

CAPITAL CITY CARRIERS

Official Publication of the NALC Branch 380

Trenton
New Jersey
April 2005

USPS BOARD OF GOVERNORS ATTACKS PAY & BENEFITS

THE NALC REPORTED IN THE MARCH 1, 2005 BULLETIN THAT THE POSTAL SERVICE'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS sent a letter to the Chairman of the Senate committee that oversees postal affairs in which they proposed that employee benefits, now provided by various federal government-wide programs, be subject to collective bargaining and that interest arbitrators be required to consider a selective list of criteria (such as the "present financial health and ability to pay") when issuing their decisions.

NALC National President William Young said, "NALC cannot and will not support these proposals. I sincerely hope that this action by the Governors resulted from the high level of turnover on the Board in recent months and does not reflect a change in direction by the Board and the Postmaster General."

Young further stated, "I find it especially outrageous that in the same letter in which it asks the Senate to give the USPS tolls to attack craft employees' pay and benefits, the Board also hypocritically asks the Senate to remove the federal cap on executive compensation in the Postal Service. NALC will oppose a money grab by postal management when craft employee pay and benefits are under attack."

The Bulletin reaffirmed the NALC's position that comprehensive postal reform is essential for the long-term viability of the Postal Service and the long-term job security of letter carriers and other postal employees.

All letter carriers are urged to remain vigilant on the postal reform legislation issues. The best way to be informed and stay informed is to join the already 120, 000 registered e-Activists. The e-Activist

network provides up to the minute alerts about legislation that affects letter carriers and specific information as to what action to take when the need for action arises. The Postal Record contains information every month on how to sign up as an e-Activist or to update the information that you already have in the database.

SENATE VERSION OF POSTAL REFORM LEGISLATION IS WELCOMED BY THE NALC.

It was announced in the March 25 NALC Bulletin that the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, which is chaired by Susan Collins (R-ME), proposed the Senate version of Postal Reform Legislation. The bill, S. 662, which is very similar to the House of Representatives (H.R. 22) was offered on March 17, and is officially titled, Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2005, is welcomed by NALC President William Young. President Young stated, "I am especially pleased that the bill did not include any of the anti-labor measures proposed by the USPS Board of Governors.

Young noted that although the Senate bill contains workers' compensation changes that the NALC opposes, we support advancing postal reform through the Congress.

[COLCPE Enrollment Info on Page 6](#)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE COVER STORY IN THIS MONTH'S EDITION OF CAPITAL CITY CARRIERS TALKS ABOUT POLITICS, POSTAL REFORM AND OUR FUTURE. The issue of what the USPS Board of Governors attempted to do by sending that letter to Senator Collins only scratches the surface of what's really at work here. Although the tail end of the cover article indicates that the very harmful recommendations of the Governors were not currently included in the bill that was proposed, the fact that those recommendations were made at all, and by appointees who have oversight authority over the Postal Service, should alarm every single letter carrier. The Board of Governors is appointed by the President of the United States. The quality of the appointments and the impact that they have on us is directly related to who sits in the Oval Office and what criteria they use to make their selections. The current Chairman of the Board of Governors, James Miller was appointed to the Board by President George W. Bush. Mr. Miller has been a steadfast opponent of the rights and benefits of working people and more specifically he has been an enemy of the USPS and its employees. Miller's career path has seen him as a part of the Reagan Administration where he headed up the Budget Office. His proposals have consistently been anti-worker and pro-CEO. Miller has been a steady proponent for privatization of the Postal Service. If you are troubled by his

appointment to such a key Postal spot as the Board of Governors, then you are thinking soundly, because we should all be troubled by this "Enemy in our Camp."

We are lucky, that so far, our supporters in Congress have resisted undesirable changes to our business or changes that would deprive us of the pay and benefits that carriers and the NALC have fought so hard over many years to obtain. Congressional support for postal workers and for the USPS is essential to the long-term survival of our business and to our own financial well being and employment future. The only security that we have in the political arena comes from supporting and electing people to office that will protect us from the type of ideas that Chairman Miller has often tried to impose on us.

LETTER CARRIERS NEED TO HAVE A CLEAR VIEW OF THE POLITICAL PLAYING FIELD. President Bush appointed people to the Board of Governors that will try to hurt us. We need to have Governors that will help protect us. We need to elect and support candidates that will safeguard our interests, not destroy them. In short, we need to have a President that won't declare or allow an "open season" on postal workers.

YOU MAY ASK. "WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP PROTECT OURSELVES?" THE ANSWER IS REALLY VERY SIMPLE. Know the facts. Remember, knowledge is power, and the best way to stay

informed is to sign up as e-Activists. The NALC will alert you to political issues that affect us, and then President Young will ask you to act when the time is right. Of course, you should always read the Postal Record and the NALC Bulletins when they are mailed to your post office. That's not all. You need to help fill the bank account of the Letter Carrier political action committee (PAC). Our PAC is called COLCPE, which stands for *Committee On Letter Carrier Political Education*. We are a federal government labor union and as such we are prohibited from using any dues money to fund or support any partisan issue or politician seeking office. That puts us at a distinct disadvantage compared to our enemies, who are not restricted by these federal workforce laws. The only way that we get money to battle our enemies and support our friends is through voluntary donations of letter carriers and their families. I think of COLCPE as job insurance. I make small payments, which are taken right out of my paycheck, and this money is then used by our leaders in Washington, DC to help elect and support people that will help protect us. It couldn't be simpler.

ALTHOUGH THE THREAT TO OUR LIVELIHOODS AT THE HANDS OF OUR POLITICAL ENEMIES IS VERY REAL AND GROWING STRONGER EVERY DAY, only a small number of letter carriers

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

(Continued from page 2)

has made a donation to COLCPE. I can only guess that for many, they haven't made the connection that a fully funded COLCPE account is their best defense against the possibility of our enemies' attempts to end the Postal Service as we know it. If those who wish us harm get their way, the result certainly won't be very pretty. Think Wal-Mart. A mostly part time work force with no contractual rights. Low pay and lousy benefits that cost far more than they're worth. Little or no vacation time or sick leave. If you complain, you're fired, without appeal.

OUR ENEMIES HAVE DEEP POCKETS AND THEY PLAY FOR KEEPS. Help our team, the NALC, wage

the fight on our behalf with enough resources to fight back these attacks on letter carrier jobs. The need has never been greater. The cause has never been more urgent. Whether you are an active or retired carrier, whether you can take another allotment or not, the NALC has made the process of giving regular monthly or bi-weekly donations to COLCPE available to everyone. Whether a couple of dollars per pay or ten times that amount, if every one chips in, we will be create a force to be reckoned with. Act now. Our combined contributions can make all the difference. A lack of adequate funding for COLCPE will inevitably prevent us from helping our friends gain office. If those that mean us harm succeed in get-

ting their friends elected instead, the road ahead looks like a rocky one. Invest in your future. Donate to COLCPE. Help defeat our enemies. Instead of them pushing us into the unemployment line, let's put them there.

Fraternally yours,

Mark P. Van Wagner



Capital City Branch 380 had many of the members sign up to be e-Activists when Joe Mooney went around to all the stations, branches and post offices that we serve, on behalf of our NBA, Tim O'Malley, nearly two years ago. Obviously, there have been a number of new members that have joined since then and some of the information that was originally obtained has since been changed and is no longer valid. All Branch 380 Shop Stewards and Branch Officers have e-Activist sign-up forms available so that you can enroll as an e-Activist for the first time or to simply update your current information. Ask for one, and then fill it out and give it back to the Officer or Steward that you got it from. We will take it from there. If you provide an e-mail address, you will receive notification right over the internet when issues arise. If you do not yet have internet access, a hard copy version will be mailed to you ASAP so that you will also be kept informed. Thanks for your help.

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SAME "OL" STUFF

I WAS SITTING IN THE UNION OFFICE AFTER PUTTING IN A TRYING DAY OF DEALING WITH MANAGEMENT'S TRICKS. I was frustrated and needed a lift when "ol" Isles Wolhfarther happened to walk through the door. Isles always seems to cheer me up. After all he is not only witty he also happens to be the oldest letter carrier on the planet. "Isles", I said, "has management always been so reluctant to do the right thing." "Kid", Isles said, "you don't know the half of it."

"I REMEMBER WHEN US CARRIERS WERE LOBBYING FOR AN EIGHT HOUR WORK DAY." "THIS WAS IN 1888." "We weren't even an association then." We had gotten together with our congressional champion, Samuel Sullivan Cox and management to have an eight-hour bill passed." As far as we were concerned, the matter was settled and we only had to work eight hours." "Well what do you think the Post Office did." "First they tried to ignore it and when

that no longer worked the decided to interpret the law in a most quirky way." "The way they interpreted the law, eight hours a day meant eight hours a day for seven days a week – or 56 hours a week." This interpretation meant, for example, letter carriers who worked nine hours a day for six days stilled owed the Post Office two hours of work on Sunday." "Wow," I interrupted, "they are still using the same type of faulty interpretations today." Well they didn't get away with it," Isles said. "By this time the boys and I had formed the National Association of Letter Carriers. And we sued the Post Office." Surprised everyone when in 1893 the Supreme Court awarded us a total of 3.5 million dollars to settle the overtime claims against the Post Office."

AT THIS POINT WE BOTH SHOOK OUR HEADS. "IT SEEMS," SAID I, "THAT POST OFFICE NEVER LEARNS." "Are you surprised," said Isles "take a look at one of the test questions I had to answer back in the 1800's to become a letter carrier." Question: In an office employing 35 carriers, each carrier loses 20 minutes a day in idle talk. Suppose the average salary of each to be \$2.50 for ten hours work, what is the cost to the Government of lost time each day, and what will it amount to in a year of 313 working days?"

"WOW", SAID I, "I THINK

THAT QUESTION IS STILL ON THE CARRIER EXAM." "I know it is built into DOIS's calculations." "Say Isles, before you go, can you tell me how much extra lost time it would cost the Government if 5 supervisors spent 20 minutes a day in idle talk." Isles shot back "Well I can say that I know the answer to that question. Don't worry, it's a trick question. 20 minutes of idle talk time instead of zero minutes of productive work is still zero. Since they don't do anything anyway, there is no extra lost time."

NOTE: *Due to the Bulletin's deadline I did not actually talk to Isles but got the factual material from Common Cause; A History of Letter Carriers and the NALC. However, I am sure that Isles could have confirmed the information if I had actually talked to him.*

Fraternally yours,

Bill Malkin



Branch 380 Executive Board

Mark P. Van Wagner	President
William Malkin	Vice President
Rick J. Zerrenner	Secretary
Frank J. Ratkiewicz	Treasurer
Kelly Roth	Assistant Secretary
Martin D'Autrechy	Financial Secretary
Michael Kroehling	Sergeant-at-Arms
John Clark	Trustee
William Roth	Trustee
Jim Barbuto	Trustee
Kathleen Hovemeyer	OWCP Rep.
Joseph J. Mooney	Health Benefits Rep.
Sherman Britton	Retirees Rep.

Branch Phone # 609-586-5488

Branch Fax # 609-586-4611

E-mail NALC380@aol.com

Website: www.nalcbranch380.com

Branch 380

2005 Shop Stewards

New Egypt	Bruno Waksmundski
Lambertville	Richard Groom
Florence	David Cox
Roebing	Martin D'Autrechy
Villa Park	Dennis Martin
Fort Dix	Rick Powelson
West Trenton	Jose Santiago
Circle Branch	Cheryl Korzeb
	Luis Santiago
Downtown Station	James LaCour
	Josh Miller
Carrier Annex	William Malkin
	James Neiderman

The Alternate Shop Steward Program is still taking applicants. Call the Union Hall if you are interested.

Branch 380 Appointees

Jesse L. Davis	MBA Representative
Vivian Harrison	Safety Officer
Jim Barbuto	Food Drive Co-Chair
Joe Mooney	Food Drive Co-Chair
Sharon Roman	Food Drive Co-Chair
Bill Malkin	Branch Picnic Co-Chair
Mike Kroehling	Branch Picnic Co-Chair
Rick Zerrenner	Retiree Dinner Chairman
Martin D'Autrechy	March of Dimes Chairman
Martin D'Autrechy	MDA Chairman
Natalia Minkovsky	Lunch Committee
Patrick Gutterson	Lunch Committee
R. David Compton	Branch Photographer
Andres Algarin	Branch Bulletin

In Memoriam

**Brother Anthony Scarlata, Jr.
Died: March 26, 2005**

**Tony retired after 20 years
as a letter carrier in
February of 2002.**

**He had been employed in
The Trenton Installation at
the Carrier Annex
and at the GMF.**

Active letter carriers: Contribute to **COLCPE** using PostalEASE



Letter carriers can contribute directly to COLCPE (NALC's Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education) from their paychecks every pay period using the Postal Service's PostalEASE. Through PostalEASE you can designate COLCPE as one of your two* payroll "allotments."

- 1 Be sure you know your 4-digit USPS Personal Identification Number (PIN). If you cannot remember your PIN number, call PostalEASE at 1-877-4PS-EASE, select "1", enter your Social Security Number, select "1" to hear information about your PIN, and select "2" to have your PIN mailed to you.
- 2 Create your own **Account Number** by inserting in the spaces at right the first **seven** digits of the ID number that appears above your name on the back cover of your *Postal Record*.

YOUR 17-DIGIT ACCOUNT NUMBER:

----- 0 0 3 4 9 5 2 5 3 5
(First 7 digits of ID number on Postal Record label)

*****AUTO** 5-DIGIT 54321
 (XXXXXX)89 LC 9876 W13 08
 JOHN CARRIER
 1234 MAIN STREET
 ANYWHERE, US 54321-9999

3 Now you are ready to call PostalEASE toll-free at 1-877-4PS-EASE (1-877-477-3273)

- When prompted, select "1" for PostalEASE and then enter your Social Security Number and your USPS PIN
- Select "2" for payroll options
- Select "1" for allotments
- *Disregard* instruction to complete Allotment Worksheet and select "2" to continue
- Select "3" to ADD a new allotment
- Enter the 9-digit Financial Institution Routing Number:
0 6 4 0 0 0 1 7
- Select "1" to continue processing allotment
- Select "1" to "enter the allotment now"
- Enter your 17-digit Account Number from above
- Enter "1" for Checking
- Enter amount of allotment: \$_____.00 per pay period.
If amount is correct, select "1"

* If you already have two allotments, you must cancel one to contribute to COLCPE through PostalEASE. To do so, follow the instructions at left but instead of selecting "3" to add a new allotment, select "2" to cancel an allotment.

After completing your entry, do not end the call until you hear the following:

Confirmation Number: _____

Your allotment will become effective on: _____

Your allotment will be reflected in paycheck dated: _____

Keep this information for your records and future reference.

By making a COLCPE allotment through PostalEASE, 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 employment by the Postal Service nor a part of union dues and that COLCPE will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office as permitted by law. You are also making this allotment with the understanding that COLCPE contributions are not tax deductible and that your selection shall remain in full force and effect until canceled through the PostalEASE system.

**Draft of the Branch 380 Minutes
For March 08, 2005**

There are no minutes for the March meeting.
The attendance failed to reach the 25 members that are required for a quorum and therefore no meeting could be called to order.
The business portion of the meeting that requires membership votes will be conducted during the April meeting, so long as a quorum is achieved.

2004 COLCPE HONOR ROLL

The following members made contributions to COLCPE during 2004.

AUTOMATIC CONTRIBUTORS

Andres Algarin	\$ 45.00	Rose Matakovich	\$ 54.00
Alan Arnold	\$420.00	Charles Mattey	\$ 21.00
Sherman Britton, Jr.	\$ 3.00	Joseph Mooney	\$185.00
Ronald Conti	\$ 38.00	Richard Powelson	\$ 34.00
Betty Anne Dawson	\$ 60.00	Richard Ray	\$ 38.00
David Field	\$ 59.00	William Sample	\$ 20.00
Michael Johnson	\$135.00	Robert Stacer	\$108.00
Kenneth Kowalick	\$ 42.00	Mark Van Wagner	\$270.00
William Malkin	\$240.00	Melvin Vining	\$ 70.00

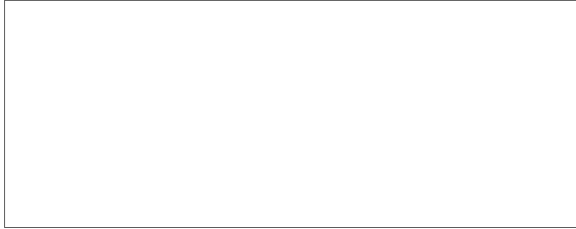
OCCASIONAL CONTRIBUTORS

Nancy Apai	\$ 30.00	Samuel Filippine, Sr.	\$ 25.00
Steve Arkuszewski	\$ 50.00	Kenneth Fisher	\$ 75.00
James Barbuto	\$ 75.00	Carl Gatti	\$ 50.00
George Britton	\$ 50.00	Vivian Harrison	\$120.00
Anthony Cammarata	\$ 25.00	Charles Howarth	\$ 30.00
Ernest Caradine	\$ 50.00	Natalia Minkovsky	\$100.00
Martin D'Autrechy	\$101.00	Richard Zerrenner	\$100.00
Jesse Davis	\$ 50.00		

Their generosity to the cause of electing and supporting candidates for office who support legislation that is favorable to Letter Carriers is to be commended.
These Brothers and Sisters have lend by example and they deserve our support and appreciation.
Let's follow their example in 2005 and add many members to this list.

Branch Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month
(excluding July & August) *Be Informed — Attend Meetings*

Please Notify the Branch Secretary of any Mailing Address Changes or Corrections.

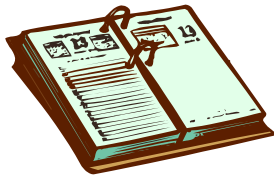


AFFIX
POSTAGE
HERE



CAPITAL CITY
NALC BRANCH 380
1800 ROUTE 33
TRENTON, NJ 08690-1712

Calendar of Events



Apr. E-Brd. & Stwd. Mtg. (Changed to Thurs.)	04/07
Apr. Reg. Branch Mtg.	04/12
May E - Brd. & Stewards Mtg.	05/03
Cinco de Mayo	05/05
May Reg. Branch Mtg.	05/10
N.J. State Convention	05/15 - 17
Memorial Day Holiday	05/30
June E - Brd. & Stewards Mtg.	06/07
June Reg. Branch Mtg.	06/14
Annual Branch Picnic at <u>LIBERTY LAKES</u>	06/26

**Protect Your Job and Your Future,
Support Those Who Support US.**
