

News and Views



Official Publication of Central Kentucky Bluegrass Branch 361, NALC

2022 Issue 3

Mar. 2022

Inside this issue:

Pres. Page	1
Vice President	2
L C P F	2
Dir. of Retirees	3
Robert's Ramblings	4
Zoom Invitation	4
Recording Secretary	5
Open House	5
Trustee Report	6
Door Prize Winner	6
Sgt. at Arms	6
Financial Report	6
Share Your Views	7
New Members	7
Announcements	7
Central Kentucky Congressional Delegation	7
Grievance Report	8
NALC Food Drive	8

President's Page - Denise Preston

First of all, the Executive board and I would like to say congratulations to Zed Waltz. I have appointed Zed as our new Vice President. I know Zed will do a great job in his new position. He has been doing a great job organizing and doing grievance on the steward level.

I would like to thank Ken Becraft for his service to the branch while serving as President for the past seven plus years. I personally think Ken did an amazing job while he was in office. Ken made a lot of great strides for this branch, he put in many hours making sure our branch members were taken care of, creating the social functions of the holiday party and fall festival. The thing that will be remembered the longest will be the long overdue repairs and upgrades to our building some of which are new energy efficient windows, replacing fluorescent lighting with LED lights, new Air Conditioning/Heat Pump units for the meeting hall, repair of trusses and a new roof. For the last year organizing the remodeling of the hall restrooms, kitchen, hallway and entry. All this while trying to keep the membership as safe as possible during the pandemic. I know that Zed and I have some big shoes to fill, but I am sure we will both put forth the effort to fill them.

Also I would like to touch base on a couple of things. When you have an accident no matter how small you should report it to your supervisor if you don't feel you need medical attention or you think you can "walk it off" and you think "If it get's worse I'll report my accident tomorrow". Report it NOW when the accident occurred. Don't wait. Supervisors can put it in as a near miss, but if you don't report your accident at the time it occurs, you will be looking at management trying to give you discipline for failure to report an accident immediately. All accidents have to be reported immediately, so please do so. Not only does it cause problems with management sometimes it makes it more difficult with your workman's compensation claim. The sooner you report the accident the better. Don't let anyone change your mind on reporting an accident. Your safety and wellbeing is the number one priority and should be for everyone. You do not want to put off receiving needed medical care. It is hard enough to get medical attention with covid being so bad right now.

Denise

Mar. 1st meeting will be by zoom only because of covid rate in central Kentucky counties

We have to make this call 2 to 3 weeks before the meeting and at that time cases are still in the red zone in most central Kentucky counties. We hope for a combined in person / virtual meeting in April.

Vice-President - Zed Waltz

Vehicle Accidents It seems to be almost a regular occurrence for me to be representing a Letter Carrier for being involved in a vehicle accident. A vehicle accident is when a vehicle strikes or collides with another vehicle, a stationary object, a pedestrian, or an animal. Some examples of vehicle accidents that occur on a regular basis are accidents such as: a side swipe that breaks a mirror, a tree limb that scratches the vehicle, a customer's mailbox being hit by a mirror while delivering curbside. So, what do you do once a vehicle accident has occurred?

If you are hurt and need help, call 911. Do not wait on someone else for permission to get help when you have been injured. If you need medical attention, you should seek it immediately. I am not by any means saying do not notify management, but I am saying if you are seriously injured seek help immediately do not wait for management to help. Chances are you could be waiting for some time.

Notify your supervisor immediately. By far one of the most important things to do is to notify your immediate supervisor. If they do not answer leave a message and then send a text message so that you now have proof that you notified them of the vehicle accident. Once they have been notified do not do anything else. Wait until they arrive at the accident and let them instruct you on what to do next.

Do not forget you are entitled to representation. Weingarten Rights: *"If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or affect my personal working conditions, I respectfully request that my union representative, officer or steward be present at this meeting. Without my union representative present, I respectfully choose not to answer any questions or participate in this discussion."*

Do not be fooled, anything you say can and will be used against you. This is the most common mistake a Letter Carrier makes; it is of the utmost importance that you realize the investigation into this accident started from the very moment you called management to inform them you were involved in a vehicle accident. I beg you to invoke your Weingarten Rights, I cannot invoke them for you. It is always your right to have a union representative present when being questioned about things which could lead to discipline. I would do nothing other than seek medical attention if you are injured and notify management you have been in a vehicle accident. Do not answer questions that could lead to discipline and do not make a statement until a steward has been provided. This is your right under the law. Protect yourself and help the union protect you on the day when you need it the most. Request your steward or a union representative before answering questions or making statements that could lead to discipline.

Zed

Members who donated to the Letter Carrier Political Fund

Benjamin Baldwin	Donna Coleman	Robert Hobdy	Scotty Napier	James Smith
Marvin Barnett	Daney Collins	Michael Holbrook	Ronald O'Bryan	Ben Tate
Kenneth Becraft	Larry Collins	Howard Howells II	Denise Preston	Charles Thompson
Gerald Black	William Craig	Michael Hudson	Esteban Quintana	Zed Waltz
David Blackburn	Ricky Davis	Larry Hughes Jr.	Noel Reucroft	Mark Whitcomb
Diane Blackburn	Angela Deakle	Ernest Kirkland	James Rice	Steven Winburn
Ralph Bowman	David Dunn	Roy Lewis	Aaron Robinett	Kelly Winkle
Glen Carey	Linda Dunn	Cynthia Lindsay	Raymond Rutledge	Robert Yost II
David Carter	John Evers	Robert McNulty	John Scott	Renee Zyla
Sidney Caywood	Debra Godby	Donald McGinnis	Michael Sexton	
Charles Clark	Jerrell Goodpaster	Paul Messer	Crystal Smith	

Director of Retirees - Mike Holbrook

We have confirmed that National President Fred Rolando will be attending our March 6th Retiree Luncheon. Among the 2020/2021 retirees and Gold card honorees will be former Branch 361 Presidents Ernie Kirkland and Troy Clark, both of whom served on the National level as Director of Retired Members and National Business Agent respectively. We will also be honoring Sixty Year Member Harold Moore. At the time this issue goes to the printer, we have not received President Rolando's travel schedule, but by the time you receive this issue of News and Views, we will have completed plans for a reception for President Rolando and an Open House of the newly remodeled Union Hall. All information will be posted on both the Branch's Facebook Page and website, branch361.org. If you have not already seen the information on either of these sites, please do so now. At the time this went to the printer, we still had about 30 seats available for the Retiree Luncheon. By the time you receive the newsletter, I am sure some of them have already been claimed. If you are interested in attending contact me at 859-248-2401 as soon as possible as the tickets will be on a first come basis.

We wanted to provide an opportunity for members who will not be attending the Retiree Luncheon to meet with President Rolando. We plan to have him give a short presentation on the future of our great union and the Postal Service followed by a reception giving him the opportunity to mingle with our masked, socially distanced members. Our best guess at this point is that the reception will be either Saturday evening the 5th or Sunday evening the 6th, but it is all dependent of President Rolando's flight arrangements. Date, time, as well as food and beverage details will be available on the above mentioned websites as soon as the arrangements are completed. We will also have them posted on the NALC union bulletin boards at the Lexington stations and Associate Offices.

The one bit of bad news is for the retirees who selected rings as their retirement gift. The rings will not arrive till early April. The six week lead time we have experienced in past years has expanded to ten weeks, since the Herff-Jones factory shut down early in the pandemic and orders backed up. They have still not completely caught up as the demand for their products is year round and our smaller order goes to the back of the line. Stay safe.

Mike



Bad credit get you a high interest rate?

Regardless of your credit score, transfer your auto loan from another lender and we'll finance it for 4.94% APR. Apply online or call for more info!



124 Louie Place
off New Circle at Leestown
in Townley Center

LexPCCU.com • 859-252-5151

Terms and conditions apply. Available through 3/31/2022.



Robert's Ramblings - Bob McNulty

For this edition of Robert's Ramblings this humble scribe is drawing upon years of being of member of this great Labor Union, The National Association of Letter Carriers. While I joined on my first day of employment, early lessons learned from the "veteran carriers" not only helped me pass my 90-day probationary period, it helped me be safe to protect myself and the customers. We all quickly learned that the job is much more detailed and intricate than it looks. There are 3-dimensional dangers around every turn. Now you have more incompetent supervisors, some who do not even know all the streets in a Zone! Our union can help members who want to continue their amazing ability to deliver with all the pressures that continue.

So what else you may ask can our Letter Carrier Union do to assist our members? How about workshops, materials, classes, union meetings [when Covid-19 allows] where you can learn your rights through the National Contract and Local Agreements. In our Democratic Union, you can become an officer or a steward. All offices are open to any member in good standing. It is rewarding to assist fellow members.

Camaraderie and the fellowship that comes with it allows our members and their loved ones to relax and enjoy mutual company. We have gone to Legends games, had a Summer Picnic and a Fall festival. We have had Holiday parties, and serve food @ our monthly meetings. Our union has its own health plan where its workers are members of a Labor Union. It is rated with the best, and works very well with Medicare when you retire. We have officers who are elected to assist members with the NALC health plan, and have phone lines where you can speak to a professional or resource person. It is much better on the "inside" to participate in the union. So if you are not yet a member it is easy to join. See any officer or steward, or call me. If for some reason you did not maintain membership, we would be glad to have you back. Remember, the COLA's and wage increases gained in collective bargaining with US Postal Service more than offset any union dues. Letter Carrier Political Fund allows the union to compete in the legislative/political arena, and is completely voluntary by members.

MAC

Branch 361 invitation to the March Zoom 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 Denise (859-221-2854) by the Jan 31st to receive an email or text message with clickable links.

Join Zoom Meeting

Topic: Branch 361 Feb. Monthly Meeting Time: Mar. 1, 2022 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Meeting ID: 833 8919 4311 Passcode: 824510

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83389194311?pwd=bFVETWRaV2w3aWk0Mi9WQTJoRnQzdz09>

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: 833 8919 4311

Passcode: 824510 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83389194311>

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

Recording Secretary - Crystal Smith

Let's talk about mandatory overtime! I know this topic is familiar to some, but it is necessary to reiterate. The last several months, we have all worked more hours than "normal" and are safe. Online shopping, combined with other pandemic related issues, resulted in an increased demand for more items to be delivered directly to consumers at home. Top that with **MANAGEMENT'S** incompetence, negligence, and lack of employee appreciation; we end up with fewer carriers to perform daily duties. Each of you continue to rise to the occasion and for that I say: Thank You! Your hard work is appreciated. Here are some key points I want to review from our National and Local contracts regarding **mandatory overtime**:

Two weeks prior to the start of each calendar quarter, full-time regular employees desiring to work overtime during that quarter shall place their names on an "Overtime Desired" list (ODL).

The purpose of the ODL is to excuse full time carriers not wishing to work overtime from having to work overtime.

Prior to mandating a non-ODL carrier, management must use a carrier from the ODL even if the ODL carrier would be working penalty overtime.

If the ODL does not provide sufficient staff for the required overtime, management can require non-ODL carriers to work overtime (defined as a non-scheduled day or off his/her own assignment) on a *rotating basis* starting with the junior person. This rotation starts with the junior employee at the beginning of each calendar quarter.

Employees who are off on leave on a regularly scheduled day (i.e., sick, or annual) when non-ODL carriers are mandated to work will be passed over until the next time their name comes up in the regular rotation.

Management may seek non-ODL *volunteers* rather than mandating on the basis of juniority. Over time selection shall be in the following order:

Work Assignment employees up to 10 hours (own route, regularly scheduled day).

ODL employees utilized up to 10 hours excluding those who may be granted a "pass."

Mandate ODL who have requested a "pass" that must be denied due to operational needs.

Solicit non-ODL to work up to 10 hours on their own assignment.

Mandate non-ODL to work up to 10 hours on their own assignment.

Utilize Work Assignment up to 12 hours on their own assignment.

Utilize ODL up to 12 hours.

Solicit non-ODL to **volunteer** up to 12 hours.

Mandate all remaining employees to work **up to 10 hours** off their bid assignment by juniority.

As always, if an issue arises, inform your immediate supervisor that you need to speak with a union steward so the incident can be thoroughly investigated. Stay **SAFE** and healthy!

Crystal

Check the **branch361.org** website and the **Nalc Branch 361** Facebook page for the date, time and details for the March open house and reception for National President Fred Rolando

Trustee - Bill Craig

We are well into 2022 and Covid is still dominating our everyday activities and decisions. While most of us have been fully vaccinated, many of you have not gotten the boosters. Please be aware that after about six months the vaccine starts to lose some of its effectiveness even if you have been fully vaccinated. So, please get the boosters and upgrade your masks from the cloth types to the N95 or the KN94 or KN95. These masks have shown to be much more effective against infection from Covid 19 and its variants, especially the more contagious Omicron variant.

The United State Postal Service and the NALC members may finally get some relief if the Postal Service Reform Act is passed by this year's 117th Congress. This bill now has bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate, with support still growing. If passed, this bill will be the first major postal reform legislation in 15 years. It would repeal the unfair mandate that the Postal Service pre-fund health benefits for retirees 75 years into the future. A burden that no other government agency (or private company) was required to do! This mandate for the United States Postal Service was enacted in 2007 and has accounted for 84 percent of USPS losses since then.

The renovation of our men's and women's restrooms and the kitchen is just about finished. I think the membership will be pleasantly surprised whenever we get back to having in person meetings in the union hall. We the trustees, have tried to keep a eye on the prudent use of union funds and make sure all work and purchases stay within budget. With that in mind, the membership owes a debt of gratitude to Mike Holbrook, who overseen the whole project and also put in endless hours of physical labor.

Bill

January Door Prize Winner

Caitlin Armstrong \$50.00 donated to MDA

Sargent at Arms - Keith Hudson

"Safety tomorrow is a day late." This is the first thing I see when I walk into Bluegrass station. This is one of the few things our supervisors have put up that I agree with, safety should be everyone's first priority. The most important thing about your job is you.

If you observe any unsafe condition or practice a PS Form 1767 should be filled out. This form notifies your supervisors of the unsafe condition and forces them to take preventative or corrective actions to resolve a hazardous workplace environment. After you fill out this form give it to your immediate supervisor, if you would like to remain anonymous then give it to a steward or your stations safety personnel and they will submit it for you.

This form is required to be easily available for all employees and to be in stock at each station, if you are needing a PS form 1767 and you cant find them or they don't have any available then request to see a steward. After you submit this form if a supervisor hasn't notified you of the actions taken to remedy the unsafe condition by the end of your shift, then again request to see a steward.

Keith

Financial Report for January 2022

Deposits	\$13,449.10
Checks	\$13,747.66

Balances

Checking	\$73,419.96
Savings	\$76,256.44
Building Fund	\$13,042.08
Retiree Fund	\$15,357.22
Hall Rental Fund	\$11,983.86
Convention Fund	\$16,002.54

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 Denise Preston P O Box 911203 Lexington, KY 40591 or electronically to; ilovejosph95@icloud.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 continued high covid infections in central Kentucky counties the March 1st monthly meeting will be by Zoom only. Contact one of the officers listed below to receive the clickable link to join the meeting via Zoom.

Denise 859-221-2854	ilovejosph95@icloud.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 1st Monthly Meeting.

Derek Lawson	Kyle Baker
Tekaraj Bhattarai	Victor Brent
Denny Thach	James Johnson
Caleb Hart	Ashton Sinnett
Chris Cannon	Elizabeth Askuig
Camron Ray	Anthony Pate
Lyndsay Price	Tonesia Patrick
Manard Slone	Jason Baker.
Matthew Feimer	

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 Denise or Crystal 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 2022

OFFICE	FILED	SETTLED	OPEN
Beaumont	0	0	0
Berea	0	0	0
Bluegrass	10	8	2
Brentwood	0	0	0
Danville	0	0	0
Frankfort	0	0	0
Gardenside	4	0	0
Georgetown	0	0	0
Harrodsburg	0	0	0
Lancaster	0	0	0
Liberty	6	3	3
Nicholasville	2	0	2
Paris	0	0	0
Richmond	0	0	0
Stanford	0	0	0
Versailles	2	2	0
Wilmore	0	0	0
Winchester	0	0	0

Donate to Stamp Out Hunger

For the last 28 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 29th 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/2021-donor-drive>



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

