



CLARK V. SAVIDGE

SENTINEL

Branch 351, Serving The Letter Carriers of Olympia,
Lacey, Tumwater and Shelton, WA since 1892

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JULY 2010

President's Report

By Al Floyd

State Convention

I would like to thank the branch for allowing me to be a delegate to this years State Convention. As usual it was enlightening and educational. Our National Officer, Dale Hart, Director of City Delivery, spoke to us about the financial state of the Postal Service, PMG Potter's "five day delivery" and the route adjustment process. We also had our National Business Agent, Paul Price, speak about the Postal Service and the Union, as well as his Regional Administrative Assistant, Mary Martinez, letting us know that we should be capturing any and all work that should be going to letter carriers.

National Officer, Dale Hart, Director of City Delivery, started things off telling us what we pretty much know about the financial state of the Postal Service and that the main cause of problems is the pre-funding of the retiree health benefit. The Postal Services' own, Office of Inspector General (OIG), has found that Office of Personnel Management (OPM) over charged the USPS \$75 billion. We were told that if it were not for having to pre-fund the retiree health benefit, the USPS would have made money, even with those ridiculous bonuses that PMG Potter and his cronies gave themselves. PMG Potter also told Congress that if the USPS were to be reaccredited the \$75 billion they would not have to seek five day delivery. Congress then asked PMG Potter, with the long term prediction of gloom and doom for the USPS, because of declines in mail volume and revenue, are you truly doing all you can to generate revenue. And it was reiterated that only Congress can approve going to five day delivery and they are not going to do that.

Dale Hart spoke about the route adjustment process, (MIARAP, JARAP), and that it is designed as a win-win process for both carriers and management, but there has to be cooperation from both. There needs to be a proactive approach to the process from management in getting the carriers' (the regular carriers) input on the changes they propose, what changes could or should be done and what changes can or will not make since, before the adjustment team arrives. And the carriers, when given that opportunity, need to give that input. Carriers also need to understand that this is a business and changes need to be made, will be made and that those changes necessarily are to your liking. If management is proactive and allow for carrier input and the carriers give input, more routes will be adjusted to as near eight hours as possible without all the grumblings.

National Business Agent, Paul Price, spoke about the state of the USPS and how financially strapped it is. But he made note of what letter carriers have been doing and what carriers are doing to help the USPS to stay a viable company. The large amount of revenue that has been generated through Customer Connect by letter carriers.

Regional Administrative Assistant Mary Martinez, explained to us about the need to capture all work that can be done by letter carriers. Any new growth, we should be trying to make sure that work is done by city carriers. If you notice there are less carriers now than there was five years ago, but new development never stops. Less carriers doing more work and the USPS constantly trying to give that work to other groups instead of hiring more carriers, is why we are pressing this concern.. One example of

Minutes of Meeting: June 3rd, 2010

The meeting was called to order at approximately 19:00 PM, on June 3rd, at Apollo's Pizza in west Olympia.

"Eleven" members were in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Floyd.

Roll Call of Officers: All Branch Officers were present except for Vice President and Director of Retirees Sam Samuels who was excused. The MBA and HBR positions are vacant.

Minutes of the Previous Month: Under "Good of the Association," it needs to change to read, "There was some communication between management and carriers at the main office, but very little, in the second round of route adjustments. There *was* management/carrier communication at the Lacey office. Also under "Good of the Association," it was brought up at the Labor/Management Meeting, that management voiced their disapproval of the use of cell phones by carriers on the workroom floor. This item was resolved. A motion was made to accept the May minutes as printed with the changes, seconded and carried.

Applications for Membership: None.

Communications: The name drawn for the Monthly Branch Meeting Raffle, in the amount of \$40, was Anthony Williams. He was not present, so next month's pot goes to \$60.

Committees: Picnic: Due to a conflict with the National Convention the picnic will have to be moved to the 1st of August. Ryan Troy will get the liquor license. Al Floyd is in charge of the food. Will Rick Zassenhaus will be in charge of the music? Al Floyd will contact him. Vincent Corsi will run the raffles. Debbie Dixon will run the games. Al Floyd, Dean Peterson and possibly Joanne will supply the grills. John Mauk is in charge of the flyers. **Retiree/Holiday Party:** Ryan Troy volunteered to head the committee. He would like to have it at the Little Creek casino?

MBA: You can go to the NALC website, under the heading of Departments, to find out information on the Mutual Benefit Association.

HBR: The Health Benefit Plan (HBP) is also on the NALC website under the heading of Departments. Anyone under the NALC Health Benefit Plan, that would like to volunteer to be the branch representative, please contact President Floyd.

Unfinished Business: A motion was made to give Pat Jansen an additional check of \$25, if he has not already received a check for \$50, for the birth of his child, seconded and carried. There are still only two tables in the break room at Lacey office. Katherine Nash said it was to be a two-for-two swap. Ryan Moody said he was acquiring a third round table.

New Business: Ryan Troy discussed getting branch t-shirts made. He will design one and we will vote on it at the next meeting. He would like the branch to pay for them. John Mauk brought up that there were no funds in this year's budget to pay for them.

Good of the Association: Olympia will be hosting the 2014 State Convention. We are looking for volunteers to help out. Debbie Dixon is willing to coordinate. Some suggestions for themes were Hawaiian, Hispanic, Evergreen (Eco-friendly), Is-

**Anthony
Williams**

**YOUR NAME WAS
DRAWN FOR THE
\$40 JACKPOT,
SORRY YOU
WEREN'T PRESENT
JACKPOT = \$60
NEXT MEETING
(MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN)**

lander, 50s, and Western Sports so far. Dates for the 2014 State Convention are tentatively 14-18 of May and would be at the Red Lion on the Westside. This is the only "**Union**" hotel that we are aware of. Sam Samuels had a slight heart attack and is undergoing tests. No information on new route adjustments currently going on.

Treasurer's Report: A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report as printed, seconded, discussed and failed. A motion was made to table adjustment(s) to the State Convention 2010 budget line item until next month's meeting, because we are still waiting on receipts to come in, seconded, and carried. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report as printed, seconded and carried.

50/50 COLCPE Drawing: The winning ticket was drawn by Vincent Corsi. He won a bottle of Charles Schwab White Zinfandel and \$4. He donated his \$4 to COLCPE for a total of \$8.

MDA Drawing: The winning ticket was also drawn by "Mean Dean." He won an 18 ounce bottle of Gorilla Glue and \$7. He donated his \$7 to MDA for a total of \$14.

Food for next month's meeting: It's a Potluck! Barbeque at the Union Hall!

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn, seconded and carried. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:04 PM (1:03:28).

Brain Tease: July

By Al Floyd

1. Are part-time regulars in the same category as PTFs for penalty overtime purpose?
A. Yes B. No C. Maybe so
2. To implement new contract language, the language must be sufficiently specific to resolve all issues that arise.
A. True B. False
3. A letter may be turned, as a reminder, for a parcel when?
A. On office time B. On street time C. Only when management says it is OK
4. The form 1571 is used for what?
A. A time wasting practice
B. Your record of undelivered mail at your case
C. Your protection if management wants to question why mail left at your case was not delivered.

Answers to last month: 1.False 2.False 3.False

this is collections being contracted out. We must take the position that if city carriers deliver to a company, city carriers should be the ones collecting the mail also, six days of the week.

Get Your House In Order

Back home, the old folks used to always say “get your house in order”. That makes me think about the way things are going now. The USPS down sizing, people with less than six years a service having to worrying if they are going to reach that six year protective status. There are things that we all should be doing for ourselves towards the future. Establishing a savings account with three to six months mortgage or rent saved up, life insurance and a “Will”. In other words, getting our house in order.

The savings account should be there for you to use incase of any kind of emergency. You get injured and are unable to work or if someone in your family requires a lot of medical attention, you do not want to have to worry or stress that paying that medical bill will cause you not to pay that PSE or water bill.

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), is also a good way of saving for retirement as well as the future. With this plan the amount you want to put away per pay period will be matched by the Postal Service.

Drafting a “Will” helps you to organize your estate as well as dictate where you want things to go and not leave it up to the state to decide. This is something that no one likes to talk about, but is a necessity, and it will keep peace between family.

Getting life insurance is something else that we should have. The peace of mind that if we do become disabled and unable to work, our lives, our families lives will not be turned upside down. Also, if the worst was to happen, we are making sure our family, our children, are cared for. Through the NALC Branch 351 web-site (click on Benefits), the Mutual Benefit Association (MBA) offers many forms of life insurance for you to choose through.

CALL TO ARMS!

By “Mean Dean” Peterson

Our contract expires in 2011. Key issues in the next round of negotiations are: Salaries, Wages, COLAs and Lump Sums; Health Benefit Contribution Levels; Delivery Frequency; Subcontracting and Workforce Structure; Route Evaluations; and Revenue Generation. 2000-2009 is known as the lost decade! No net job growth in the U.S. Median family income fell. Labor’s share of income is the lowest ever at 55%. Union density is just 7% in the private sector. Here are some other numbers to consider:

Organized (Branch 351)	91.6%
COLCPE Contributors (Branch 351)	9.39%
Mail Volume 2006	213 Billion Pieces
Mail Volume 2009	177 Billion Pieces
Delivery Points 2006	146.2 Million
Delivery Points 2009	150.1 Million
USPS Employees 2006	696,138
USPS Employees 2009	623,128
DOW Dec 29, 2006	12,463.15
DOW June 4, 2010	9,931.97
National Reassessment Program (Estimated Savings Fiscal 2008)	\$146 Million
Average Postal Employee (Salary and Benefits)	\$83,000
USPS (This Year)	235 Years Old
Catalog Companies (Since 2006)	-8,000
Post Offices (In the U.S.)	Over 34,000



Branch 351 Delegation with Dale Hart, NALC Director of City Delivery

(More than Wal-Mart, Starbucks
and McDonald's combined)

Job Loss (do to 5-Day Delivery)

40,000 (26,000 City Letter Carriers)

Next Round of Negotiations

August-November 2010

(AWPU and NRLCA)

Next Round of Negotiations

August-November 2011

(NALC and NPMHU)

We must win prefunding reform. We must fight for a viable business model. We must win the 2010 mid-term elections, electing pro-letter carrier candidates from both parties. We must prepare for bargaining. Our success will depend on strength and unity. We must organize new carriers and non-members. We must contribute to COLCPE. We must be part of the e-Activist network. We must mobilize as part of the Carrier Corps. Everyone in Branch 351 should be wearing one of the red/white/blue trifecta t-shirts which signifies you are involved in all three activities. I have mine. I contribute \$10 a pay period to COLCPE! I receive e-mails from headquarters concerning critical issues, and I act upon them! I mobilize to make sure our letter carriers issues are heard. We need to be 100% organized and fully armed going into contract negotiations! Jules Winnfield said it best in the movie Pulp Fiction. "The path of the righteous man is beset on all sides by the inequities of the selfish and the tyranny of evil men. Blessed is he who, in the name of charity and good will, shepherds the weak through the valley of the darkness, for he is truly his brother's keeper and the finder of lost children. And I will strike down upon thee with great vengeance and furious anger those who attempt to poison and destroy my brothers. And you will know my name is The Lord when I lay my vengeance upon thee." So talk to these future brothers and sisters and get them on the path of the righteous!

*David Farah (Previous Member)

*Kevin Pry (Previous Member)

*Ryan Cagnon (Previous Member)

*Gary Eberhart (Previous Member)

*Roger Gray (Previous Member)

*Anthony Riat (Previous Member)

*Kenneth Riat (Previous Member)

*Lisa Zvolanek (Previous Member) (Although a supervisor, she is still listed as a carrier)

- Indicates Olympia Main Post Office

Members,

In a few months we will start working on the 2011 budget. I would like to include branch t-shirts in that budget.

During the last Branch 351 meeting there was a friendly discussion and it was agreed that:

- we did not have money for them this year due to national convention
- An article should be written and more research/planning should be done

This is just a thought, no motions were made, and nothing was voted on. Some of my favorite shirts were unit shirts from the military and are still worn proudly today. We would all contribute ideas and things that were meaningful to us and in the end they would never resemble anything we asked for; but they grew on you after a while. I'm not sure if Branch 351 has ever had a t-shirt, if so I would love to see it. Feel free to call or email me with your thoughts on the matter. (i.e. favorite color, allergies to certain materials, front and back design, favorite logo, which bridge to jump off, whatever) Any feedback I get from you will be helpful in getting an accurate estimate.

Ryan Troy

sapperoif@yahoo.com

360-581-8549



Have a Safe and Happy Independence Day



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BRANCH OFFICERS

President - Al Floyd 628-3319
Vice President - Sam Samuels 849-4492
Secretary/Treasurer - Vincent Corsi 493-1622
Recording Secretary - Dean Peterson 491-2468
Editor - Stephen Ambeau 870-7807
Assistant Editor - Schauntel Ambeau 870-7807
Director of Retirees - Sam Samuels 352-2912
MBA Representative - Vacant
HBR Representative - Vacant
Sergeant at Arms - John Mauk
WebMaster - John Mauk
Trustees - Lisa Wooden (09-10)
George Vocke 431-6599 (09-10)
Yolanda Delacruz (10-11)

Branch 351 holds its union meetings on
the first Thursday of each month at 7:00
pm unless otherwise noted, at 119 1/2
Capitol Way, Olympia, WA

(360)754-8600

Stewards / Alternates and Phone #'s

Chief Shop Steward - Debbie Dixon Cell # 628-3320
Alt. Chief Steward - Al Floyd Cell # 628-3319
Main Office Shop Steward - Al Floyd
Main Office Alt. Steward - Vacant
Lacey Station Shop Steward - Debbie Dixon 923-9197
Lacey Station Alt. Steward - John Mauk
Shelton Office Shop Steward - George Vocke 426-5928

Branch web page is: www.nalc351.comcastbiz.net
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