

NALC

4317 NEWS

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SUITE 9

PAOLI, PA 19301

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* November - December 2012 *

The next two meetings of Branch 4317 will be on Wednesdays, January 2 and February 6 at the Downingtown VFW at 4601 W. Lincoln Highway. There are directions on page 3 of this newsletter. The meetings will begin at 7:30 P.M.

BRANCH 4317 NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL POLICY - This newsletter is published by Branch 4317 for the members of this branch. This newsletter is written by Letter Carriers and for Letter Carriers. Sadly, over the years, some sensitive managers have gotten copies of our newsletter and become upset over its contents. In order to protect those managers, we request that all Branch members carefully safeguard their copies. If any manager should get a copy, we would suggest that they not read it. In this way, they will have no cause to be offended by anything in it.

REMINDER TO TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYEES - This is a reminder that reimbursement checks to T.E.s are now done exclusively at Union meetings. You don't have to attend the next meeting after your annual break, but you do have to attend a meeting to collect your check.

PENALTY OVERTIME-EXCLUSION: The December penalty overtime exclusion period begins on Saturday December 1 and ends on December 28. Penalty overtime will resume on Saturday December 29.

WWW.NALCBRANCH4317.ORG

Branch 4317's website is up and running. The website will allow us to communicate to the members quickly. We have included links to our national site, the USPS lite blue site, and other helpful sites. We will try to update the site at least every couple of days, and more often when important messages need to be sent to our members, whether nationally or locally. But it is still important that everyone became an e-Activist, so that you receive important notices from our national office. You can access the e-Activist signup right from our website, look for the list of links underneath the weather update, clicking on any of those links takes you right to the respective website. You can also click on the "Gimme 5 for COLCPE" image to be linked to the page of the main NALC where you can sign up to contribute to our political action committee.

We also want to encourage everyone to send digital pictures that we can post on the site: food drive, the MDA bowl-a-thon, retirement dinners, Christmas parties, any activities involving our union brothers and sisters. There are probably some members in the branch who are more tech savvy than the rest of us, so we are also open to any suggestions or other links. We have video links on the site as well so if you see an interesting postal connected story on TV make note of the show, or what local news it was, and let us know and we might be able to get the video and be able to share it with all of our members. The same goes for interesting articles in print or online. Just e-mail Tom Wallace through the website. You can click on his name on the officers page to e-mail him.

Note: The branch wants to thank Eric Jackson of Branch 725, SE Pennsylvania Merged for his help setting up our website.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I know everyone is busy with the extra parcels. Be safe, take your time to deliver the parcels safely and accurately. These parcels could become your livelihood and important to save the Postal Service. They also take time to load, line-up, scan and deliver. I cannot stress enough how important it is to fill out 1571's and 3996's. Please, if you do not take out your entire daily mail, fill out a 1571 and keep a copy for yourself. Next, if you are not going to be back on time (within your eight hours) fill out a 3996 and again keep a copy for yourself. We need to capture this time to show what your real route is like.

Those offices with Amazon parcels, keep up the great work. Our scan percentage has been good. If these offices succeed, then we may be getting the majority of their parcels for all offices.

Attached to this newsletter are our new by-laws, which were read at the last meeting. There are some very important changes, please read them. At the January meeting, they will be voted on. There has to be a two thirds majority to pass these new by-laws. If you have any questions, contact your shop steward.

Please drive safely. Use your seat belts and turn off your truck when you are out of it. I will see you at the next Union meeting on January 2, 2013. May you have a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Until then in solidarity, Your President - Bill Saar.

RETIREMENTS: We will be holding retirement celebrations at the next two Union meetings. At the January 2 meeting we will be celebrating the retirement of Paoli Letter Carrier Ed Leroy. At the February 6 meeting we will be celebrating the retirement of Paoli Letter Carrier Rob Montgomery.

MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: The next meeting of the Executive Council of Branch 4317 will be held on Monday, February 4, 2013. The Council consists of the following officers:

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|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| President - Bill Saar | Executive V.P. - Rick Benner |
| Vice President - Joe Recchilongo | Trustees - Joe Hanlon |
| Treasurer - Sam Miller | Donna Moore |
| Secretary - Pete Luzi | Keesha Brown |

Postage rates to climb in Jan.

WASHINGTON — It'll cost another penny to mail a letter next year.

The cash-strapped U.S. Postal Service said Thursday that it will raise postage rates on Jan. 27, including a 1-cent increase in the cost of first-class mail to 46 cents. It also will introduce a global forever stamp, allowing customers to mail letters anywhere in the world for \$1.10.

By law, the post office cannot raise prices more than the rate of inflation, or 2.6 percent. The agency, which expects to lose a record \$15 billion this year, has asked Congress for new authority to raise stamp prices 5 cents, but the House has yet to act. The Postal Service also will increase rates on priority mail shipping, by 4 percent. — AP

OUT THERE



We can solve our fiscal woes if we rise above partisanship

BY EDWARD G. RENDELL

PARTISANSHIP in Washington is threatening to put the economy in recession at year's end, or else leave us with damaging levels of debt. Those are the options facing Washington if the two parties remain unwilling to come together and replace the so-called fiscal cliff with a thoughtful and gradual plan to put the debt on a more sustainable path.

If we do nothing, a combination of blunt and immediate across-the-board spending cuts, dramatic tax-rate increases and other changes will throw the economy back into recession while slashing important investments, crippling our military capabilities and raising taxes on ordinary Americans. Yet if we put off the day of reckoning, and continue what we're doing today, we will see our national debt rise to astronomical levels, leading to stagnant wages, higher interest rates on loans and, potentially, another economic crisis.

Both parties need to come together and agree on a third way forward — one that requires them to give up some of the programs and tax breaks they like for the country they love. Fortunately, our elected officials in Pennsylvania have been leading the way. Pennsylvanians know how to compromise on policies without compromising on principle to get things done.

There is no better example of this than U.S. Rep. Chaka Fattah. Congressman Fattah has his own plan to fix the debt — one that would ask all Americans to pay a small "transaction tax" in order to reduce the deficit. But he understands that the national debt is too serious a threat to hold out for his (or anyone's) perfect solution, and this week threw his support behind the bipartisan plan of the Simpson-Bowles Fiscal Commission.

As he wrote to his colleagues, "The Simpson-Bowles proposal is the only solution before Congress that has bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress" and "there is no question the nation must begin to make some hard choices now."

The plan requires tough medicine for everyone, but the solution is clear: Democrats must accept changes to make our entitlement programs sustainable and Republicans must accept tax reforms resulting in higher revenue. Both sides are under intense pressure from groups trying to take options off the table. But the simple reality is that fixing the debt will require a bipartisan solution that looks at virtually all areas of the budget.

Congressman Fattah is not the only prominent Pennsylvanian putting country over party to pursue viable solutions.

Earlier this year, 38 brave members of Congress bucked the regular practice of voting along party lines on budget resolutions and instead supported a bipartisan budget. Among the 38 were five Pennsylvanians: Democratic Reps. Fattah and Allyson Schwartz and Republican Reps. Charlie Dent, Todd Platts and Pat Meehan.

As our debt continues to grow, more and more members of Congress from both parties are taking a second look at Simpson-Bowles. They are realizing that although it may not be their ideal plan, it represents the type of principled compromise necessary to deal with a problem of this magnitude while protecting the core values of both parties. And as we approach the fiscal cliff, members in both parties are correctly concluding that such a bipartisan solution is far preferable to the consequences of continued gridlock and inaction.

This issue is too important for continued partisan bickering. Our elected officials in Pennsylvania

understand that, and I know the residents of this great state do as well. That's why I've decided to co-chair, along with former Republican Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire, a new Campaign to Fix the Debt.

The Campaign to Fix the Debt is a joint effort of CEOs, former elected officials and leading budget experts, along with tens of thousands of concerned citizens. We have come together from all different backgrounds around a common goal: to urge Congress and the president to enact a comprehensive plan to put the country's debt on a stable and downward path. The stakes are incredibly high; the consequence of failing to act is almost unimaginable.

I urge my fellow Pennsylvanians to make their voices heard and join this campaign by visiting fixthedebt.org. There, you can sign a petition to let Washington know you are tired of partisanship getting in the way of action, and that it's time to come together on a comprehensive plan to get this done.

I also urge you to support the \$10 Million a Minute National Fiscal Responsibility Bus Tour, which comes to Philadelphia on Tuesday. You can find out more about it at 10millionaminute.com. You can also join us in spreading the word with your friends and neighbors and encouraging your elected officials to put the national interest ahead of special interest to fix the debt.

Pennsylvanians are leading the way in reaching real common-sense solutions, but much work remains to be done. We can't let this country go into another recession, or worse into fiscal crisis, because of rigid partisanship and unwillingness to compromise. That's not the Pennsylvanian way, and it isn't the American way. ■

Rendell is former governor of Pennsylvania, former mayor and district attorney of Philadelphia.

T'was the night before Christmas
and all through the town,
A creature was stirring, taking MSP's down.
Asleep in my bed, I left on the TV,

The telephone rings and its boss number three.
I listen intently, rubbing sand from my face,
"The bar codes are gone, from here to Lance Place".
It's two in the morning, now go back to sleep,
"There still might be one, maybe out on Birch Street".
I was dreaming of seven shelves, a 20-minute lunch,
But he's got a part of clothing, up in a bunch.

You're driving me crazy with these stupid scores,
People don't want anything stuck on their doors.

"We must re-attach them before Santa could see",
"Or it's coal in our stocking for a low MSP".

So I run to the window, throw open the sash,
He's right, it's gone, nothing stuck to the glass.

"Now we got trouble, come in before six",
"Then out to the route, this problem to fix".

We must go and see if it's true they are gone,
"Take out a handful and put them back on".

Come Eddy, come Brian, come Carl, come Sara,
For now he's forgotten any CFS error.

Out on the route there arose such despair,
The stickers were missing, they just were not there.
I turned over the table, looked under the swing,
Flipped over the lawn chair, found not one thing.
Made sure we checked twice, looked hard for that sticker,
It was gone in a flash, it was gone in a flicker.

"You gotta' replace them, replace them all quick",
It's up to the carriers to act like Saint Nick.

So we re-stuck those stickers on every front door,
Scanned them once, scanned them twice, then scanned them once more.

Was it Grinch, was it Scrooge, we have no idea,
But they're up to something new, wait 'til next year.

Phone every hour and scan every door,
Satellite tracking and be back by four.

Tattoos on noses, microchips in your chin,
Can't leave your cases, chains on your shin.

The next day at work the boss's were backslappin',
The clerks looked around to see what had happened.

They earned their entire bonus, every red cent,
The '04's and '05's were one hundred percent.

So Merry Christmas to all, a catastrophe missed,
Were down four routes tomorrow and forcing off of the list.

J Krofulski '02

2012 - Highlights and Lowlights

- Dec. 17, 2011 Retired Letter Carrier Ginny Harper passes away.
- Jan. 4, 2012 Paoli Carrier Lenny Beard retirement party.
- Feb. 1 Malvern Carrier Glen Moyer retirement party.
- Feb. 18 Branch 4317 - 60th anniversary.
- April 25 S1789 passes the Senate - 21st Century Postal Act
The act supports 5 day delivery.
- April 30 Paoli Letter Carrier Barry Lohr retires.
- May 12 Successful NALC. Food Drive
- July 14 Downingtown Letter Carrier John McCann passes away.
- July 22 - 26 National Convention in Minneapolis.
- August 13 First Clerks transferred to Carrier craft.
- October 29 Hurricane Sandy hits.
- November 6 National Election.
- November 7 Retirement party for Malvern Carrier Allen Thomas.
- December Annual retiree party.
Retirement of Malvern Carrier Jim Alfieri

Online orders create more mail

Count on the U.S. Postal Service to deliver the record amount of purchases 130 million Americans are expected to make on Cyber Monday 2012, the biggest online spending day ever.

According to the National Retail Federation, or NRF, 51.8 percent of people will take advantage of Web-based sales.

"The holiday season is our Super Bowl, with 365 million packages expected to be delivered by the Postal Service this year," said Gary Reblin, vice president of domestic products.

The NRF predicts holiday sales to grow 12 percent this year to nearly \$100 billion. That means each person will do more than a third of their shopping online. The numbers continue to show support for the growing popularity of online shopping, which grew from \$72 billion in 2002 to more than \$250 billion in 2011.

Only 186 USPS managers take early retirement

Only 186 U.S. Postal Service supervisors and administrators signed up for the agency's early retirement offer.

Nearly 3,600 Executive and Administrative Schedule employees were eligible for the package, which allows employees to retire early if they are at least 50 years old with a minimum of 20 years' service, or any age with at least 25 years' service. Unlike recent early retirement offers to postmasters, mail handlers and clerks, however, this one was not coupled with a buyout.

"If there was an incentive, you could have gotten a lot more," Louis Atkins, president of the National Association of Postal Supervisors, said in an interview.

Those who have accepted the offer must leave by year's end.

USPS projects record holiday package deliveries

The U.S. Postal Service expects a record 20 percent increase in its package business this holiday season, Postmaster General Pat Donahoe announced last week.

The mail carrier will deliver a projected 365 million packages, up from about 300 million, between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve, Donahoe said at a holiday kickoff event.

and enterprise software has met a key government security standard.

This is the first time BlackBerry products have been certified pre-launch for meeting the government's data encryption requirement. The certification is issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

The new BlackBerry products are expected to launch early next year.

NIST authenticates hardware, software and firmware used to encrypt data on mobile devices used in government. The Defense Department is holding off on widespread use of products such as Apple smartphones and tablets as they undergo NIST's certification process.

Meeting Minutes - November 7, 2012

The regular meeting of Branch 4317 was called to order by President Bill Saar at 7:30 P.M. at the VFW in Downingtown.

The reading of the minutes from the October meeting was waived.

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

1. Stewards on Duty Sam Miller 12/19/12, Herman' Worthingtonw 2/20/12.
2. Newsletter Articles due next meeting.
3. We welcome all retirees to the meeting.
4. Reminder - All TE's must attend meeting to pick up reimbursement check.
5. Election Results - All but one NALC endorsed candidate won in Pennsylvania. President Obama, Senator Casey and 10 or 11 Congressional elections.
6. Department of Labor review done on October 11, 2012.
By laws need to be updated and signed, Need to make an inventory olist of everything in the office, Inventory of assets, Retain voided checks, No checks written to cash, Meeting minutes need more information.
7. Open Season for health benefits - Nov. 12 thru Dec. 10.
 1. NALC rates - Active \$52.95 Self; \$103.26 Family.
 2. Retired \$160.66 Self, \$326.04 - Family.
8. Bowl-a-thon for MDA Sunday January 13, 2013, 1 :M to 3 PM - \$20.
9. Malvern - Working a lot of overtime, no help, steward resigned.
10. Paoli - Working Drop days, OIC Vicky Russell was in Paoli for 1 day, decided not to come back.
11. Exton - No discipline, parcels and new scanners, working some drop days.
12. Downingtown - 3 disciplines, working o.t. Amazon parcel test site.
13. Guests - Business Agent Bill Lucini, Regional Assistant Dave Nappadano. Discussed the Election, COLCPE, E-Activist.
14. E-Activist - stay informed and get the latest alerts form the NALC. Go to nalc.org to sign up.
15. Customer connect - sell our services.
16. Attendace award - \$200 Dan Smith and Everett Griest were not in attendance. Dick Kilgore won.
17. Treasurers Report:

Oct. Receipts	\$4567.62
Oct. Expenditures	\$4479.72
Nov. 1 checking	\$1438.24
Nov 1 Fed. cred. un.	\$\$8159.11
18. Motion to adjourn John Dougherty
Second by Tom Wallace.
19. Adjourned at 8:15 p.m..
20. retiree celebration held.

Submitted by Pete Luzi.

NEW YORK — FedEx said Tuesday that it will be offering some employees up to two years' pay to leave the company starting next year. FedEx has said previously that the buyouts should reduce "fixed head count by several thousand people."

Meeting Minutes - December 5, 2012

The regular meeting of Branch 4317 was called to order by President Bill Saar at 7:35 P.M. at the VFW in Downingtown.

The reading of the minutes from the November meeting was waived.

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

1. Stewards on duty - Sam Miller 12/19/12, Herman Worthington 2/20/12
2. Newsletter articles due by Sunday Dec. 9.
3. Food drive is on May 11 - Yellow rotation day.
4. Reminder - All TE's must attend a Union meeting to pick up reimbursement check.
5. By-laws read at meeting - 1st reading of proposed minutes.
6. Penalty overtime exclusion period 12/1 - 12/28.
7. Election of members to attend Rap Session 2/24 - 2/26
P. Luzi, H. Worthington, J. Hanlon, A. Hayes, J. Recchilongo
8. Election of members to attend State convention in Pittsburg 9/26 - 9/28.
J. Hanlon, H. Worthington, B. Saar, T. Wallace, R. Benner, P. Luzi, S. Miller, J. Recchilongo.
9. Open season for health benefits and Flex spending accounts is 11/12 - 12/10.
 - a. NALC Rates - Active \$52.95-self, \$103.26-Family
 - b. Retired \$160.66-self, \$326.04-Family.
10. Arbitration - There should be an award decision some time in January.
11. Bowl-a-thon-MDA Sunday, January 13 from 1PM-3PM \$20 at the Downingtown Bowling Palace.
12. Retiree COLA 1:7% off next year.
13. Malvern - Letter of Warnings for failure to follow instructions, Working a lot of overtime, no help.
14. Paoli - Working Drop days, New OIC-Tim Johnson, Ed Leroy's retirement party at January meeting, Rob Montgomery's retirement party at February meeting. Added scan points to routes. We have added 12 members to E-Activist list.
15. Exton - Postmaster Joe Williams leaving. Vicky Russell taking over. No discipline.
16. Downingtown - Amazon Parcels did not go out on time one day because Amazon truck went to wrong office. The truck arrived in Downingtown when the Carriers had already hit to the street. Working OT, 2 Clerks went back to their craft. Two open routes not posted (7,19). Route 4 posted.
17. Postal Record 125 years old. The oldest labor union journal in the United States.
18. COLCPE and E-activist is very important.
19. E-Activist. Stay informed and get the very latest alerts from the NALC. Go to NALC.org and sign up.
20. Customer Connect - sell our service.
21. Postal Employees Relief Fund (PERF)
P.O. Box 7630
Woodbridge, Va. 22195
22. Management early outs - 3600 were eligible - only 186 accepted.
23. Attendance Drawing - \$25 - Dan Smith. Dan was not at the meeting. The award will be \$50 next month.

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Treasurer's Report:

Nov. receipts	\$3193.05
Nov. expenditures	\$2418.41
Dec. 1 checking acct balance	\$2212.88
Dec. 1 Federal Credit Un. bal.	\$8157.05
Motion to adjourn	Joe Recchilongo
Second	Neil Manning
Adjourned 8:30	Respectfully submitted by Pete Luzi.

USPS tries same-day delivery for holidays

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Emboldened by rapid growth in e-commerce shipping, the cash-strapped Postal Service is moving aggressively this holiday season to start a premium service for the Internet shopper seeking the instant gratification of a store purchase: same-day package delivery.

Teaming up with major retailers, the post office will begin the expedited service in San Francisco on Dec. 12 at a price similar to its competitors'. If things run smoothly, the program will quickly expand next year to other big cities such as Boston, Chicago and New York. It follows similar efforts by eBay, Amazon.com and, most recently, Wal-Mart Stores Inc., which charges a \$10 flat rate for same-day delivery.

The delivery program, called Metro Post, seeks to build on the Postal Service's double-digit growth in package volume to help offset steady declines in first-class and standard mail. Operating as a limited experiment for the next year, it is projected to generate between \$10 million and \$50 million in new revenue from deliveries in San Francisco alone, according to postal regulatory filings, or up to \$500 million, if expanded to 10 cities.

The filings do not reveal the mail agency's anticipated expenses to implement same-day service, which can work profitably only if retailers have enough merchandise in stores and warehouses to be quickly delivered to near-by residences in a dense urban area. The projected \$500 million in potential revenue, even if fully realized, would represent just a fraction of the record \$15.9 billion annual loss that the Postal Service reported last week.

But while start-ups in the late 1990s, such as Kozmo.com, notably failed after promising instant delivery, the Postal Service's vast network serving every U.S. home could put it in a good position to be viable over the long term. The retail market has been rapidly shifting to Internet shopping, especially among younger adults, and more people are moving from suburb to city, where driving to a store can be less convenient.

Postal officials cast the new offering as "exciting" and potentially "revolutionary." Analysts are apt to agree at least in part, if kinks can be worked out.

"There is definitely consumer demand for same-day delivery, at the right price," said Matt Nemer, a senior analyst at Wells Fargo Securities, in San Francisco. "The culture in retail traditionally has been to get a customer into the store, with the immediacy of en-

joying a purchase being the main draw. So, same-day delivery could be huge for online retailers. The question is whether the economics can work."

He and others said that consumers are a fickle lot when it comes to shipping, seeking fast delivery but also being sensitive to its pricing. Many will order online and pick up merchandise at a store if it avoids shipping charges, or will agree to pay a yearly fee of \$79 for a service such as Amazon Prime to get free and unlimited two-day delivery. Others even purchase a higher-priced item if it comes with free shipping.

Under the plan, the Postal Service is working out agreements with as many as 10 national retail chains for same-day delivery. The mail agency says that nondisclosure agreements don't allow it to reveal the companies. But given the somewhat limited pool of large-scale retailers — they must have a physical presence in 10 or more big U.S. cities to be a postal partner — the list is expected to include department stores, sellers of general merchandise, clothiers, even perhaps a major e-commerce company or two.

Consumers will have until 2 or 3 p.m. to place an online order with a participating retailer, clicking the box that says "same-day delivery" and making the payment. Postal workers then pick up the merchandise from nearby retail stores or warehouses for delivery to homes between 4 and 8 p.m. that day.

This holiday season, the Postal Service expects a 20 percent jump in its package volume, higher than its shipping rivals. ■