in the “Do’s” above. For example, while on the clock, at the workplace, in a postal uniform, or in a postal vehicle, you may not: **(1)** Send or forward a partisan political e-mail. **(2)** Wear or display any political or campaign material, even as a computer screen-saver or desktop wallpaper. **(3)** Circulate partisan political materials to co-workers. **(4) Sign up electronically to contribute to the Letter Carrier Political Fund or solicit other letter carriers to contribute.**

“Hatch Act Never Do’s” Active letter carriers may *not*, even on their own time, away from work, out of uniform, and without using a postal vehicle: **(1)** Use their official titles or positions when engaging in otherwise permissible activities. **(2)** Raise money for partisan political groups or campaigns (except for the Letter Carrier Political Fund), including phone-banking, letter-writing, selling tickets, hosting a fundraiser, inviting people to attend a fundraiser, or allowing your name to be used in a fundraising appeal. **(3)** Otherwise solicit, receive, or handle contributions for a partisan political group or campaign. **(4)** Run for elective office in partisan (party-label) elections, even if you declare “No Party Affiliation”. **(5) Raise money for the Letter Carrier Political Fund from non-NALC members (except from their immediate family members in the same household).**

“The Letter Carrier Political Fund” The Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF) is a **non-partisan** political action committee (PAC) established for the purpose of electing qualified candidates who support Letter Carriers and who are committed to maintaining a strong and innovative U.S. Postal Service. Each year, NALC fights to fend off attacks in Congress that threaten letter carriers’ collective-bargaining rights, retirement benefits, and livelihood. We’ve been successful so far, and we want to continue helping to elect House and Senate candidates who will protect us, promote our issues, and deliver our message to Washington.

Since union dues can’t be used to support candidates for political office, NALC relies 100 percent on member contributions to the LCPF, which in turn helps us support those on Capitol Hill who defend the issues that matter most to us. Our PAC brings together strong letter carrier advocates, from all political parties, who are dedicated to defending a strong USPS that provides universal, innovative, and affordable service.

“What the Letter Carrier PAC Does” The Letter Carrier Political Fund will use money it receives at the national and local levels to contribute to and otherwise assist candidates for federal office who favor legislation in the interest of NALC, without regard to their party affiliation, and to undertake other political spending as permitted by law.

President's Page continued

"LCPF Disclosures" 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 LCPF are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the LCPF 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 per calendar year. Any guideline amount is merely a suggestion, and an individual is free to contribute more or less than the guideline suggests. The union will not favor or disadvantage anyone by reason of the amount of their contribution or their decision not to contribute.

"Why should I join NALC's PAC, the Letter Carrier Political Fund" All Letter Carrier's should be contributors of the LCPF because: **(1)** The Letter Carrier Political Fund identifies and contributes to candidates who support issues important to Letter Carriers. **(2)** Joining the LCPF provides letter carriers with the opportunity to build electoral and legislative power required to ensure that decisions impacting their lives are made with their best interests in mind. **(3)** Only NALC members can contribute to the LCPF. **(4)** Union dues are not used, and cannot be used, for political contributions. **(5)** LCPF contributions are voluntary and can stop at any time. There is no open season. **(6)** We encourage LCPF members to make suggestions for political contributions and to attend local fundraisers. **(7)** LCPF members are encouraged to attend local events which support letter carrier legislative priorities.

"Branch Contributions" I encourage all of you to think very hard about contributing to the Letter Carrier Political Fund. I know some of you will think this is just a ploy to support Democratic Candidates, but that is not the case. *This fund helps any candidate who commits to supporting the causes of Letter Carriers.* In fact, during the last election the split was 70 percent Democrat and 30 percent Republican. For the contributing members listed below, thank you for your 2020 contributions.

Benjamin Baldwin	\$72	Marvin Barnett	\$60	Kenneth Becraft	\$455
Gerald Black	\$120	David Blackburn	\$130	Diane Blackburn	\$130
Ralph Bowman	\$60	Glen Carey	\$130	David Carter	\$45
Sidney Caywood	\$90	Charles Clark	\$1470	Donna Coleman	\$120
Daney Collins	\$60	Larry Collins	\$130	William Craig	\$60
Justen Davis	\$75	Ricky Davis	\$45	Angela Deakle	\$130
David Dunn	\$60	Linda Dunn	\$120	John Evers	\$500
Debra Godby	\$130	Robert Harris	\$55	Robert Hobdy	\$120
Michael Holbrook	\$60	Howard Howells	\$60	Michael Hudson	\$260
Gary Huffman	\$30	Larry Hughes Jr.	\$130	Ernest Kirkland	\$120
Roy Lewis	\$130	Cynthia Lindsay	\$260	Donald McGinnis	\$75
Michael McKinley	\$65	Robert McNulty	\$120	Paul Messer	\$26
Scotty Napier	\$130	Denise Preston	\$130	Noel Reucroft	\$52
James Rice	\$60	Aaron Robinett	\$60	Raymond Rutledge	\$120
John Scott	\$60	Michael Sexton	\$220	Crystal Smith	\$130
James Smith	\$93	Ben Tate	\$130	Charles Thompson	\$60
Zed Waltz	\$130	Mark Whitcomb	\$130	Randy Wiles	\$115
Steven Winburn	\$130	Kelly Winkle	\$48	Troy Wood	\$475
Robert Yost II	\$130	Renee Zyla	\$260		

Continued on page 10

President's Page *continued*

As I was putting this article together for last year's March Issue of News and Views the House of Representatives passed the **USPS Fairness Act (H.R. 2382)** in a 309 to 106 vote. This bipartisan bill seeks to end the mandate for the Postal Service to prefund retiree health care decades in advance.

Passage of H.R. 2382 is a tremendous achievement for letter carriers and the broader postal community. This is the first major piece of legislation tackling postal issues that has passed the House of Representatives since the 2006 passage of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, which forced the disastrous prefunding mandate onto our employer.

Now that the bill has advanced through the House, it will be up to the Senate to take action on S. 2965, the bipartisan companion bill. We should be proud of the work we have done to get bipartisan support for H.R. 2382 but should also be ready to engage and educate our Senators and staff on the need to repeal the prefunding mandate.

Unfortunately, S. 2965 is still sitting in the Senate, hopefully with new leadership it will get some movement along with other positive changes for the United States Postal Service finances.

I hope that you have taken the time to get to this point and that you have learned something in the process. I also hope that you fully understand that we, as Letter Carriers and Union Brothers and Sisters, are under attack from many angles. My biggest hope is that if you are not currently a member, you will strongly consider joining the fight for your job, benefits, and future. The same is true of the Letter Carrier Political Fund. If you don't currently contribute, please consider doing so. As repulsive as some might find it, it is vitally important that we support the politicians who support us. Ken

Requesting bids for the tile work needed as part of the restroom remodeling project. Priority will be given to Branch members and their relatives. Contact any Officer, Trustee or Steward for more information or to schedule a site inspection for calculating bid.

February Door Prize Winner

Sydney Caywood \$50.00 Donated to MDA

Any member interested in serving as the assistant editor and earning a little extra cash contact the Editor or any Officer, Trustee or Steward.

Financial Report for January 2021

Deposits	\$ 6,885.64
Checks	\$12,929.90

Per the Bylaws unspent budgeted funds were transferred from checking into these accounts.

Savings	\$ 4,471.00
Building	\$ 2,850.00
Retire	\$ 1,300.00

The \$16,000 previously approved for transfer into the Convention Fund will be transferred from checking as soon as the Treasurer can get an appointment with the credit union.

Balances

Checking	\$65,798.32
Savings	\$76,218.48
Building Fund	\$13,035.68
Retiree Fund	\$15,349.61
Hall Rental Fund	\$11,977.88

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 Becraft
P O Box 911203
Lexington, KY 40591
or electronically to;
kbecraftbranch361@gmail.com

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

All articles must be typed in Ariel 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 March 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 March 1st to receive the link.

Ken	859-940-8645	kbecraftbranch361@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	crystal.d.smith03@gmail.com

DUE TO SECURITY ISSUES, YOU MUST REQUEST A NEW LINK. PRIOR LINKS WILL NOT WORK

New Members

Please welcome the following new members, whose applications were approved at the February 2nd Monthly Meeting.

Bradley Thomas
Carla Tribuzio
Connie Lane
Anna Jakobsson-McCord
Jason Shepherd
Penny Wyatt
Christopher Copley
Ava Crawford
Doug Woodyard
Richard Wajcik
Kayla Boggs
William Bugg
Blaine Ford
Edwin Jackson
Whitney Robertson
Mateen Melton
Ashland Joseph
Claude Purtnam
Aaron Willard

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



Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Permit Number 50
 Lexington, KY 40511

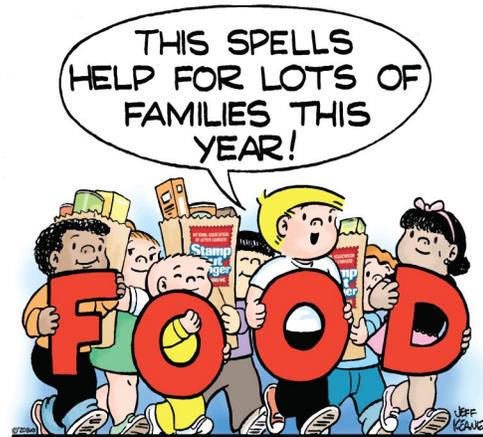
Change Service Requested

NEWS AND VIEWS

Grievance Report January 2021

OFFICE	FILED	SETTLED	OPEN
Beaumont	0	0	0
Berea	0	0	0
Bluegrass	2	1	1
Brentwood	0	0	0
Danville	0	0	0
Frankfort	0	0	0
Gardenside	7	6	1
Georgetown	0	0	0
Harrodsburg	0	0	0
Lancaster	0	0	0
Liberty	2	12	0
Nicholasville	0	0	0
Paris	3	3	0
Richmond	3	0	3
Stanford	0	0	0
Versailles	0	0	0
Wilmore	0	0	0
Winchester	0	0	0

Saturday May 8, 2021



LETTER CARRIERS' FOOD DRIVE

PUT YOUR NON-PERISHABLE DONATION IN A BAG BY YOUR MAILBOX.
 WE'LL DELIVER IT TO A LOCAL FOOD BANK.

National Partners

