

The Washington State

LETTER CARRIER



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HAND-DELIVERING OUR MESSAGE

President Brian Wiggins

The Western States lobby trip to our nation's capital was February 26 – March 3, 2017. States in attendance from our region were: Washington, Oregon, Utah and Alaska. I thank California State President John Beaumont for doing the heavy lift of securing a reasonable hotel rate for our delegation while we were in DC. Alongside California, other states opening doors on Capitol Hill were: Colorado, Texas, Iowa, Kansas, Nevada, Hawaii, and Arizona. Total number of letter carrier lobbyists was right about 220.

We traveled with a delegation of eleven letter carriers representing Washington state to hand deliver the message to our Washington state representatives. Our letter carrier activists were; WSALC Vice President Ray Johnson, BJ Hansen President Br. 79, Mark Myers CDL District 9, Carol Mesford CDL District 10, Rick Horner CDL District 1, Al Floyd Br. 351, Ric Wolf Br.130, Brad Robinson, Br. 450, Brandon Wilson, Br. 1528, James Munns, Br. 852 and myself. This was the second trip that I was the head of.

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SILENT AUCTION ITEMS WANTED

WSALCA President Rick Baird

The time is drawing near for another convention in Pasco. I am looking forward to seeing everyone again. Please feel free to bring any donations for the silent auction or send them with any delegate from your local branch or Auxiliary. You can designate where the proceeds from your item(s) are to go. The Auxiliary will also be happy to accept new applications for membership. See you all there!

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD NOMINATIONS

*Robert James,
Outstanding Service Award Chair*

It is time once again to remind everyone that nominations are due for the Outstanding Service Award. If you have previously submitted a name and that person was not chosen it is time to update your nomination to keep it current.

The rules are simple. It must be a member who is active in NALC functions and in community affairs. Please send nominations to:

Robert James
OSA Chair
6210 Park Way
Lynnwood WA 98036

You may also submit your nomination at Convention.

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Robert J. (Bob) Morley NALC Shop Steward Award

Any member may nominate an active Shop Steward.

Nominating letters must be verified by President or Vice President of the Steward's branch.

Rules are simple: One nomination per letter.
State why this Shop Steward is
most deserving of the award.

Deadline for the 2017 award at State Convention
is May 1, 2017. Mail nomination letters to:

Mark Myers, Co-Chair
16821 19th Ave SW
Normandy Park WA 98166

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PAUL PRICE **Pacific NW Region 2**

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Phone 360-892-6545

Next Letter Carrier Deadline:
May 31, 2017

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ELECTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES

State Legislative Liaison Rick Horner

Now that a potentially worker hostile majority has achieved control of both Congress and the White House, we have to expect attacks on our wages, benefits and job security. A painful example of this surfaced when on January 3rd, the House of Representatives resurrected and incorporated the so-called “Holman Rule” as part of its procedural rules for this next two year 115th session. The rule was first devised in 1876 by William Holman, a Congressman from Indiana, in an attempt to purge political patronage in government during reconstruction after the civil war. It was used sparingly until being eliminated in 1983 by then Speaker Tip O’Neill.

Under the new rule, any Member of Congress can propose an amendment to any spending bill brought to the floor of the House. Amendments could specifically target any agency funding as well as the pay and benefits of individual federal workers, including postal workers, without regard to contractual provisions or civil service protections. Potentially, any federal agency or employee running politically afoul of the powers that be could be subject to this rule. Of course any amendment presented must be voted on and passed by both chambers and signed by the President. So what could go wrong? All Democrats and three Republicans voted against the rule.

Resolutions reintroduced

In early January this year, three of our U.S. House of Representatives resolutions, were reintroduced into the new 115th Congressional session. **H. Res 15** (formerly H. Res 12 from the 114th Congress) expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the USPS should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of its

6-day mail delivery service. **H. Res 28** (same resolution number from last session) expresses the sense of the House that the USPS should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of door delivery for all business and residential customers. **H. Res 31** (formerly H. Res 54 from last session) expresses the sense of the House that the USPS should take all appropriate measures to restore service standards in effect as of July 1, 2012.

All of these resolutions received a majority of co-sponsors in the last session of Congress but none ever received a vote on the floor. Please contact your Member of Congress and urge them to co-sponsor all three of these resolutions. Let’s get these resolutions passed.

Washington State Legislature

Legislation relating to requiring prepaid postage for primary and general election ballots has been introduced into the Washington State Senate. **Senate Bill 5019** was introduced on 12/30/2016 and read for the first time on 1/09/2017. It has been

referred to the Committee on State Government. It was introduced by Senators Hasegawa, Palumbo, Hunt, Keiser, Pedersen, Conway, Wellman, Rolfes and Frockt. If this bill were to pass and be signed into law it would increase voter turnout and add revenue for the Postal Service.

The discussion from the Secretary of State regarding the bill has been focused on its cost to the state and to the 39 counties of the state. Since **SB 5019** as written is a reimbursement statute, counties are concerned that funds could be swept by the legislature or it could take an inordinate amount of time to reimburse them. For this reason they would prefer direct funding by the state. Also, the Secretary of State thinks the statute should apply to all elections.

The Secretary thinks the most economical way to accomplish the goal of increased voter turnout would be by sending ballots out as business reply mail. The issue is whether or not a postmark can be established.



Rick Horner discusses NALC's legislative positions with 7th District Representative Pramila Jayapal during the recent lobby trip.

THOUGHTS FOR OUR FUTURE

Executive Board Chair Tracy Cozad

Today I would like to share with all my union brothers and sisters an essay my daughter wrote. This last year our country has gone through hell. People are constantly fighting one another over religion, politics, racism, ideology, and social differences. Letter carriers come from all walks of life. We are everywhere in the country and we encompass every demographic. Letter carriers have a history of coming together for great causes. We come together to raise money for MDA. We fight together to stop legislation that is damaging to our livelihoods. If we as letter carriers come together we can make this country so much better and we can make this the America my daughter can believe in.

THE AMERICA I BELIEVE IN

Emily Cozad

“Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” Or Death, minimum rights, and the happiness many fail to find. What has America come to? Wars with neighboring countries, poverty, racism, rioting and looting. The America I believe in is free; it is free of war, free of poverty and free of social discrimination. This is what America should be; this is how Americans should act. This is the America I believe in.

America; we would be loyal, our weaknesses would show our strengths, our loss would lead to victory in the future. We would rally with neighboring countries as our allies while the danger of our enemies encroaches upon our homes. Every person, white or black, Christian or Muslim, male or female would share the same set of rights. People would see the Declaration of Independence as referring to all people and people would think “*all men are created equal*” refers to mankind.

Racism in America would no longer be an issue and discrimination would not exist. Your gender and sexuality would not affect your role in society. Only the good would be looked upon and we would not resort to the bad things a person has done to believe they cannot change. The government would have no say in whom we marry; they would have no right to question our decisions. People could be free of fear and as said by Franklin D. Roosevelt, the only thing we would have to fear would be fear itself. People would be no more afraid of being robbed by an African American than they would be of their best friend. Women would not have to stay inside due to the gangs and violence and the thought of hiding would make them laugh.

Think of this: a world where anyone would be able to go outside and not be afraid. The poverty gone, no gangs, no drugs, and no social biases. The world would find a cure for cancer. The world would be free of war. Communities would be able to easily fund schools without overburdening taxpayers. A world where the love of family would be enough. There would be no judgment of ourselves or others based upon stereotypes. We would be happy with the shape and size of our bodies. We would not wish to be taller or shorter, curvier or thinner. We would love ourselves as our families love us.

For a thirteen-year-old girl I have very high expectations, however, currently the world falls short. My faith in humanity is not as high as it once was and that is saying a lot as I come from an amazing family who has faith in many things. The world is not what it used to be and it may never be again but the chance to change the world is a very large load I am willing to carry but I need help. To people of this day in age, and especially my generation, the idea of change sounds like a fairy tale; a tall tale that is not possible. The world is a scary place and if you had said how it is today to people 80 years ago they wouldn’t believe a word of it. In a world of hate, love is a very powerful thing, I know from experience that a person’s mood can change the mood of others and the love of a single person can spark a hope so deep in a person that it can change the very way they look at life.

Spread hope and joy every day, do not stop at the holidays. Every day is a chance for hope and change, and one day I hope my dream of America will be fulfilled. In years to come I hope my dream will start to become a reality. As my friends and I grow up, I hope we can change the world and get the message out to people that the world can be wonderful, a place we cherish and an America we can all believe in.

Some may think this would take a miracle but miracles happen everyday. You just need to know where to look.

**Brothers, Sisters and Family of the NALC,
Join us in Celebrating the 17th year of the**

J.O. Shelton Memorial Golf Tournament

Date: **Thursday May 18, 2017**

Tee time: **1:00pm Shotgun Start**

Where: **Sun Willows Golf Club** (adjacent to Pasco Red Lion Hotel)
2535 N 20th Ave, Pasco WA 99301

Cost: \$50.00 per person; includes bucket of range balls, 18 holes and half a cart /
four person teams

Events: Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin for both Women and Men / Raffle /
Putting & Chipping Contests

Contact: Robert Scherr (509) 948-4650 / robertscherr1@hotmail.com

PLEASE NOTE: The 2017 Tournament is limited to 72 players.

2017 J.O. Shelton Tournament Registration Form

Team Member Names: NALC Branch # _____

Total members _____ X \$50.00 = _____

Make check payable to: **Branch 1528**

Mail to: **NALC Branch 1528**
Attn: Golf Tournament
PO Box 2282
Pasco WA 99302

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS April 29, 2017

- * If you are registering more than one team, please copy this form and submit each team on a separate form.
- * Please combine all registrations on ONE check, please.

Convention Menus and Ordering Information

Friday May 19th
Auxiliary - Retiree
Luncheon
*entertainment by student
Mariachi band*

All Are Invited

Mexican Buffet featuring:

Chicken Fajitas *with
chicken separate for
Vegetarian option*

Pork Carnitas
with Red Salsa

*Served with
traditional fixings
and assorted desserts.*

Saturday May 20th
Festive Outdoor Luncheon*
by the Pool
*entertainment by student
steel drum band*

All Are Invited

Plated Sandwich Selections:

Ham and Swiss

Roast Turkey Club

Vegetarian Wrap

*All selections served with
pasta salad, cookie,
potato chips and
whole fresh fruit.*

** weather permitting*

Saturday May 20th
Convention Banquet

Plated Entree Selections:

Smoked Pork Loin *with apple
demi glace, roasted lyonnais potatoes*

White Cheddar Chicken
with truffle whipped potatoes

Char Grilled Mahi Mahi *with
blood orange veloute, garlic quinoa*

Vegetarian Three Cheese Ravioli
*with butternut squash sauce
or marinara sauce*

*All selections served with mixed green
salad, fresh vegetable saute, white
chocolate raspberry cheesecake.*

WSALC 2017 CONVENTION MEALS REQUEST FORM

Friday May 19th AUXILIARY - RETIREE LUNCHEON BUFFET

TOTAL Friday LUNCH TICKETS _____ **x \$23.00 =** _____

Saturday May 20th FESTIVE OUTDOOR LUNCHEON*

Ham and Swiss _____

Roast Turkey Club _____

Vegetarian Wrap _____

TOTAL Saturday LUNCH TICKETS _____ **x \$23.00 =** _____

Saturday May 20th WSALC CONVENTION BANQUET

Smoked Pork Loin _____

White Cheddar Chicken _____

Mahi Mahi _____

Three Cheese Ravioli _____

TOTAL Saturday BANQUET TICKETS _____ **x \$35.00 =** _____

Total of all funds submitted: \$ _____

Name: _____ **Branch #** _____

Please make checks payable to: BRANCH 1528 and mail to: NALC Branch 1528

PAYMENTS MUST BE

RECEIVED BY APRIL 29, 2017!

Attn: Meals

PO Box 2282

Pasco WA 99302

MINUTES OF OFFICERS MEETING SEATAC DOUBLETREE HOTEL

Secretary/Treasurer Maleah Smitham

Meeting was Called to order by President Brian Wiggins at 9:05 am 1/28/17

Roll call of officers: Trustee Brother Mike Poff and Trustee Brother Tracy Pardick were not in attendance.

Reading of previous minutes: Motion to approve minutes from May 18, 19th and 22nd as printed in June 2016 Newsletter, minutes from June 12th meeting were read and approved.

Officer's reports:

Brian Wiggins: 5/24 – Everett main station visit (E-Activist awards) 6/12 WSALC officers mtg, Tacoma Br 130 office, 6/18 Yakima station visit (E-Activist award), 6/25 Kelso station visit, 7/17 Spokane Br 442 picnic, 7/18 Meeting with District 7 candidate Pramila Jayapal campaign director, 7/20 Kelso Br meeting with RAA Debbie Dixon, 7/26 Oak Harbor station visit, 8/11 Bellingham Br 450 branch meeting, 8/14 – 8/20 NALC National convention Los Angeles CA, 9/18 Appointed Chriss Daniels to vacated Trustee position, 9/30 Tacoma Br 130 "Movie night – NALC strike at 50," 10/8 WSALC Plannery Gold bar WA, 10/27 New hire orientation Seattle P&D, 10/30-11/4 Region two regional assembly Coeur d'Alene ID, 11/7 New hire orientation Seattle P&D, 12/7 New hire orientation Seattle P&D, 12/8-12/9 Convention hotel walk thru Pasco WA, 12/9 Pasco station visit w/ Sharee Eschenbacher and host Branch, 12/20 New hire orientation Seattle P&D, 1/14/17 Spokane Br 442 officer installation dinner, 1/12 Bellingham Br 450 branch meeting.

Sharee Eschenbacher: Our Council has not had a full meeting since the 2016 state convention so I will give an abbreviated account of my activities and share the highlights of my wonderings. Right after the 2016 State Convention, I helped arrange an NBA Region 2 organizing event in Spokane with Debbie Dixon and Eric Pardick. I walked with the Triumph Machinists and helped present the \$500.00 check donated by our state association to help our fellow brothers and sisters during their strike. In June, I attended Beth Thew's retirement party. Beth has been our long-time secretary for the Spokane Regional Labor Council. Joe Pakotas, who ran against Cathy McMorris Rodgers, had several events that I attended...town hall meetings, ice cream socials and labor walks. I attended Branch 442's branch picnic and the Washington State Labor Council convention in July. In August, I travelled to Los Angeles for the NALC National convention. In September, I set up a booth at the MDA Muscle Walk and passed out healthy treats donated by Costco. In October, I held the WSALC education Plannery. I feel it was a great success and we have many great trainings planned for 2017. I attended the labor council's Labor Rally and went to the Region 2 Rap Session. Also, two more labor walks. November was a little slow after the election but I attended a couple retirement gatherings and helped with 442's election preparations. In December, I met Brian Wiggins in Pasco to do a hotel walk-through for the 2017 state convention. I worked on training content for upcoming steward colleges and ordered training materials. January, so far, has been

filled with installation ceremonies and more training preparations. Our Basic Shop Steward College will be well attended. I have accepted more applications than the normal 24. This shows the awesome interest by our newest brothers and sisters and I could not turn anyone away. I thank everyone for the support I have received and wish all a great new year.

Tammy Gatlin: June 2, Tacoma Branch Meeting, June 9th Branch 2038 Meeting, June 23rd Branch 2038 Office visit e-activist, July 14th Branch 2038 Meeting, July 24 Tacoma Branch 130 Picnic, July 28 Tacoma office visit TCCF for E-activist, Aug 11 Branch 2038 meeting, Aug 15 – 19 NALC National Convention, Sept 8 Branch 2038 meeting, Oct 13 Branch 2038 meeting, Oct 30 to Nov 4 Audited books before the beginning of and attended Regional RAP in Coeur D'Alene ID, Nov 10 Branch 2038 Meeting and took over as Branch 2038 President, Dec 8 Branch 2038 meeting, Jan 7 Attended Tacoma Branch 130 Installation Dinner, Jan 12 Branch 2038 meeting, and Jan 27 to 28th audited state books and attending this meeting.

Chriss Daniels: Was appointed to the Executive Board in August 2016. October 30 – November 4, audited the Books for WSALC and attended Regional Assembly in Coeur D'Alene ID. December, Ran for and was elected Vice President of Branch 79, instructed last class of Carrier Academy, due to new branch officer position. January 11 was installed as branch Vice President.

Maleah Smitham: Since our meeting in May, I have been continuing on learning the QuickBooks program, as this is instrumental in reports that need to be filed with National and State. I worked with President Wiggins to schedule a Special meeting in June to correct Budget issues noticed after convention. Then we worked together to get approval on the By-laws approved by the membership at convention and get the new by-laws books printed, in addition to forwarding the Resolutions that passed at convention so they could be included at National Convention in August. I ensured the LM3 and 990 were filed. And changing addresses on our many accounts has been a chore also. Additionally, I attended all branch 130 meetings, managed to have fun at Branch 130's picnic in July and Branch 1484's picnic in August. I also attended the Washington State Labor Council's convention in Wenatchee on Behalf of Washington State and then National Convention in Los Angeles, CA on behalf of Branch 130. October 1st I had the pleasure of attending a movie night at Branch 130's union hall it began with the Strike Video and turned into a large chat session with new carriers, retirees and full-time carriers. November I brought the books to Regional RAP for the Audit by the trustees, and then I attended some great training in Coeur D'Alene ID. I ran for and was elected President of Branch 130 and feel that I am prepared to handle both Branch President and State Secretary Treasurer jobs because I have lots of support on both levels. In January I managed to squeeze in the Branch 130 installation dinner, a day of Steward Training at Branch 79

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Minutes from Page 7

(Thank you for the invite), and then a week of Branch Officer Training in Phoenix AZ. Of course I brought the books to Seattle for the Trustees to audit and prepared for this meeting.

Ray Johnson: August National Convention, October-state Plannery, October-regional Rap, October-ad hoc Driver Safety Instructor, January Branch 791 installation dinner, January teaching carrier academy, January state officer's meeting, attended all branch meetings, branch safety meetings.

Brooks Bennett: Attended June special officers meeting, National Convention, Washington State Labor Council Convention in Wenatchee. Produced August newsletter. Retired from Postal Service September 2nd. I attended state trainers education Plannery. Suffered failure of computer hard drive. Data was eventually recovered but newsletter layout software was no longer usable and I was not able to produce an October newsletter. Participated in election campaign activity. Produced December newsletter. Becoming active with branch retiree group and National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association. There seem to be more funerals to be attended.

Tracy Cozad: Since our last meeting at state convention I attended a special meeting of the state officers in Tacoma. I attended national convention in Los Angeles I attended meetings in Vancouver and Lewis County. I made office visits to local stations as safety captain.

In October I attended regional assembly in Coeur d'Alene and along with my fellow e-board members did an audit of the state's books. In December I was re-elected as my branch president. I am currently working on organizing our next food drive.

Sharlene Bowes: June 17 attended Retiree Luncheon in Tacoma and was honored to present a 60-year pin to Howard Schick, September 20 attended Retiree Luncheon in Seattle, and September 30 another Retiree Luncheon in Tacoma. I am receiving many phone calls inquiring about retirement and keep up the referrals it seems to help break the ice.

Unfinished business: None.

New Business:

Legislative: Brian spoke of having to possibly start over on the Legislation. With the new administration and new congress, we may need to start over with our legislation. NALC Fact sheets were distributed to help everyone on the talking points of resolutions that are beneficial to Letter Carriers.

Lobby Trip 2017 – State is taking 4 people, President Wiggins, VP Johnson, Legislative liaison Rick Horner and from Bellingham Br. 450, Brad Robinson. They will be attending the Feb 26 to March 3rd DC Lobby Trip. Other Washington attendees; Olympia- Al Floyd, Pasco – Brandon Wilson, Yakima – Jim Muns, Seattle – BJ Hansen and Mark Myers, Tacoma – Ric Wolf and Carol Mesford. There will be a conference call to set things up. Monday, first day of lobby trip will be a briefing overview and RAP session will be given by NALC President Fred Rolando at NALC headquarters Hutchings Hall. Meetings with our congressional representatives are being set up. New CDL for 7th district replacing BJ Hansen is Garrett Scott Branch 79.

1. We need to keep people on E-Activist and get more people to sign up. We moved from 12.7% to 33% in six months.
2. Washington State Labor Conference Olympia Feb 2 – 3, Carol Mesford will be attending on behalf of the State Association of

Letter Carriers.

3. Correspondence was read; no action was needed on any items not previously acted upon.

4. By-laws changes are due to Secretary Treasurer by March 15th 2017,

5. State officer reports are due to Secretary Treasurer by March 15th 2017, but sooner is better.

6. State membership maintenance and newsletter: Brooks spoke about deadline for next newsletter, which is to be mailed by the 28th of February is due now. Questions about newsletter submissions from other than state officers, the newsletter is open to all members, the only requirement is that other submissions be endorsed by their Branch President or Secretary. The next newsletter should be full of State Convention information, but information and articles deadline will be 1 April, this newsletter mailing date is determined by the by-laws.

7. Mailing list is an issue and has been for a while. Proposed we look to organizing a mailing list or membership list and way to keep it up at the state level.

8. Director of Education report – Basic Shop steward college has 32 students enrolled and will take place Feb 12 – 16 Gold bar, WA, Statewide training will be in Wenatchee at the Coast Hotel Convention Center on Mar 24 – 26 schedule not completely set up as of this date; This year will be Track 3 of the Regional Steward College. It is scheduled for April 9 – 13 at Gold Bar, WA; There will be break out classes at State Convention (TBD) in Pasco from May 19 – 21; at Gold Bar from September 10 -14 there will be ACT Training.

9. Trustee appointment and by-law interpretation, the question was asked if we needed a by-law change to clean up the language and ensure everyone is on the same page. The officers had a lot of discussion, but currently the answer is No. This of course is subject to change.

10. Next order of business was the webmaster/webpage; we feel it is still not where it needs to be. There was again discussion on if we should have an elected position and/or appointed, which way would be better for the State and how. Trustees have a proposed by-law change in mind and will present it on Sunday morning.

11. Preparing a proposed budget to present to the body was addressed; we began with the formula on how much money the state will receive for income. Due to the error in how the information was passed to the National office and after the by-law increasing income for the state, there was much discussion on what formula to use and if we needed to go another direction to ensure everyone fully understood. It was finally determined that we would continue with the budget as planned for over the years. The Secretary/Treasurer computer would contain a file with the full explanation for future use if necessary.

12. 4:30 PM Saturday broke for dinner and the evening. We will reconvene on Sunday at 8:00 am.

Sunday 1/29/17 reconvened at 8:05 am

1. We started off re-discussing issues from yesterday.

A. First up was the membership list and how to maintain it at the state level. Who would be responsible and what method would be used. It was determined that we do need to keep an accurate list of members at the state level, the newsletter editor, secretary/

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President Wiggins from Page 1

Some may say it went more smoothly than the first trip; I say they haven't put one of these things together before. I reluctantly agree with them. Learning from what went well in the first experience did help hugely with our coordination on this trip. On the first trip, I did have former State President & Guru Bob James directing traffic and pointing the way. Someone wiser than I said, "You are never fully ready because things can change when you least expect it." That always happens but you hardly want that to be the truth.

Most know that travelling to the east coast is an all-day affair. We left SeaTac Sunday, Feb 26 at 8:30am landing us in Baltimore at 4:30pm. Arriving at our hotel at 6pm, day one is complete.

Monday morning the delegation was gathered together to discuss the weeks training and meetings. First event was to get all eleven of us to NALC headquarters for orientation. We were split on what was the best way to get across the Potomac into the capital complex which headquarters is across the street from. I chose to hop on the train. Riding the subway took me back to my high school days, for others in the group; confusion was their best friend. We found it funny that we were obviously from out of town; we were the only people talking on the platform and on the train every time we rode. Either they all had jobs they didn't want to go to or they are just very serious people. Training and orientation with President Rolando let out at noon. I gave the group the rest of the day off to be a tourist because the next three days were gonna be busy.

Over the following three days we managed twelve meetings total with our ten Representatives and two Senators, lunch with Congresswoman Jayapal Dist. 7 and an afternoon RAP session back at NALC headquarters. Events



on "the Hill" during the week was a few special events, one was President Trump's Address to the Union on Tuesday of our visit. That affected scheduling of a few of our meetings. The capital complex was locked down from mid afternoon to the evening address, so no meetings half of one of the days. The other was debate in the House of Representatives on H R 1004. This was directly connected to ensuring that the President produce documents from his financials so neither he nor his office may make financial gains from the title, President and the best interests of the country are in the forefront. Jim Munns Br 852 and I had an opening in our schedule. We decide to see the process from the viewing gallery, which is the upper balcony seating area in the House chamber. Sitting in the gallery was a who's who sighting. The lower chamber was packed full: Congresspersons Nancy Pelosi, Paul Ryan, Jason Chaffetz, Elijah Cummings and more notables. My moment of excitement came when debate began. Running point was my very own freshman Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal. The proceedings didn't go as they may have planned but it is always great to see democracy at work.

By the end of the week we were fairly tired from the time difference (+3 hrs.) and all of the walking to and from meetings. VP Ray had on his Fit-bit tracker; he said we were averaging 50,000 steps a day. Wearing suits and carrying overcoats in surprisingly warm pre-spring weather is slimming. It even confused the cherry blossoms, which were opening weeks early. We left Baltimore 5:30pm on the 3rd of March arriving at SeaTac 9:30 or so. Wait, wait, wait, Fresh northwest air and rain!

All said and done the trip was concise and message hand-delivered, just like the group of professional letter carriers that we are.

I will be speaking at our state convention in Pasco more in-depth about our political climate. If you are not attending, stay tuned to our next newsletter!

Hope to see you soon at one of our gatherings!

Minutes from Page 8

Treasurer, and president at a minimum would require access to this list, it would make most sense to have the Secretary/Treasurer keep this list, but the duties of that position are extensive already and unsure if it would be feasible for a part-time position to take on even more responsibility. President Wiggins will speak with national and possibly other State Presidents on how they maintain these lists and report back to the body at the meeting just prior to State Convention.

B. Newsletter editor should have a computer purchased by the state; no individual should have to do state officer work on his or her personal computer. Brother Bennett was using his personal computer and it malfunctioned which caused the delay in the December newsletter. Brother Bennett will look into the best possible match for the job and report back to the body at the meeting prior to the State Convention.

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EDUCATING OUR MEMBERS

Executive Board Member Chriss Daniels

My hope is to educate all members in order for you to know when you need to speak with your Shop Steward. I would like to mention a few issues I have received calls about at the Branch 79 office.

Some calls have been related to non-ODL carriers working overtime off their assignment. Before management requires a *non-ODL carrier to work overtime on a non-scheduled day or off his/her own assignment, management must seek to use a carrier from the ODL, even if the ODL carrier would be working penalty overtime (Article 8.5.D)*. This needs to take place prior to non-ODL carriers volunteering or being mandated to work overtime off their assignment. Those that are volunteering or being mandated should be worked to the extent possible in order to take as few volunteers and mandate as few carriers as possible. Let your steward know when this happens. They may not know about it and they may need to investigate to see if there is a violation.

I have received calls relating to CCAs not being reimbursed for their travel mileage when attending Carrier Academy, Union Orientation, Postal Orientation and Vehicle training. (Provisions are in the F-15 Postal Handbook.) Some CCAs are not getting paid for all the days and hours of the training programs either. If this has happened to you let your steward know right away and provide them with a copy of your training records and a statement. Always keep a copy of any document you provide to management in case the information is misplaced.

I have also received a number of specific calls that have been disturbing. One of them was from a newly hired CCA who was not being scheduled to work. Instead he was placed on “stand-by” every day, waiting for a call from management to let him know whether or not he was working. CCAs are *not required* to remain on “stand-by” or remain at home for a call on days they are not scheduled to work. (JCAM page 7-23)

Another call I received was from a very upset member who is being harassed and yelled at on a daily basis by a member of management who has already been in trouble for this very same issue. Again, please let your steward know if this is happening to you. It could very well fall under the Joint Statement On Violence And Behavior In The Workplace. (M-01242) It could easily violate management’s contractual obligation to treat employees with dignity and respect.

One more issue to think about. Management in some stations are calling carriers on their personal cell phones several times a day, interrupting the carriers’ duties, just to instruct them to move faster. If management weren’t constantly disrupting you with phone calls, you *would* be able to move faster. If you believe management abuses the use of your cell phone let it go to voice mail: Management can use the scanners to text anything they need to inform you about. Any member having issues, no matter what they are, shouldn’t be afraid to discuss it with your steward or an officer at your Branch office. That is what they are there for. No question is a dumb question.

Minutes from Page 9

C. Discussion on allowing the State Secretary/treasurer to have on-line access to the state bank account for reviewing checks written, checks deposited and or cleared. This will allow for future Secretary/treasurer’s to receive information more expeditiously. Currently we can only receive information for dates since a signer became a signer on the account. A motion was made to allow Secretary/treasurer on line access to the Chase Bank account, only on the State Computer and from a secured Wi-Fi connection. M/S.

2. Budget was hashed out, prepared and reviewed. Motion to accept proposed budget for 2017/2018 to present to membership in convention booklet. M/S.

3. Due to the proposed by-law that didn’t pass at convention to allow the DOE to deposit funds. It was re-stated and decided that articles would be in line to inform the body that they are send all money for training to Secretary Treasure and applications for training should be sent to Director of Education.

4. The following by-law proposals were brought before the council;

- a. Article 8 section 3 proposed by-law (addition) was discussed and passed.
- b. Article 6 section 1 proposed by law to add Director of Media was discussed and passed.
- c. Article 8 (add) Section add Director of Media title to add in appropriate place and re-number of sections as needed was discussed and passed.
- d. Article 9 section 11 – delete and re-number discussed and passed.

5. There was a motion to pay for a portion of the Branch Officer Training that Sec/Treasurer Smitham attended. The motion would be to reimburse branch 130 as they paid for her to go. Motion was tabled until the May meeting after it was determined that an email between Smitham and Wiggins didn’t get passed on properly. We will revisit when an accurate dollar amount can be brought up and reviewed.

Next meeting; May 17, at Red Lion Pasco, 2525 N. 20th St, Pasco WA. Trustee’s meeting will start at 12:00 (noon).

Council meeting will begin at 5:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 1:02 pm.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

Article 8 Section 3

By adding as Paragraph 5

The Secretary/Treasurer, at the beginning of each fiscal year, July 1st, shall report to the National Association the amount of dues per pay period to be allocated to the state association in a fixed dollar amount.

Presented by the Washington States Association of Letter Carrier's Executive Council Assembled at a regular meeting on January 29, 2017 in SeaTac Washington.

Article 6 Section 1

By Adding "director of media" and "all whom shall be elected on odd years"

Article 6 section 1 will then read:

The elective officers of the Association shall be president, vice president, secretary treasurer, director of education, editor Washington state letter carrier, director of retired members, who shall be a retired member, director of media, all of whom shall be elected on odd years and The executive board of five (5), two (2) of whom shall be elected on odd years and three (3) of whom shall be elected on even years these officers shall be elected biannually and hold office for two years or until their successors are duly elected and installed.

Presented by the Washington States Association of Letter Carrier's Executive Council Assembled at a regular meeting on January 29, 2017 in SeaTac Washington.

Article 9 section 11

Article 9 Section 11 now reads:

Webmaster. When approved by a majority of the Executive Council, the President shall appoint a member of the Washington State Association of Letter Carriers or the Washington State Auxiliary to serve as Webmaster. The Webmaster shall maintain/update the WSALC Website. The Webmaster shall receive 12 hours pay per quarter. The hourly rate to be determined on July 1 of each year at the City Carrier Grade 1, Step O pay.

By deleting Article 9 section 11 and renumbering sequential sections

Presented by the Washington States Association of Letter Carrier's Executive Council Assembled at a regular meeting on January 29, 2017 in SeaTac Washington.

Article 8

By adding Section 10 and renumbering sequential sections

Section 10 will then read:

Director of Media

Section 10: The Director of Media shall maintain and update the state website and all other electronic media approved by a majority of the Executive Council. The Director of Media shall receive 12 hours pay per quarter, the hourly rate to be determined on July 1 of each year at the city carrier grade one step O pay

Presented by the Washington States Association of Letter Carrier's Executive Council Assembled at a regular meeting on January 29, 2017 in SeaTac Washington

PLEASE ACTIVATE YOURSELF!

Executive Board Member Mike Poff

Hello everyone! Now that D.C. is controlled by the Republicans it is more important than ever that you become involved. The first way to do this is to become an e-activist, so that you can get updates on what is going on with the post office. The second way is once you get the update, take action. If you are asked to call your Representative or Senator please do it right away. These actions could save the good union job you have. If you are not signed up yet, go to the NALC website and get signed up.

It is that time again for the State Convention. I would like to thank the Pasco branch for hosting this year's convention. Hope to see you all there. I am sure there will be plenty of good training.

I have attended my regular branch meetings as well as making my office visits that I am assigned. I look forward to working with my brothers and sisters in any way I can.

In closing I would like to thank my branch for showing up and supporting a great cause in MDA. The bowl-a-thon was a fun event In February. Now we will all prepare for another huge event, the 25th Annual NALC Food Drive, lets stamp out hunger!

Photos this issue: Brian Wiggins

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FOOD DRIVE IS COMING SOON!

Chris Kelly, Branch 791

Hello Washington State, my name is Chris Kelly and I am the Washington State Coordinator for the Letter Carrier Food Drive. I am also my Branch coordinator, #791, Snohomish County. E-mail to Chrisd.Kelly@Frontier.com or call me (425-775-2694) if you have any questions or concerns. I "live" at the Lynnwood PO; you can call me there too.

Saturday, May 13th (the 2nd Saturday in May) will be the 25th Anniversary of the Letter Carrier Food Drive. I hope all branches have registered and are ready to be a part of the biggest **ONE-DAY** Food Drive in the nation. Last year **ALL** the branches in Washington registered to participate. I personally thank you for all your efforts in making May 13th, your day of caring to help your local communities.

We can make a difference in many households just by donating a couple of cans of food on May 13th, the 2nd Saturday in May. I hope you will all join me in making 2017 a record-breaking year!

CONVENTION REMINDERS!

Convention Chair Robert Scherr

1. Remember to make your room reservations with the Pasco Red Lion Hotel (1-800-RED LION) by April 24th. Specify WSALC Convention to obtain our negotiated rate.

2. Our Tri-Cities Wine Tour bus will pick up registered 'winers' at the Red Lion at noon on Thursday May 18th, returning at 5 pm. Cost is only \$25 per head for all-afternoon fun. The deadline to register is April 29th with checks made to Branch 1528 and sent to attention of Robert Scherr at the address below. Seats are limited so don't delay!

NALC Branch 1528
Attn: Robert Scherr
PO Box 2282
Pasco, WA 99302

3. I hope that everyone is looking forward to the Family Feud competition on Friday night. Feel free to make up your teams within your branch, combining branches or a team of friends. This event will be a lot of fun with plenty of laughs.

Please contact me at robertscherr1@hotmail.com or (509) 948-4650 if you have any questions. See you in May!

Important NALC Dates

25th Annual NALC Food Drive, @ Your Station May 13, 2017
WSALC Convention, Pasco May 19-21, 2017
Activist Centered Training, Gold Bar September 10-14, 2017
Regional Assembly, Bend, OR November 6-10, 2017
Basic Shop Steward College, Gold Bar February 11-15, 2018

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