

*The Washington State*

# LETTER CARRIER



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## WORDS TO LIVE BY

*Vice President Toby Swank*

**A**nother State Convention has come and gone. All year it seems to feel like it's so far away and then it's over before I know it. I think we all appreciate how much the convention and the association mean to us but I'd like to share a story that demonstrates how much it means to me personally.

2014 was my first State Convention in a long time. Honestly I got sucked into going by my dear friend Eric Pardick. I was having a tough time in Walla Walla and was really questioning whether I even wanted to stay working at the Post Office. Eric encouraged me to go and blow off some steam and be around all of you to refocus. It seemed like a good excuse to get out of the office for a bit so I went. And he was right! It was the shot of adrenaline I needed! I sat next to Eric and took it all in. I felt the desire to engage in the debates on the floor. I wanted to lead again and I wanted to be inspired. I sat there and read through the convention booklet ... saw the Walla Walla officers who had served a long time before me. Saw the Walla Walla carriers who were named OSA members. Saw the times we had hosted the convention and as I sat there I realized that while I had served my branch well I had barely scratched the surface of what it meant to be a Union leader. I looked around the room at Mary Martinez, Eric Pardick, Paul Price, and Jamie Lumm. I sat and watched as OSA after OSA member walked to the front and I heard their amazing stories. How hard they worked. How much they cared. And I knew I was in the presence of truly inspiring, caring and loving people. People who understood the importance of standing up when the bully walks into the room and I was INSPIRED. I felt the energy surge back into my system. I decided then and there I was going to do more. I approached the mic and nominated Walla Walla to host the 2018 State Convention. Then I went back to my Branch and fell in love with my work all over again.

Since 2014 my WSALC family has grown. I've gotten to know more of you and it means the world to me to be

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## ROBERT SCHERR SELECTED AS OSA

I would like to express my gratitude for the honor of receiving the Outstanding Service Award. I appreciate the person(s) that felt that I was deserving of this incredible award. I am well aware of the tremendous work that those honored before me have done for their branch, the state association and their communities. It's humbling to be honored among them.

Since speaking into a mic or at a podium is not my strong suit, I would like to give a little background through providing an article for the WSALC Newsletter of who and what I am.

Those who know me know I prefer to work behind the scene. As a Branch President or Secretary-Treasurer I see it as working as a team. When the branch is approached with a task or project, I do my best to provide guidance and appreciate the hard work others provide while still maintaining a hands-on approach to whatever task or project the branch is working on.

I know the problem a lot of people have with public speaking; I most definitely am firmly included in that group. I remember the first time my branch sent me to Secretary-Treasurer training in San Diego that National provided under the leadership of, I believe, Secretary-Treasurer Yates many, many years ago. I will never forget, at the beginning of the training, the whole group had to stand up as the mic was passed to them and introduce whom they were, where they were from and if they held a position in their branch. I was sitting in the back and watched as starting at the front, one by one they told their story. My heart pounding as the mic got closer and closer to when it was my turn. Thankfully, when I do talk into a mic now my heart no longer pounds away because my brothers and



**Robert Scherr  
2019 OSA**

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**Next Letter Carrier Deadline:**  
**August 1, 2019**

**WSALC INFORMATION 24/7**  
**at your website: <wsalc.org>**

# GREETINGS!

*Secretary/Treasurer Holly Curatolo*

**H**ello fellow Washington Carriers. I want to first say a big thank you to Branch 852 Yakima for hosting another great State Convention. Every time I go to one, the training, activities and comradery becomes even better.

I want to also thank the delegation for electing me to my first state position as the new Secretary/Treasurer. I have some big shoes to fill, but I am hoping to serve everyone to the best of my abilities.

I have learned a few things while in Yakima. The first thing I have learned and continue to is letter carriers are determined to help and care for each other; whether it be to grow as people, to aide each other in crisis, or to acknowledge other's accomplishments. We all want the best for our fellow brothers and sisters. The second thing I have learned is that letter carriers are competitive. Whether it be in a friendly game of kickball (hopefully next year the West will win), to push each other to be the best, or to see which branch can raise the most money for MDA. The third thing I have learned is that letter carriers are fighters. They will stick up for one another when someone is being intimidated, and they fight to make each other's lives easier by asking for better working conditions and wages.

I have found a career that is full of people that are inspiring, caring and knowledgeable. I am so happy that I am here, and I hope that in my years to come, I will be able to do the same for others as everyone here has done for me. Thank you to all.



# I'M BAAAACK!

*Director of Retired Members Jo Ann Pyle*

**A**t the recent WSALC State Convention in Yakima I was elected as your new Director of Retired Members. I want to thank the delegates who voted for me. I know I have big shoes to fill as Sharlene Bowes has done a terrific job over the years. I know Sharlene will be at the ready to help me, if needed.

For my first article I just want to let you know that I'm back on the board and am ready, willing and able to help in any way I can. If you need any assistance with retirement issues please don't hesitate to contact me. If your branch has retirement events I will try and attend when I can. Just let me know with as much advance notice as possible. My phone number and email address is on page 2 of this newsletter.

I want to thank the Yakima Merged Branch 852 for hosting a terrific convention!

# HELLO, WASHINGTON!

*Executive Board Member Alfredo Dwan*

**I** am ecstatic and honored to have been overwhelmingly elected at State Convention as a new member of the WSALC Executive Board. My name is Alfredo Dwan and I hope to serve you proudly, go above and beyond to support our Union Members and show honesty and transparency in examining and auditing the State Association finances.

I have been a letter carrier in Kirkland WA for over 20 years, a shop steward for the last 15 years and Driver Safety Instructor for more than two years.

I'm looking forward to meeting you!

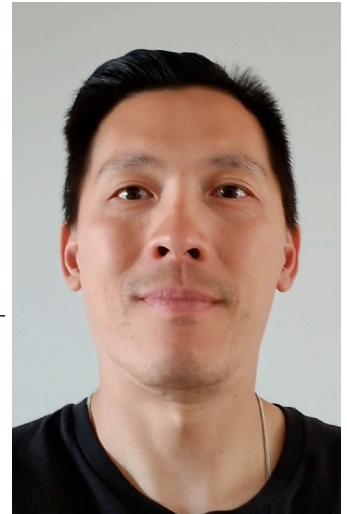


Photo credits this issue:

Brian Wiggins  
Jack Hayes  
Alfredo Dwan  
Mark Myers  
Brooks Bennett



# OFFICER MEETING MINUTES

Yakima Red Lion Hotel May 15 – 16, 2019

Secretary / Treasurer Maleah Smitham

## Wednesday, May 15th

President Brian Wiggins called meeting to order at 5:03 pm. All officers were present with the exception of DOE. Sharee Eschenbacher is not with us because she resigned mid-February. She had said there was a letter in the mail to explain but none was received, and no conversations with her since.

Previous minutes were passed out, motion to accept the minutes seconded. Discussion, Brooks spoke of the editing of the minutes to take out the repeated bylaw text and just reference them. Curatolo was misspelled and will be corrected. MSP

### Officer reports were given:

Brian Wiggins – Feb 24 – 28 DC Lobby trip, 3/23 – Br 450 retiree dinner, 4/4 - Branch 791 general membership meeting, Congressman Larson showed up. 4/14 and 4/18 Gold Bar for Basic Steward College. 4/17 Adam Smith Fund Raiser with Mark Myers, 4/19 breakfast with Herrera in Bellevue, 4/19 dedication of Jimi Hendricks post office. 4/26 to 4/27 in Portland for OR State Convention.

David Dugan – attended 351 branch meetings, 1<sup>st</sup> wed of every month, been in contact with Aberdeen Hoquiam speaking with stewards, attended community 1<sup>st</sup> credit union annual membership meeting,

Brooks Bennett – Produced February newsletter. Katie will not be able to work as Assistant Editor, due to medical issues. Hopeful she will recover soon and be able to assist. Produced April newsletter, thank you for legislative articles. Was unable to make Puyallup branch meeting; thanks to Maleah for helping them.

James Maskell – Attended 2/24 Democratic Crab Feed, 3/5 Kelso general meeting – new officers and need a lot of direction, they had almost an entire branch worth of people there, 3/13 went to Lewis County and they are happy, been in contact with Longview.

Ray Johnson – February 24-28 Washington DC lobby trip March 13 Visit to Congresswoman's Schrier's Issaquah office to meet her local staff

March 16 Tacoma's MDA bowl-a-thon

April 17- Congresswoman Kim Schrier's Town hall in Auburn

May 11 Food Drive

Attended all Branch meetings

Brandon Wilson – efforts on local stuff on the ODL working Sundays. Went on May 9<sup>th</sup> to Nurses Picket Rally – against providence hospital. Helped out new members at branch, including LCPF.

Maleah Smitham – I have been working on Convention issues and made a trip to Bremerton meeting, went to Tacoma bowl-a-thon and assisted in the Branch 130 food drive with grandkids, helped count peanut butter at the Central Labor Council Meeting and have been helping Puyallup Stewards.

Sharlene Bowes – Have been dealing with medical issues.

Buddy Matthias – no car for the last year and a half, not making station visits, safety task force visits thru the post office.

Michael Poff – Since our last meeting in February I have attended all of my branch meetings. On February 28<sup>th</sup> held a bowlathon for MDA which the branch raised \$3065. In March and April was working on coordinating the food drive for the branch. On May 11<sup>th</sup> did the food drive with the preliminary numbers the branch collected over 100,000 lbs of food. I would like to thank branch 852 for hosting a great convention.

Kevin Ernest – did branch visit to Anacortes they are understaffed, steward is doing her best. 24<sup>th</sup> Democratic Crab Feed with James shook all the hands and got a picture with Kilmer – crab was cold, was a great labor movement event. March 20<sup>th</sup> labor council meeting Rick Larson showed up, spoke with him about issues. End of March branch 791 CCA event at Alfie's, gave speech about importance of LCPF. Michelle is doing OK job, May 1<sup>st</sup> went to Lynden they are understaffed. Did peanut butter drive 694 brought in; beat Branch 130 by about 200 pounds.

**Committee assignments** – to be liaison in case the committee needs anything to get their job done. Do not tell them what to do or do the job for them.

Kevin Ernest – Resolutions

Sharlene Bowes – Auxiliary for retiree/auxiliary luncheon

Michael Poff – Elections and MDA

David Dugan – Sgt at Arms

James Maskell – Nominations

Buddy Matthias – Scholarship

Brandon Wilson – Mileage & Per Diem

Brooks Bennett – Audit

Ray Johnson - Memorial

Maleah Smitham – OSA

OSA – Rick Baird is alternate, Rick Horner, John Sweeney, and Jack Hayes are primary committee.

If you are not working, it would be appropriate to see an officer/ or more as people are checking in

Friday morning we will wear officer shirts.

About the DOE bylaw, did that ever get sent up to Committee of Laws? It went up during the DC Lobby Trip, and no response was returned. Brian will call and see where it is.

Brian will be meeting with host branch tonight and have dinner with national officer on one night.

**Adjourned** at 5:57 pm – until tomorrow morning at 8 am.

## Thursday, May 16th

**Reconvened** at 8:08 am.

**Correspondence** - Convention Call for WSLC convention – Discussion was had on who would be attending, Brian and Kevin will be attending. Reverted back to discussion as per by-laws – Secretary Treasurer is delegate, by not sending them; it will violate the by-laws. This has to be tabled until after convention meeting to determine whom the secretary/treasurer will be and if they will be able to attend.

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# MEMORIAL SERVICE 2019

## Branch 79 Seattle

Bruce Baldrige  
Robert Boyer  
Ronnie Candis  
Jacques Chappell  
Thomas Cregan  
Mary Graham  
Richard Grannis  
Nancy Linskey  
Joeseeph Melnikas  
Michael Molloy, Gold Card  
Larry Olsen, Gold Card  
John Plesenski  
Robert Stringer, Gold Card  
Dennis Shoemaker  
Robert Vandiver Sr, Gold Card

## Auxiliary 99 Seattle

Barbara Hayes

## Branch 130 Tacoma

Art Devone Jr  
Heather Fetter  
Jesse Jones, Gold Card  
Warren Kingsbury, Gold Card  
Patrick McDougal  
Andy Reetz  
Howard Schick, Gold Card  
Albert Schreib

## Auxiliary 202 Tacoma

Terry Norris, 50-Year Member

## Branch 351 Olympia

William 'Bill' Howe, Gold Card

## Branch 442 Spokane

William Allemani  
Gene Emmett

Albert Gaultney

Steve Jones

## Branch 450 Northsound

Marvin Robertson, Gold Card

## Branch 791 Snohomish County

Michael Barnhart, Gold Card  
Wiard 'Bill' Taggart, Gold Card  
Jerrod Weber, Gold Card

## Branch 852 Yakima Merged

David Jongewold, Gold Card  
John Griffin, Gold Card

## Branch 1104 Vancouver

Robert Hill, Gold Card  
John Jones  
Forrest Kelly, Gold Card  
Jim Kendrick

## Minutes from Page 4

Spoke on the NALC App and **Letter Carrier Political Fund**. There are 36 people coming to convention that are not contributing to the LCPF. In the past people have stated that they feel strong-armed, we need to be less bullying manner and more compassionate. We need to come up with better talking points, why don't you give; you have car insurance why not job insurance. A lot of folks just don't donate because they have never been asked. We could have a function that travels around the state, such as horseshoe tournament and create a place to have the conversations. Funding must be figured out due to DC Lobby Trip and on off years would like to continue Lobby Trip with fewer folks.

**Legislative update:** Fact sheets and Representatives signing on HR's were passed out. This is not everything. We need to keep up with our representatives and getting them signed on to the legislative issues that matter to us. Brian has drawn up an action plan asking for support of National, no response from National at this point.

### Break 10 minutes

Top to bottom of the sheets that were passed around before break on Legisla-

tive issues – long life vehicles HR 2337 no signers from WA, board of governors could handle it but we have no board of governors, only 9 co-signers. For the people act of 2019, HR1 – Beaumont doesn't have much to say about that one doesn't believe there will be much traction. HR 2553, so postal service financial improvement act, won't do any good if the prefunding is still around. HR 2478 Federal Retirement Fairness Act – Kilmer and Cole presented, not a lot of people who are signed on it. There was a lot of discussion on contacting and working with our representatives and reaching out to get the conversations started.

### Break 15 minutes

**By-laws** – page 59 – originally recommended approval, discussion was on the table one or table 2, currently there is no difference in pay but could be and there are 2 tables for a reason. MSP  
Page 60 – recommend approval MSP  
Page 61 – recommend disapproval MSP  
Page 62 – recommend approval MSP  
Page 63 – recommend disapproval MSP  
Page 64 – recommend disapproval MSP  
Page 65 – recommend approval MSP  
Page 66 – recommend approval MSP  
Page 67 – recommend approval MSP  
Page 68 – recommend approval MSP  
Page 69 – recommend approval MSP

Page 70 – recommend approval MSP  
**Recessed** for dinner.

### Reconvened at 7:07 pm

We discussed the **budget** and re-arranged some of the funds. Budget is ready to present to the members on Friday morning.

**Newsletter** – we have been printing 16 pages and postage has gone up. There is still a problem with the membership/mailing lists; Brooks feels that the CD received from the national office may not solve all of it, as he doesn't get the new names as quickly. We will have to go back to working the Dues Check off lists until we can figure out how to make the list from NALC work better.

**Financial Report** – We have money in the bank and although it appears to be a bit, we also have some large bills coming up. On average we spend about what we bring in when we have our normal large bills.

**Trustees Group Report** - the books have been gone thru but they didn't get the new/updated QuickBooks ledgers. They will be printed and the Board will verify them tonight, anything that needs to be fixed before the Audit Committee gets to the books on Saturday will be done.

Nick came in to give **NBA update**.

**Adjourned** at 8:30 pm. Reconvene after convention, one hour after the gavel.

# 2019 WSALC STATE CONVENTION MINUTES

## Yakima Red Lion Hotel

*Assistant Secretary Holly Curatolo*

### Friday, May 18, 2019

**9:00 Opening** ceremonies conducted by President Brian Wiggins, including posting of the colors, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation by Father Caesar Vega. Opening remarks and introduction of guests;

Dan Toth - NALC Director of Retired Members

Nick Vafiades - National Business Agent, Region Two

Debbie Dixon - Regional Administrative Assistant

Michael C. Keels - Regional Administrative Assistant

John Beaumont - National Legislative and Political Organizer

Cynthia Lang - National Auxiliary President

Linda Davis - National Auxiliary Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Willie Groshell - Oregon State President

Cathy Dye - Washington State Auxiliary President

Dulce Gutierrez, Assistant Mayor/Yakima City Council

welcomed WSALC to Yakima and Yakima Valley

Credentials report: 127 Delegates, 11 State Officers, 1 National Officer, and 4 Guests. Toby Swank Br 736 moved to accept the late delegates, seconded by Jo Ann Pyle Br 79. Motion passed.

Committees list changes: Scholarship – Steve Thrift to Mel Shelton, MDA – Bob Williams to Ammon Bruce, MDA – Mike Stringer to Mark Guzman, Band – Bob Granger to Gary Wood.

Eric Pardick Br 442 – Orville Arnold is assigned to the Memorial Service Committee; he is not here.

Standing rules Brandon Wilson Br 1528 moved to accept as printed, seconded by Eric Pardick Br 442. Motion passed.

Training sessions this weekend: Friday: Michael C. Keels – Clock Rings; Debbie Dixon – Dignity and Respect. Saturday: Nick Vafiades – LMOU, Debbie Dixon – Carrier Basics

Committee of Presidents today at 2:00 pm in the Veranda Room.

**Comments from National Director of Retirees Dan Toth**

9:36 Nominations open for elected positions: President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Director of Education, Director of Retired Members, Director of Media, Editor, Executive Board (two positions), Delegate-at-Large and 2023 Convention Host City. Nominations will close at 2:35 today.

**Nick Vafiades NBA on Letter Carrier Political Fund** – 34 members at convention are not signed up for our PAC. Roll Call of Officers All officers are present.

Announcements: Brooks Bennett Br 79 – Auxiliary raffle tickets need to change from white to pink.

Debbie Munden Br 1484 – Have one banquet ticket to sell.

Jeff Bollinger Br 852 - Recognized Yakima Assistant Mayor Dulce Gutierrez for organizing with Labor Council. Jack Hayes Br 79 – Get recommendation letters for OSA candidates to him as soon as possible.

Executive Board gave first reading of proposed bylaw amendments with recommendation but no discussion.

Copies of the proposed budget and minutes of last convention passed out. Jo Ann Pyle Br 79 moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Toby Swank Br 736. Motion passed.

**John Beaumont National Legislative and Political Organizer** gave Legislation presentation / update.

**12:00 Recessed** for Auxiliary/Retiree Luncheon and classes afterward.

### Saturday, May 18, 2019

**8:00 Opening Ceremonies.** President Wiggins explained starting time change.

Nominations Committee Chair Lori Baldwin Br 442 reported: Contested positions: Secretary/Treasurer: Maleah Smitham, Holly Curatolo, Executive Board (two positions): Alfredo Dwan, Floyd Dugan, TJ Davis, Buddy Matthias, Director of Media: Chriss Daniels, Tracy Holzwarth, Delegate at Large: Dee Ann Johnstone, Mel Shelton, Richard Enright, Kevin Ernest, Bobby Scherr, Ron Smith, Director of Retired Members: Jo Ann Pyle, Debbie Munden Uncontested positions: President – Brian Wiggins, Vice President – Toby Swank, Director of Education – Brittany Slavin, Editor – None, Host City – None

Conner McKinnon Br 442 moved to accept the Nominations report, seconded by Al Floyd Br 351. Motion passed. Election Committee Chair Tammy Gatlin Br 2038 - Ballots will be passed out in the hallway right after my report. Committee will be in the breakfast area to collect ballots in the morning. Please turn in ballots by 8am tomorrow.

Announcements: John Sweeney Br 79 - Branch 79 didn't interview everyone who is running so our Steering Committee will be meeting in room 264, sign up on the sign-up sheet.

Garrett Scott Br 79 talked about Paying SS Benefits – In 2010, 65 Million, request to get Form SSA 7004 mailed. Using this form will request annual statements in the mail. Debbie Munden Br 1484 – I withdraw from Director of Retirees nomination.

Elsie Lamarche Br 852 talked about Jose Gomez who is a CCA, age 31. He has 4 kids and his grandbaby has been

*Continued on Page 7*

*Minutes from Page 6*

diagnosed with cancer. Elsie moved to pass the hat for Jose Gomez, seconded by Conner McKinnon Br 442. Motion passed.

Mark Myers Br 79 – We have an extra banquet ticket if anyone needs one.

Election Committee member Cory Kirk Br 351 – Longview, Kelso, Kitsap and Puyallup branches have not picked up their ballots.

Outstanding Service Award Committee Chair Jack Hayes Br 79 – Last call to turn in nominations by 12pm today.

Jack will make a link for photos he takes at convention.

Memorial Service Committee Chair Austin Cooper Br 79 – Make sure lists of deceased members are given to him before close today.

Executive Board gave second reading of the proposed By-law changes, w/ discussion.

Page 69 Change **Article 10 Section 3** – Committee's recommendation is one of approval. Motion passed for approval.

Page 64 **Article 8 Section 5** – Committee's recommendation is one of no recommendation. Discussion: Vince Corsi Br 351 – Asking for clarification why no recommendation. Executive Board - Did not feel comfortable increasing their own salary.

BJ Hansen Br 79 – We are adding a salary where currently there is not one.

Ammon Bruce Br 1528 – Seems like it is a pay raise, who is paying for that?

Executive Board - That would have to be addressed by the Council to redo the budget.

Ray Johnson Br 2038 – People who do the work are giving up AL or using LWOP

Jo Ann Pyle Br 79 – Ditto what BJ said, a lot of people that do a lot of work give up a lot. I rise in opposition to bylaw on page 64, but approval for Page 63. Jo Ann moved for disapproval, seconded by Steve Schultz Br 442. Discussion: Bill Bauder Br 442 - Approve the bylaw as printed, give up 4 days a year to compensate the people that work for us.

Tim Davis Br 130 – We should approve 8 hours, and not 4. Teauna Young Br 130 (maker) – Personal Privilege – as explanation, we took away the salary from the DOE last year. So, we took the 96 hours and balanced across the positions we are proposing in the change.

Mele Ball Br 1528 called for the question, which passed. Vote on the motion of disapproval, which failed. The amendment is disapproved.

Conner McKinnon Br 442 moved to approve the change on page 64, seconded by Al Floyd Br 351. Discussion: Brooks Bennett Br 79 – Council will come up with numbers in the budget.

Vince Corsi Br 351– In opposition to the motion.

Wiggins WSALC President – We have not received anything back from the Committee of Laws, we have to go forward as printed in current bylaws, and we cannot make the change to our bylaws yet.

Jo Ann Pyle Br 79 – We passed a proposed by-law to delete the pay last convention, why is it not sent/ back yet?

Wiggins WSALC President - Bylaw sent in October of last year, did not have copy of by-laws, took everything in February during lobby trip. Still do not have anything.

Mel Shelton Br 442 – It will cost \$5,059.20 annually for all 5 members

Mike Poff Br 442– Proposed bylaws would have to go to the Committee of Laws, it would be next year's budget.

Conner McKinnon Br 442 called for the question, which passed. Vote on motion to approve, which failed. Brooks Bennett Br 79 called for division. Motion passed on standing vote.

Kevin Ernest Br 450 – Let us have discussion, please don't call for question every time there is a motion on the floor

Page 63 – **Article 8 Section 5** – Committee's recommendation has changed to one of disapproval.

Vince Corsi Br 351 recommended reading the 4 hours than the 8 hours first.

Teauna Young Br 130 – Should approve at 4 hours.

Body agrees with the Committee's recommendation of disapproval.

Page 59 – **Article 8 Section 8C** – Committee's recommendation is one of approval.

Ammon Bruce Br 1528 – wants to know why all pay is at Step O?

Executive Board - no difference in amount being paid.

Body agrees with the Committee's recommendation of approval.

Page 66 – **Article 8 Section 8C** Editor – Committee's recommendation has changed to one of disapproval

Body agrees with the Committee's recommendation of disapproval.

Page 60 – **Article 8 Section 1** President – Committee's recommendation is one of approval

Ammon Bruce Br 1528 – finds it odd that Executive Board is jumping around and not reading in order of convention book.

Kevin Ernest, Executive Board – We're working through the by-laws in the order they were printed in newsletter. Body agrees with the Committee's recommendation of approval.

Mike Brad Br 130 wanted to know if we could vote in block.

Wiggins WSALC President - not possible because of par-

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liamentary procedure.

Page 61 – **Article 8 Section 2** add VP Salary - Committee's recommendation is one of disapproval.

Jo Ann Pyle Br 79 – it is in the standing rules – wants to know why.

Kevin Ernest Executive Board – does not match language in current bylaws.

BJ Hansen Br 79 moved to disapprove the Committee's recommendation of disapproval, seconded by Conner McKinnon Br 442.

Jo Ann Pyle Br 79 – offered an amendment to make the language same as current language.

Vince Corsi Br 351– supports what Jo Ann says, should change the language also pay from 4 hours to 8 hours.

James Watkins Br 130 (maker)– branch just changed their by-laws for the same thing if not correct verbiage we can change.

Executive Board – change recommendation to approval based on amendment. Motion passed.

Jo Ann Pyle Br 79 moved to change the last sentence in proposal to VP language, “a quarterly salary equal to 4 hours at the City Carrier Step O pay the hourly rate to be determined on July 1 of each year.” Seconded by Tim Davis Br 130.

Vince Corsi Br 351 – oppose the hours

Jo Ann Pyle Br 79 – cannot change the hours higher on a proposed, can amend down. It would have to be presented for the members to discuss before convention.

Mel Shelton Br 130 – can the maker make the amendment? Motion to approve amendment.

Jo Ann Pyle Br 79 moved to approve the proposal as amended, seconded by Al Floyd Br 351. Motion passed  
Page 62 – **Article 8 Section 3** Sec/Treasurer– Committee's recommendation is one of approval.

Body approved committee's recommendation of approval.

Page 65 – **Article 8 Section 7** – Committee's recommendation is one of approval.

Vince Corsi Br 351– opposed, why would we add language to change what we have sent out to the Committee of Laws.  
Teauna Young Br 130 – seconded what Vince says.

Brooks Bennett Br 79 – why would the Executive Council give approval, what is the board's reason?

Have not received back; have to go back to the by-laws that are in the book.

Holly Curatolo Br 1104 – will this override the by-law that is already sent up? We can also not pay DOE as a state association.

Nick Vafiades Br 2214 – Correct, by-law change needs to be disapproved.

Jo Ann Pyle Br 79 – goes against what the body agreed to a

year ago.

Jon Weinberg Br 1104 – No where does it say the DOE cannot train, this says they act as a coordinator. Won't this override the first?

Nick Vafiades Br 2214 – this should be withdrawn.

Ammon Bruce Br 1528 – can you amend the by-law?

Wiggins WSALC President – No, we cannot.

Bill Bauder Br 442 – DOE has to go to the meetings, wants to amend 24 to 8 hours, no second.

Garrett Scott Br 79 called for the question, which passed.

Committee's recommendation is not approved

Jo Ann Pyle Br 79 moved to disapprove the by-law on Page 65, seconded by Bob James Br 791.

Approved – Committee overturned.

Bob James Br 791 – Point of Information – Is it not a paid position for the state? Yes.

Steven Boustead Br 130 – Did National say to us that we can't pay the position?

Wiggins WSALC President – Yes, in part. We cannot pay for contract training as a state association.

Nick Vafiades Br 2214 – National will pay for contract training when the DOE works for the Regional Office.

Garrett Scott Br 79 – Are there other officers that don't get paid? Director of Retired Members. Can we make a one-time payment to DOE?

Jo Ann Pyle Br 79 - DOE had been paid per the by-laws.

Has received the regular salary up to the point the DOE resigned from position. Could we make a motion to pay the DOE until convention?

Vince Corsi Br 351 – The DOE is still paid until the Committee of Laws sends back by-law?

### **Break, Door Prizes**

BJ Hansen Br 79 - donation to Scholarship fund of \$2,000.

Tammy Gatlin Br 2038 / Elections Committee Chair – Is Kelso branch here? No.

Committee will accept ballots tomorrow morning near the breakfast place 7:30 – 8am, no ballots after that.

Announcements: Cory Kirk Br 351 – donation to WSALC Band and Scholarship fund each \$250.

James Fowler Br 1350 – donation to MDA for \$300.

James Watkins Br 130 – donation \$1,500 to Scholarship and \$300 to MDA.

Michelle Decker Br 791 – donation of \$500 to Scholarship fund.

Janice Bauer Br 130 – Auxiliary has cutoff of 5:30 pm for Silent Auction bids.

Erich Bengel Br 4573 – donation of \$500 for Scholarship fund.

Bylaws, continued:

Page 67 – **Article 8 Section 10** Director of Media – Com-

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mittee's recommendation is one of approval

Body agrees with Committee's recommendation.

Page 68 – **Article 8 Section 13B** Legislative Chair – Committee's recommendation is one of approval.

Body agrees with committee's recommendation.

Page 70 – **Article 14** – Adding Section 4 Proposed bylaw – Committee's recommendation is one approval.

Jo Ann Pyle Br 79 (maker) – Trying to avoid what happened with proposed by-law for DOE, which is not back from Committee of Laws. This way it would be printed in a timely manner. In 1991 we passed a resolution to do this in a timely manner.

Body agrees with Committee's recommendation of approval.

**Candidates for elected positions each made two-minute presentations to the delegation.**

Jo Ann Pyle Br 79 moved that when our proposed by-law is back from Committee of Laws approved that we may pay the DOE 8 hours per quarter until the next state convention. Seconded by Ammon Bruce Br 1528.

Jon Weinberg Br 1104 – clarify how we do this?

Maleah Smitham Br 130 – DOE shall be paid the current rate, pro-rated until the end of quarter

Jack Gilmore Br 79 – can the E-board give some areas where to adjust the budget?

Maleah Smitham Br 130 – funding would not be an issue. We did not pay a DOE last quarter. Motion passed.

Maleah Smitham Br 130 moved that for future conventions we have session as a delegation, not breakouts, on Friday from the beginning of nominations until the close of nominations so that all delegates are in the same room. Seconded by Al Floyd Br 351. Motion failed.

Steve Schultz Br 442 moved to pay Director of Retired Members an 8-hour stipend each quarter at Step O until we can pass a by-law at next convention, seconded by Ammon Bruce Br 1528.

Steve Schultz Br 442 – clarification on why he made the motion.

Ray Johnson Br 2038 moved to amend to have the action take effect immediately, seconded by Ammon Bruce Br 1528. Amendment passed. Motion passed as amended.

Jon Weinberg Br 1104 moved to provide 4 hour stipend per quarter Step O effective immediately until the next state convention, seconded by Scott Anderson Br 79.

Kevin Ernest Executive Board – opposed, bylaw is not passed, it has not gone to Committee of Laws.

Bill Bauder Br 442 – feels financial bylaws always get passed by the Committee of Laws.

Brooks Bennett Br 79 – opposed motion on pay equitability

Toby Swank Br 736 – I'm not in it for the money, don't spend time worrying about the proposal.

Ray Johnson Br 2038 (maker) explained why his branch put the proposal forward. Motion failed.

Announcements: Toby Swank Br 736 - wants to pass the hat for Tracy Cozad, her mother passed away last night.

Brian Labree Br 3877 moved to pass the hat for Tracy Cozad, seconded by Mel Shelton Br 442. Motion passed.

**Training** after lunch will be: Nick Vafiades on Local Negotiations and Debbie Dixon on Carrier Basics.

TJ Davis Br 852 – Vince Lang will have BBQ outside of Suite 171; donations are welcome and proceeds will go to Auxiliary.

**12 – 1:30 Lunch, Door prizes**

The Harada family came in and showed Danielle's artwork for auction at Banquet tonight. Proceeds go to MDA.

**Comments from National Auxiliary President Cynthia Lang and National Auxiliary Assistant Secretary Linda Davis.**

Elsie Lamarche Br 852 thanked the Auxiliary for helping with Convention set up.

Kevin Gottlieb Br 79 / Resolutions Committee Chair recognized his committee.

Jo Ann Pyle Br 79 – Point of Order; by the standing rules the proposed budget will be the second order of business on the second day.

Wiggins WSALC President – You are correct.

Budget Discussion: Steve Schultz Br 442 moved to table the budget so Executive Council can amend the proposed budget, seconded by Mel Shelton Br 442.

Mele Ball Br 1528 – clarifies the motion. Motion passed.

Resolutions

Kevin Gottlieb Br 79/ Resolutions Committee Chair:

Page 53 – **CCA Conversion to Full-Time Flex** – Committee's recommendation is one of approval.

Body approves Committee's recommendation.

Page 54 – **CCA Conversion to Unassigned Regular** – Committee's recommendation is one of approval.

Body approves Committee's recommendation.

Page 55 – **CCA Step Increase** – Committee's recommendation is one of disapproval.

Garrett Scott Br 79 – asked for clarification for recommendation of disapproval

Resolution needs to be amended to make it clearer.

Randall Wirtz Br 791 – to count more CCA time

Nick Vafiades Br 2214 - needs to be rewritten.

Randall Wirtz Br 791(maker) – clarifying discussion on why the resolution was written.

Nick Vafiades Br 2214 – This needs to be rewritten, it is not clear.

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Bob James Br 791 – Ask the body to overturn the Committee's recommendation – still wants the idea to be put forth to help with the retention of CCAs.

Mele Ball Br 1528 – rise in agreement with the disapproval.

BJ Hansen Br 79 – trying to get rid of CCAs to move them to career – National is already negotiating the same thing.

Toby Swank Br 736 – CCA Retention, Dignity and Respect  
Tim Davis Br 130 – Dignity and Respect

Steven Boustead Br 130 likes the concept of the resolution.  
Body approves Committee's recommendation of disapproval.

Garrett Scott Br 79- Personal privilege – I made copies of one of the forms needed go get a form for Social Security.

**Break followed by door prizes****Washington State MDA family – Michael, Linda and Danielle Harada**

Announcements: Steve Thrift Br 442 - would like to take a group photo to send to Tracy Cozad.

TJ Davis Br 852 – Donation of \$200 to Scholarship fund.  
Also, at the Banquet do not open wine or beer on the table.  
There is a corking fee.

Please make bids on items in Silent Auction within 30 minutes after close of business.

Carol Mesford Br 130 - Page 28 Convention book, Typing errors on all of her submitted commendations.

Kevin Gottlieb Br 79/ Commendations Committee Chair - reads commendations for all who are not in attendance.

Garrett Scott Br 79 moved to not read the Resolved on all commendations, seconded by Conner McKinnon Br 442.  
Motion passed.

Commendation for **Congresswoman Herrera-Beutler** – Committee's recommendation is one of approval. Body approved Committee's recommendation.

Commendation for **Congressman Heck** – Committee's recommendation is one of approval. Body approved Committee's recommendation.

Bob James Br 791 – Point of Information: submissions for Commendations for DelBene and Larsen did not make it in book.

Commendation for **Congresswoman Jayapal** – Committee's recommendation is one of approval. Body approved Committee's recommendation.

Commendation for **Congressman Kilmer** – Committee's recommendation is one of approval. Body approved Committee's recommendation.

Commendation for **Congressman Larsen** – Committee's recommendation is one of approval. Body approved committee's recommendation.

Commendation for **Congressman Newhouse** – Committee's recommendation is one of approval. Body approved

Committee's recommendation.

Commendation for **Congressman Smith** – Committee's recommendation is one of approval. Body approved Committee's recommendation.

Commendation for **Congresswoman Schrier** – Committee's recommendation is one of approval. Discussion: BJ Hansen Br 79 – Asked to fix that it says Congresswoman consistently.

Carol Mesford Br 130 – Make a correction to say Letter Carrier.

BJ Hansen Br 79 moved to correct typos, capitalize anything that needs to be corrected and add Letter Carriers, seconded by Jay Burrill Br 1104. Motion passed. Body approved Committee's recommendation as amended.

Commendation for **Regional Secretary Allie Herring** – Committee's recommendation is one of approval. Body approves committee's recommendation.

Commendation for **Jim Burke** – Committee's recommendation is one of approval. Body approves committee's recommendation.

Commendation for **Regional Administrative Assistant Nick Vafiades** – Committee's recommendation is one of approval. Body approves committee's recommendation.

Commendation for **National Business Agent Nick Vafiades** – Committee's recommendation is one of disapproval.  
Garrett Scott Br 79 – rises in agreement with committee's recommendation. Body disapproves Committee's recommendation for disapproval.

Bob James Br 791 moved to accept commendation for **NBA Nick Vafiades**, seconded by Jeff Bollinger Br 852.  
Motion passed.

Commendation for **Regional Administrative Assistant Debbie Dixon** – Committee's recommendation is one of approval. Body approves committee's recommendation.

Commendation for **Regional Administrative Assistant Michael C. Keels** – Committee's recommendation is one of approval. Body approves committee's recommendation.

Commendation for **Step B Representative Mats Julin** – Committee's recommendation is one of approval.

Steve Schultz Br 442 – correct paragraphs – amendment – Maker, Branch 79 approves. Body approves Committee's recommendation of approval as amended.

Steve Schultz Br 442 recommended that commendations be proofread before they are sent out.

Bill Bauder Br 442 – Donation of \$600 to Scholarship fund  
**Final Credentials Report** by Heather Marie Norton Br 852 – 129 delegates, 11 state, 1 National Officer, 6 guests.

Jeff Bollinger Br 852 moved to accept report, seconded by Mark Myers Br 79. Motion passed.

**Memorial Service Chair** Austin Cooper Br 79 – All

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*Minutes from Page 10*

branches must turn in lists to him today.

**Election Committee Chair** Tammy Gatlin Br 2038 – She will be in the back of the room to turn in ballots, will make sure that they count, will sign that they are received. She will also be downstairs 7:30 to 8am tomorrow morning.

Announcements: BJ Hansen Br 79 will caucus in room 271 15 minutes after banquet.

James Watkins Br 130 – Personal Privilege- Tacoma will caucus 30 minutes after banquet in room 142

Maleah Smitham Br 130 – Auxiliary member Doris Yusko is in the hospital, card passed for people to sign.

Future Host Branches report:

**2020** Bellingham – Ron Lester Br 450 - Hotel is 4 Points Sheraton \$95/night. Golf Tournament at Sudden Valley, fee is \$85. Dates: May 14-16, 2020.

**2021** Snohomish County - Bob James Br 791 - Hotel is Embassy Suites Lynnwood \$164/night. Golf Tournament on May 20, 2021, convention: May 21-23, 2021. Do not call to reserve until May of 2020.

**2022** Spokane - Steve Schultz Br 442 Golf Tournament course not selected yet. Dates – June 3-5, 2022.

**Comments from Oregon State President Willie Groshell.**

Toby Swank Br 736 – finished passing the hat for Tracy Cozad.

State Officers will be meeting after banquet to address requested changes to the budget.

## Sunday, May 19, 2019

**09:00 Memorial Service** conducted.

Scott Anderson Br 79 – Donation of \$73.04 to the Band. Steve Shultz Br 442 moved to take from the table the budget. Jo Ann Pyle Br 79 seconded. Motion passed.

John Sweeny Br 79 – clarification on increases to the Director of Education (DOE) Do the by-laws take effect immediately?

Wiggins WSALC President – Yes, they take effect immediately upon answer from national Committee of Laws.

Vince Corsi Br 351 – Given the time to adjust, why did we not take care of this yesterday?

Wiggins WSALC President – I am not sure of that. Trustees will answer why we made the changes on the proposed budget.

Buddy Mathias, Executive Board – We moved money from one category to another; we don't have bylaw back from Committee of Laws for DOE. We will have to allocate money for that when we get it back.

Jon Weinberg Br 1104 – What were the motions made? (Motions were discussed.)

**Parliamentarian** Steve Schultz Br 442 – explained the parliamentary order, the Executive Council is going to have make changes.

Scott Anderson Br 79 – I did the math; the amount is \$2112 for the DOE. How will we be notified of the change?

Kevin Ernest, Executive Board – Body will be notified in minutes of the Council meeting when we make changes.

Bob James Br 791 – Do we expect revenue to increase when some of the officers' stipends have been going down? Buddy Mathias, Executive Board – The wrong dues amount was accounted for in the past.

Bob James Br 791 – MDA account – Why did we spend so much in that category?

Maleah Smitham, Secretary/Treasurer – that was money taken in at last convention. We voted to use some of that to take the Haradas to National Convention.

Bob James Br 791 – change in revenue – what will be the method of notification?

Wiggins WSALC President – Changes will be available through the Council meeting minutes in the newsletter.

Bob James Br 791 moved to accept the 2019 -2020 budget as amended, seconded by Steve Boustead Br 130. Discussion: Vince Corsi Br 351 – opposed to passing the budget – needs clarification, is there a plan that the Executive Board put together?

Nick Vafiades, Br 2214 – put trust in the Executive Board, they are elected to do that work. Motion passed.

BJ Hansen Br 79 – will you notify branch presidents?

Wiggins WSALC President – yes, I can do that

Jo Ann Pyle Br 79 – what is the amount of money that was collected for passing the hat?

Linda Davis Nat Aux. Asst. Secretary – Cathy Dye is asking for money for MDA. Selling tickets for Auxiliary quilt raffle.

Trong Nguyen Br 2038 – Donation of \$500 for MDA.

TJ Davis Br 852 – We collected \$950 from passing the hat for Brother Jose Gomez and his family and the branch is donating an additional \$2,000.

Toby Swank Br 736 – We collected \$488 we will donate this to Tracy Cozad to help with funeral expenses for her mother.

Debbie Munden – I have received this kind of support from the union, happy that the union is so caring.

Maleah Smitham Br 130 – Friendly bet with Branch 450 over who could collect more peanut butter donated for the Food Drive. Tacoma collected 241 pounds; Northsound collected 697 pounds so Branch 130 donated \$50 to MDA on behalf of Branch 450.

Commendation for **McMorris Rogers** – Committee's recommendation is one of approval.

Mike Rapp – 442 – fought tooth and nail to get support – would like to eliminate the first whereas – moved to amend, seconded by Garrett Scott Br 79.

Toby Swank Br 736 – against changing it

Nick Vafiades, Br 2214 – in favor of the amendment

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Jack Gilmore Br 79 – in favor of the amendment  
 Brooks Bennett Br 79 – in a spirit of compromise change to encourage a new friend of Letter Carriers who is available to her constituents, which includes Letter Carriers.

Debbie Dixon – opposed to the amendment and recommend adding the word “now.”

Carol Mesford - would agree with removing the first whereas. Motion disapproved.

Garrett Scott moved to amend the first whereas to “Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers represents the 5<sup>th</sup> District and has recently shown herself to be a friend to Letter Carriers, and is accessible to constituents, and”. Seconded by Brooks Bennett Br 79. Motion passed.

Voting on the proposed amended commendation, motion passed.

Bob James Br 791 – point of clarification about political  
 Toby Swank Br 736 – clarification

Carol Mesford Br 130 – would like commendations say exactly what the Congresspeople do.

**Danielle Harada expressed appreciation for the \$6100 raised for MDA in the banquet auction.**

**Comments by National Business Agent Nick Vafiades:**  
 New position of Regional Grievance Assistant, will work out of NBA’s office. **2019 Regional Assembly** will be Sept 29 – Oct 4 at Hilton Garden Inn in Missoula, MT. **2020 Regional Assembly** will be Oct 4 – 9 in Anchorage, AK.  
**Sergeant-at-Arms Chair** Jay Burrill Br 1104 reported \$40 collected for phone violations which goes to MDA.

**Scholarship Committee Chair** Mel Shelton Br 442 reported 19 applications received with 1 disqualified due to missing required content. The Scholarship Fund received \$7,135 would like to give away five scholarships at a total cost of \$7,500.

Jay Burrill Br 1104 moved to accept the Scholarship Committee’s report to award 5 scholarships at \$1500 each for \$7500, seconded by Conner McKinnon Br 442. Motion passed. The Committee drew the following recipients:

**Daniel Lee** – son of Jae Lee Branch 130

**Cyeauna Young** – daughter of Teauna Young Branch 130

**Jalen Barker** – son of Jerome Barker Branch 79

**Michael Mulholland** - son of Susan Mulholland Branch 79

**Ellen Kwon** – daughter of Sung Kwon Branch 130

**Mileage and Per Diem Committee Chair** Bobby Scherr Br 1528 reported amounts due officers and committee members. Jo Ann Pyle Br 79 moved to accept the report, seconded by Al Floyd Br 351. Motion passed.

**Audit Committee** reported that QuickBooks is off by \$13.66. Checks are outstanding that need to be collected and reissued. Recommended when Executive Board meets to thoroughly go back to check that all receipts are accounted for. If credit cards used, that payments be made timely to avoid interest and late fees.

Al Floyd moved to accept the Audit Committee report, seconded by Conner McKinnon Br 442 Motion passed.

**Outstanding Service Award Recipient Bobby Scherr Br 1528 addressed the delegation.**

Band Director Ken Eline Br 79 thanked the body for supporting the **Washington State Letter Carrier Band.**

**Election Committee Chair** Tammy Gatlin reported 622 ballots were printed, 611 were distributed and 11 were invalidated. The Committee had no recommendations.

Results for contested positions were:

(Those elected in **bold** type.)

Secretary / Treasurer

M. Smitham 56

**H. Curatolo 530**

Director of Retired Members

**J. Pyle 530**

D. Munden 39

Director of Media

C. Daniels 158

**T. Holzwarth 462**

Executive Board (2 positions)

D. Dugan 192

**A. Dwan 483**

TJ Davis 139

**B. Matthias 343**

Delegate at Large

M. Shelton 37

K. Ernst 191

**D. Johnstone 206**

M. Enright 9

B. Scherr 119

R. Smith 33

Conner McKinnon Br 442 moved to accept the Election Committee report, seconded by Al Floyd Br 351. Motion passed.

Announcements: Jon Weinberg Br 1104 – Wine basket raffle from the State raised \$270 for MDA.

Yakima Br 852 will be funding State Auxiliary President Cathy Dye to go National Convention.

Yakima Br 852 raffle items- Melissa Franklin Br 442 won the TV; Al Floyd Br 351 won the Traeger grill.

Raised \$1,430 for the big TV and Sound bar, won by Emily Treese Br 130.

Overall fundraising: MDA \$15,178, Auxiliary \$663, Band \$252.

NBA Nick Vafiades conducted the Installation of Officers with assistance from RAA Debbie Dixon.

Roger Deshaw Br 442 moved to **adjourn** the 2019 Convention, seconded by Mel Shelton Br 442. Motion passed.

# OFFICER MEETING MINUTES

Yakima Red Lion Hotel May 19, 2019

*Secretary /Treasurer Holly Curatolo*

Called to order by President Brian Wiggins at 1:40pm, after close of Convention. Brittany Slavin is absent and excused. All other officers are present.

All officers are expected to read all emails sent from Brian. Editor position is vacant – Brooks and Brian will talk more.

The Executive Board left room to choose their chair.  
Kevin Ernest was selected as E-board Chair.

Three (3) State officers carry credit card – President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer. Voucher will be submitted with receipts to request funds from association.

Signers on the accounts: Kevin Ernest **moved** to have new VP and Secretary as signers on Chase and Community 1st CU accounts. (Vice President Toby Swank and Secretary/Treasurer Holly Curatolo), seconded by Buddy Mathias. Motion passed. Need to remove former officers from accounts at next meeting.

Community 1<sup>st</sup> Credit Union – Brian will be doing deposits as there is no branch near new VP and Secretary. Jo Ann Pyle **moved** to have credit cards assigned to the new VP Toby Swank and Secretary/Treasurer Holly Curatolo, seconded by Buddy Mathias. Motion passed.

PO Box for Secretary/Treasurer. Kevin Ernest **moved** to open a new PO Box accessible to Secretary/Treasurer Holly Curatolo, put in a COA and close the old PO Box 45068 in Tacoma. Seconded by Mike Poff. Motion passed.

Shirts and jackets may be ordered, check storage to see what we have left for the new officers.

Kevin Ernest **moved** to order business cards for the new officers (Toby Swank, Holly Curatolo, JoAnn Pyle, Alfredo Dwan, Brittany Slavin and Tracy Holzwarth), seconded by Mike Poff. Motion passed. Kevin Ernest **moved** to purchase refill business cards for some of the returning officers (Brian Wiggins and James Maskell), seconded by Mike Poff. Motion passed.

**Fall Meeting date: September 20 - 22, Executive Board at 12 on Friday, Full Council at 9am on Saturday.** Spring meeting date and location to prepare budget will be set at Fall meeting. Please send email to whole Council about what we could change or have for training for Regional Assembly or Statewide Training.

*OSA Scherr from Page 1*

sisters have become the best of friends. I remember JoAnn and Sheila did some training on public speaking in Pasco years ago. I don't know if they did the training just for me, because there was 10-15 of us trying to improve our public speaking skills. While I hold JoAnn in high esteem, I must tell her that the training just didn't take. I still walk up to the podium with the mic and instantly have that deer in the headlights brain freeze.

When I started working as a carrier, I was not active in the branch. Matter as fact I didn't even go to branch meetings. I was just happy to have the job at the Post Office. I am very thankful for Sheila Grant for coming up to me one day and changing my life when she asked if I would help and go to a steward training for the branch. My very first training was Intermediate Shop Steward at St. Mary's that was being taught by Jamie Lumm. I went from not knowing anything about the contract, handbooks and manuals to, "Whoa! They can't do that!" I was amazed at the training I received. Needless to say, I loved the many trainings I have attended, loved meeting brothers and sisters from around the state/region and developing lifetime bonds.

Our state has had outstanding trainers throughout the years. I have been blessed to have been trained by some of the best such as Jamie Lumm and Ron Watson.

As well as all the state and regional trainers who have provided their knowledge on so many subjects. I'm deeply grateful for Mary Martinez who I consider my mentor. Mary made my life easier; I would always call her for advice on ways to better represent my branch. She helped bring out the best in me. I consider her a dear friend; someone I hold in high regard.

Again, thank you for this incredible honor.



NBA Nick Vafiades  
congratulates OSA  
Robert Scherr

Newsletter schedule – Editor would like to publish in the current fiscal year, by end of June. Will need minutes from convention and both officer meetings. Will send an email notice to the LCCLs. Deadline to send in an article for newsletter will be June 5th. Branch assignments will be done by the weekend for contact page of newsletter and website.

**Meeting adjourned: 3:10pm.**



# NINTH DISTRICT UPDATE

*Ninth District LCCL Mark Myers*

On March 23rd, Congressman Adam Smith held a Town Hall meeting at Tyee High School's cafeteria in SeaTac. Washington State 33<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District Representative Mia Gregerson introduced Congressman Smith to the audience. After greetings, Adam gave an update on current legislative activities in Washington DC, followed by a discussion of a number of the issues before Congress. He then addressed questions from the attendees. His staff was on hand to help members of the community having problems with federal agencies like Social Security and the Veteran's Administration.

On April 17th, Washington State Association President Brian Wiggins and I had the opportunity to attend an event called "A Taste of the Ninth" at the Renton Community Center hosted by Congressman Smith. Representatives from organizations from all over the 9<sup>th</sup> District, both public and private, were in attendance. There was a terrific buffet with great food from vendors in the district. Adam spoke about the tremendous diversity that exists in the 9<sup>th</sup> District, with 150 different languages being spoken by people

from lands all over the world. Adam also recognized several folks in the audience with Champions of Justice awards for their contributions to the community.

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, an event was held to designate the Renton Highlands Post Office as the "James Marshall "Jimi" Hendrix" Post Office Building. The legislation for this was introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Smith and was signed into law by the President

on December 21, 2018. Guest Speakers at the event were Congressman Smith, USPS Seattle District Manager Darrell Stoke, Renton City Councilman Ryan McIrvin, Chief Andy De Los Angeles of the Snoqualmie Indian

Tribe, and Ms. Janie Hendrix, Jimi's sister. After the speakers addressed the audience, a plaque dedicating the building was unveiled by Adam, District Manager Stokes and Janie Hendrix. Renton Letter Carriers LaVonn Williams and Heather Sadar, Retirees Katie and Gregg Schlilaty, and WSALC President Brian Wiggins



Congressman Smith speaks at the dedication of the Jimi Hendrix Station in Renton.

also attended the event. Renton Acting Postmaster Yolanda Shaw, Bellevue Postmaster John Bell, Renton Main Manager Justin Neathery, and USPS Information Officer Ernie Swanson attended as well.

After the dedication ceremony, Brian and I met with Adam's District Representative Lyndall Bervar. We discussed the House resolutions on six-day delivery and door-to-door delivery, and the history of the pre-funding legislation that placed the Postal Service in financial quicksand. We also talked about the latest budget proposals on Capital Hill, and the potential impacts on Letter Carriers. It was our first meeting with Lyndall, and we look forward to working with her on legislation that affects Letter Carriers and the Postal Service.



Brian and Mark with Representative Smith

# THE BALL KEEPS ROLLING

*Executive Board Chair  
Kevin W.P.N. Ernest*

I wanted to say "Thank You" once again to Yakima Branch for hosting a fantastic convention. Being my first convention as a state officer, I found myself much busier than usual, but I still managed to have a blast. I wanted to thank David Dugan for his time on the Executive Board and for all the knowledge he has shared with me and the other Executive Board members. Dugan you will be missed!

Also, I wanted to welcome Alfredo Dwan from Branch 79 to the Executive Board. I'm excited by his honesty, integrity, and willingness to serve the State Association. He will be a great addition to this team. After convention ended, the new Executive Board elected me as Chair of the Executive Board. I hope I don't let everyone down, but we have an excellent team that, I know, has my back. Some of my goals, as Chair, are to streamline how we do audits and improve our communication with both the President and Secretary Treasurer about what we need in order to do these audits successfully.

We have many new members on the Executive Council, but I think we have a great team of people with a wide variety of experiences. This Council is YOUR Council, so never hesitate to contact me if you feel there is anything that I can do to serve you.

Until Next Time!

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*VP Swank from Page 1*

to know more of you and it means the world to me to be able to serve this association, each and every one of you. Thank you for trusting me with this responsibility. I will not fail you. But more importantly thank you for being there when I needed it the most ... you breathed life back into me and I haven't been the same. I owe each and every one of you for reminding me what really matters at my office and in our craft. Finally, I have a confession. I didn't return my lanyard that year. I took it back to my office and I hung it near my desk where I work on grievances. Not a day goes by that I don't look at it and smile. I don't ever want to forget that weekend ... and I don't ever want to forget how important the WSALC is to me. Thanks again for being such wonderfully inspiring people. Cheers!

# THANK YOU FOR THE MEMORIES

*Maleah Smitham, Branch 130*

I want to take a moment to thank everyone for allowing me to serve as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Washington State Association for the past couple of years. It was a rough start and a slightly rough ending, but I did enjoy my time serving the State Association, not only as Secretary/Treasurer but also as an E-Board member before that.

I guess I feel the need to write this letter more to set the record straight than anything else. After the election results were read, I vacated the room. It wasn't because I was upset or anything like that, I was actually pretty happy. There were several things going on in my personal life and I really am in need of the break, I just didn't feel I should walk away from the trust you had all instilled in me over the last years. What I did do when I left the convention hall, was to go to the officer's meeting room and get all my personal things out of the way so the new Secretary/Treasurer could take her place in the after the convention meeting and not have my stuff in the way. Anybody who knows me knows I don't really travel light, so it took me a bit to get everything out of the way. I also wanted to make sure that Holly had everything she needed to get started on her new venture.

By the way, congratulations to Holly Curatolo and all of the Washington State Association of Letter Carriers elected officers. I wish you all a smooth transition into your new positions and that you have support of not only your branch but also your family, as there is lots of behind the scenes work that gets done each year.

I have been in contact with Holly, President Wiggins, VP Swank, and others of the Board passing on information as things come up. Such as I forgot to inform the new Secretary/Treasurer that the letter congratulating Scholarship winners is on her computer, so at our branch meeting after a couple of people mentioned it to me, I sent her a message. I am sure that the official notice along with the information she is required to have before sending out the scholarships is in the mail already.

I look forward to having some free time next year at convention in Bellingham and being able to enjoy the golf tournament as well as the sights of where my former-in-laws lived many years ago. Until then, if anyone needs me my number has not changed.

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## FOOD DRIVE UPDATE

*Chris Kelly, Washington State Food Drive Coordinator*

**T**oday is June 1<sup>st</sup>, deadline for your Food Drive Totals. Usually we see the results in the August Postal Record. This year has had its challenges. First, there was a shortage of cards. Then cards came late. Then posters came late. Last one is that you couldn't submit your totals in the "members only" portion of the NALC website. I sent my totals by mail as I usually do; we are letter carriers aren't we?

Sorry I missed you at the Yakima Convention. Since I was absent only one branch sent me their totals. Northsound Branch 450 received 127,468 pounds of food. As President Ron Lester put it, "We crushed it this year." I am so happy for them. Snohomish County Branch 791 only collected 198,616 pounds, 40,301 less than last year. We felt like there were fewer cans and more pasta and cereal. My branch was consistent from 2000 to 2010 of over 300,000 pounds. From 2011 to 2018 we collected over 200,000 pounds each year. So less than 200,000 pounds is hopefully not what will happen for the next 10 years.

Also, I found out that Snohomish Food Bank took in 17,696 pounds of food this year. Sad to say they had a 30% throw-out rate, over 5,300 pounds to toss into the garbage.

This is something to think about and hopefully find a solution for next year.

It was a very beautiful day and I wish you all luck and can't wait to see how our state and region fares in the final results.

Thanks again for all your hard work in your communities!



**Second Annual WSALC East - West Kickball Teams**  
(for the full effect of "Pink vs Blue" see the color version at [wsalc.org](http://wsalc.org))

## Important NALC Dates

**Regional Shop Steward College, Gold Bar ..... September 8-12, 2019**  
**WA State Labor Council Convention, SeaTac ..... July 25-25, 2019**  
**Regional Assembly, Missoula MT ..... September 29-October 4, 2019**  
**NALC Food Drive, @ your post office ..... May 9, 2020**  
**WA State Convention, Bellingham ..... May 14-17, 2020**

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