

CLARK V. SAVIDGE

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

VOLUME 32, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2008

Windfall Elimination Provision

Submitted by Sam Samuels

In 1983, Congress enacted the “Windfall Elimination Provision” (WEP) that changed the formula for computing Social Security benefits. The WEP reduces Social Security benefits of those who receive an annuity under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and also earned Social Security benefits from other employment. It applies to anyone who becomes 62 (or disabled) after 1985 and becomes eligible for his or her government annuity after 1985. In some cases, this provision can reduce a workers earned Social Security benefit by as much as 55.6%.

Over the past several sessions of Congress there have been numerous bills sponsored to eliminate the WEP Senator Diane Feinstein (D-CA) and Rep. Howard “Buck” McKeon (R-CA) have introduced legislation in the last two sessions of Congress to repeal the unfair WEP. Other members of Congress including Senator John Kerry (D-MA), Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), former Rep. Max Sandlin (D-TX), Senator Kay Baily Hutchinson (R-TX), and Rep. Kevin Brady have all sponsored legislation that would either fully repeal, amend, or reform the WEP.

Congressman Frank’s approach for amending the WEP would exempt retirees who receive less than \$2,000 a month from their combined Social Security earned benefits and public pension. However, for those receiving between \$2,000 and \$3,000 per month the WEP would gradually phase in. And finally, for those whose combined benefits reach above \$3,000 a month, the full WEP would still apply. Additionally, Rep. Brady introduced a bill last Congress that would replace the formula the WEP currently uses. This new formula appears to be more forward-looking, like that of Social Security’s base benefit formula and the use of public employee wage records would be used to achieve this goal. It is unclear whether this approach would result in greater reduction compared to the old formula.

Unfortunately, not one of these bills saw the light of day on the house or senate floor. The NALC favors the “phase out” or “partial repeal” of the WEP as it seems like the best possible option for moving a bill, but many other organizations stand firm on an all or nothing repeal.

With the 110th Congress underway, the issue of addressing WEP is one again before use. Rep Frank has introduced another bill, the Windfall Elimination Provision Relief Act of 2007 (HR. 726). HR 726 would amend current laws to restrict the application of the windfall elimination provision to individuals whose combined monthly income from benefits exceeds a minimum COLA-adjusted amount of \$2,500 a month, and would provide for a graduated implementation of such provision on amounts above such minimum amount. Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA) has introduced the Social Security Fairness Act of 2007 (HR. 82), which would repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the WEP Senator Feinstein has introduced a companion bill in the Senate, S. 206.

The NALC has long championed the repeal or reform of the WEP and with the help of our activists, we fully intend to try to get a legislative fix during the 110th Congress.

Minutes of Meeting: December 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM, on December 6th, 2007, at the Labor Temple, on 119 ½ Capital Way N. Olympia.

“Ten” members were in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Floyd.

Roll Call of Officers: All officers were present with these exceptions; Editor Steve Ambeau, Sergeant of Arms Kevin Hageman and Trustee Karen Colpo. The MBA and HBR Representative positions are vacant.

Minutes of Previous Month: A motion made to accept the October minutes as printed, seconded and carried.

Applications for Membership: Michele Wyatt’s (Shelton Station) last day was August 20th. They are still working on her replacement, which will be a TE.

Committees: Election Committee: Thanks go out to Lisa and Anthony for doing the balloting.

Voting went as follows: **Trustee (2 year term):** Ryan Troy-29 votes, Daniel Cotto-21.

National Convention Delegates: Debbie Dixon-47, Dean Peterson-30, Sam Samuels-35, Al Floyd-37.

State Convention Delegates: Dean Peterson-37, Vincent Corsi-26, George Vocke-23, Dave Carufel-13, Ryan Troy-22, Al Floyd-41, Daniel Cotto-14, Sam Samuels-38, Steve Ambeau-27, Debbie Dixon-44.

A motion was made that last year’s ballots be destroyed, seconded, and carried.

Retiree/Holiday Banquet Committee: The banquet will be on December 29th at the Little Creek Casino. Thanks go out to Gary Leonard for setting it up, once again! There is an increase of \$2 dollars per person this year, from \$17 to \$19. Thanks go out to Jill Loveshe for doing the raffle. Dean Peterson will be doing the MDA raffle again this year. Dan Gary will be doing Karaoke again this year. Point of contacts for banquet ticket will be Dean Peterson at Westside, Marty Burdick/Al Floyd at the main office, Cliff Phillips at Tumwater?, and George Vocke at Shelton.

Communications: At the 2007 WSLC convention, **the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, passed Resolution #6** which resolves that the Washington State Labor Council “shall establish a special Housing Task Force to address what the labor movement, working with housing advocates from the community, can do to address homelessness, foster the construction of affordable housing, and otherwise help remediate the affordable housing crisis.” The Task force will meet several times to assess the issues and craft resolutions to our 2008 WSLC Convention. The first meeting will be on Wednesday, December 13, 2007 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the WSLC Seattle office.

Region 2 will be offering a Basic Office of Workers Compensation Program (OWCP) Class. The class will be held February 6-9, 2008 at the McKenzie Center near Eugene, Oregon. The class will begin in the evening of the 6th and conclude by

noon on the 9th to accommodate travel arrangements. This training is much like the Shop Steward College, is intensive. This class will cover the 5 requirements that must be met by the injured employee to have a claim accepted under the law. The class will also cover the benefits that injured employees are entitled to as well as the mechanics of getting a claim accepted. The registration fee is \$275.00 and covers all housing, meals, and material costs.

MBA: No report.

HBR: No report.

Unfinished Business: Dean Peterson volunteered to sponsor a bowling event at the Westside lanes for MDA during the Regional Assembly next year. It will be held in October here in Olympia at the Red Lion Inn.

Sam Samuels hasn't submitted a letter to the new owner requesting handicap access yet.

A motion was made to accept the 2008 budget as printed, seconded, discussed and approved. Calendars were discussed. The budget was approved paying for 3 delegates to the National Convention and 7 delegates to the State Convention.

New Business: Jill Loveshe will be resigning as **Secretary/Treasurer** effective January 1st, 1998. President Al Floyd assigned Vincent Corsi as the new Secretary/Treasurer effective January 1st, 1998. Vincent Corsi accepted the assignment.

The Washington State Auxiliary is looking at disbanding for lack of participation. Since 1905 the NALCA has helped fight battles in Congress, and other areas, for the betterment of Letter Carrier families and the United States Postal Service. Our continued success is enhanced by the hard work and growing membership of Auxiliary locals throughout the country. The NALC Auxiliary has the key role to unite the families of all NALC members to promote solidarity, actively influence legislation that will be friendly to letter carrier issues, endorse charitable support, promote the image of the letter carrier, **increase [legislative activity](#)** through phone banks, fund raising for political campaigns/COLCPE, hosting legislative speakers, registering voters and encouraging them to vote. **Some of the Objectives of the Auxiliary** are to promote MDA, become 100% organized, build our membership and activity by sponsoring retirees' dinners, organizing joint NALC/NALCA memorial services, holding summer picnics for families, children's Christmas parties, Easter parties for union families, assisting Union families in case of death or serious illness, and also to be active in community affairs on behalf of the letter carriers and the NALC. Some activities are: collect food, work at food banks, adopt needy families or women's shelters, aid the Salvation Army, participate in Adopt a School or Festival of Trees programs. Eligibility for membership as a Regular Member shall be spouses, family members, and significant others, over the age of sixteen, of regular or retired members of the NALC. Spouses, family members, and significant others, over the age of 16, of deceased NALC members are eligible for membership provided the deceased was an NALC member in good standing at the time of death. Letter Carrier retirees in good standing with membership in the NALC can also become members.

Good of the Association: Ryan Troy and Vincent Corsi will be going to **Intermediate Steward College**. A grievance had to be filed to get them released.

NALC volunteer pledge forms are available from Debbie Dixon if you want to be a **Legislative Activist**. You will get a blue NALC activist T-shirt like the ones you see the activists wearing in the postal record. All you have to do is volunteer 10 hours.

The **Combined Federal Campaign** is almost over and is a real lack of participation by branch members. Dean Peterson thinks he is the only one at the Westside who has even turned in his form. Dean said he is contributing to the NALC's charity,

the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Management at the Westside has put up a **Customer Connect** board showing its progress. They are at 0%. Absolutely no leads to date! They have 17 routes with businesses?

Annual leave picks and National Convention: Al Floyd got a call on Sunday night (December 2nd) and released the unused National Convention slots before annual leave picks on Monday, December 3rd. Any member of the Branch who feels another member of the Branch has violated the Constitution or By-Laws of the Association or Branch, may only do so only in accordance with Article 10 of the NALC Constitution, not by having members sign a petition, threatening to hire a lawyer, or distributing a letter city-wide for all to read (including management and scabs). These things need to be properly submitted at a Branch meeting and that means "**attending.**"

A motion was made to include Article 10 of the NALC Constitution (proper method for filing charges) and a member's letter that was submitted city-wide (improper method for filing charges) in the next newsletter, seconded and carried.

It is a requirement for all Branch officers to attend the monthly Branch meetings on the first Thursday of each month, the Executive Board meetings on the third Wednesday of each month, and write an article for the newsletter each month. Non-participation will be reflected in the reduction of an Officer's Reimbursement proportionally. Does this require a change to the By-Laws?

Treasurer's Report: A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report as printed, seconded, and discussed. The motion was withdrawn. A motion was made to have the trustees do an audit of the books before December 31st, seconded and carried. A motion was made to move \$3,000 from savings to the Retirees Banquet, seconded and approved. A motion was made to table the Treasurer's Report until the January meeting, seconded and carried.

50/50 COLCPE Drawing: The winning ticket was drawn by Cliff Darnell. He won a pair of International Airport Bathroom Approved Gel-filled knee pads and \$7.50. He donated the knee pads to the Retirees Banquet raffle and donated the \$7.50 he won to COLCPE for a total of \$15.

MDA Drawing: The winning ticket was also won by Cliff Darnell. He won a Targus 4 port USB hub and \$8. He also donated the hub to the MDA raffle at the Retiree Banquet and the \$8 he won to the MDA for a total of \$16.

Food for next month's meeting: The potluck starts at 6:30 p.m. The Theme is Asian!

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn, seconded, and carried. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:12 PM (2:14:19).



Submitted by "Mean Dean" Peterson

National Association of Letter Carriers

Constitution

ARTICLE 10

Charges

Section 1. Any member of the Branch who shall violate the Constitution or By-Laws of the Association or Branch may have charges preferred against him/her, and if such charges are proved shall be fined, reprimanded, suspended or expelled as the laws may direct or the Branch determine. Any officer of the Branch who shall fail or neglect to discharge the duties of his/her office, or who may be guilty of gross misconduct, may be removed from office. These determinations shall be made by the members present and voting at the next regular Branch meeting after which said charges were read to the Branch. The vote regarding any of the above matters may be continued once, by motion, to the following regular Branch meeting.

Sec. 2. Charges must be made in writing, specifying the offense, failure, neglect, or misconduct so as to fully apprise the member or officer of the nature thereof, and shall be signed by a member of the Branch; and a copy of said charges, under seal of the Branch, shall be served upon him/her. Said charges shall be read by the recording secretary at the first regular Branch meeting after service on the member

or officer.

Sec. 3. The president, or if the president be the person against whom charges are made, the vice president, shall then appoint a committee of three disinterested members, who shall forthwith summon the parties, hear and take down or cause to be taken down or recorded, the testimony and/or documentary evidence presented. It shall be the duty of the committee to find the true facts and report to the Branch. The parties are entitled to be heard by the committee, to present evidence, and to cross-examine all witnesses who make statements to the committee, but rules of evidence and rules of judicial procedure need not be observed. The committee, after completing its fact-finding duty will present to the Branch a written report of the facts elicited, and immediately thereafter disband and be eligible to vote. The Branch shall then decide, by simple majority vote, the issue of whether or not the facts, as found by the committee, sustain the charge. The charged party is entitled to defend himself/herself before the Branch immediately before the vote is taken. If the Branch decides that the facts sustain the charge, then the Branch shall entertain a motion to fix the penalty, if any be required.

Sec. 4. Questions of expulsion or removal from office shall be decided by ballot, and require a two thirds vote. If less than two-thirds of the ballots are for expulsion or removal from office, the Branch shall proceed to determine whether the punishment shall be suspension, fine or reprimand. A fine and the amount thereof must be approved by a two-thirds secret ballot vote. If suspension be determined upon, the Branch shall fix the term of suspension. If reprimand be determined upon, the President or the Vice-President, if the President be the person against whom the charges were made, shall reprimand the accused in open meeting.

Sec. 5. During the suspension for an offense, a member is not exempt from dues, and he/she shall be subject to all the penalties of Article 7, Section 4, for the non-payment of the same.

Sec. 6. Any member or officer suspended for any offense shall be reinstated on the removal of the cause and the payment of all demands against him/her, or at the expiration of the term for which he/ she was suspended, without action of the Branch, and the president or vice president, as the case may be, shall declare in open meeting his/her reinstatement. This provision does not apply where the member is suspended pursuant to charges brought by the National Association or by any officer or representative by authority of the President or Executive Council of the National Association.

Sec. 7. An expelled member can be reinstated only after the manner of a new applicant.

Sec. 8. Any National, State, or Branch Officer or member of a Branch who, having first been charged under this Article with using or attempting to use the Branch, or any portion of it, or his/her influence therein, for political purposes, is determined by the Branch in accordance with the procedures prescribed in this Article to be guilty of the charge, shall be guilty of perfidy and shall suffer expulsion.

December 3, 2007

This is an official charge of neglect of duty and violation of Local Branch 351 Agreement with Postal Management against any union officer or station steward. Specifically for not properly posting and exceeding Union authority by choosing vacation slots for the week of National Convention for July 21-25, 2008 that couldn't possibly be used for National Convention Week. In accordance with local branch bylaws in order to attend National Convention from Branch 351 you must be at least nominated and at the most only four members can attend in 2008: They are Sam Samuels, Al Floyd, Debbie Dixon, and Dean Peterson.

Sam Samuels is a retired branch member.

Al Floyd is currently working at the Olympia Main Station

Debbie Dixon is currently working at the Lacey Station.

Dean Peterson is currently working at the West Side Station

Therefore only one vacation slot for the week of National Convention for July 21-25, 2008 should be blocked at the Olympia Main Station, the Lacey Station and the West Side Station.

Under the Local Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding mentioned above:

Under Article 10 – LEAVE

Section 2. LEAVE SELECTION

L. Before selection of annual leave by the carriers, the Union may choose to select from the vacation slots for the week of National Convention and up to two Regional Assembly slots numbering up to 4% of the carrier work force in each station.

This was brought up a Union meeting two years ago and fully explained to Branch President Al Floyd and other members that were in attendance. If any union officer or steward deliberately allows vacation slots in excess of those needed for the week of National Convention they are knowingly neglecting their duties and this charge will be properly brought to the next union meeting in accordance with Article 10 of the NALC Constitution.

Signature

Branch 351 Member

Name

Public Financing in the Presidential Election System.

Financed by \$3 check offs volunteered by taxpayers on their returns, has been a strong support or protection of presidential elections. It was enacted about 30 years ago, after the Watergate scandal exposed the big-money bagmen corrupting the heart of the political process. It makes politics more competitive for underdogs with less money, more involving for the public and less reliant on floods of special-interest campaign money. Congress should indeed turn its attention to the program – not to end it, but to repair its outdated limits. The primary calendar has become so front-loaded that the candidates with the strongest sources of private donations are now choosing to skip the limitations of public financing so they can spend early and furiously, leaving other challengers at a disadvantage.

ABC News' Raelyn Johnson Reports: As the end of the third quarter fundraising period draws to a close, former Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., has announced that he intends to accept public financing for his bid for the Democratic nomination. Edwards, who has severely lagged behind Clinton and Obama in fundraising, has not leaked his third quarter fundraising expectations, as he has done in previous quarters. The campaign is saying this is not a red flag when it comes to his fundraising capabilities, but a step to curb the money in politics and make a statement about the influence of money. In a statement released to the media, the Edwards campaign challenged Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., calling on her to join him now in accepting public financing and "ending the money game in Washington." "You can't buy your way to the Democratic nomination -- you should have to earn the votes of the American people with bold vision and ideas," said David Bonior, Edwards' campaign manager. "Senator Clinton said she believes public financing is the answer to ending the influence of lobbyists and special interests in Washington, Bonior said in the statement. "If she really believes that, she should join Senator Edwards and seek public financing, or she should explain to the American people why she does not mean what she says."

To be eligible for public financing, a candidate must prove to the Federal Election Commission their campaign has raised \$100,000 by collecting \$5,000 from any twenty states from contribution totaling no more than \$250 each. After nine months of fundraising, the candidates for president in 2008 have already raised about \$420 million. This presidential money chase seems to be on track to collect an unprecedented \$1 billion total. By some predictions, the eventual nominees will need to raise \$500 million apiece to compete--a record sum. This means that public financing would help the presidential candidates from both parties "except" Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama and Mitt Romney who have already raised over \$500 million. John Edwards is expected to receive around \$21 million.

Please encourage all carriers and their spouses to check their boxes at the top of their 2007 income tax forms. Don't let the candidates with the most money have an unfair advantage. It is not the American way!

Submitted by "Mean Dean" from ABC, opensecrets.com and gamespot.com

IMPORTANT CHANGE TO ARTICLE 41

Article 41, Section 1, paragraph A.1.

A vacant or newly established duty assignment not under consideration for revision or reversion shall be posted within **fourteen calendar** days **from** the day it becomes vacant or is established, **unless a longer period of time is negotiated locally.**

Article 41, Section 1, paragraph B. 3.

The notice shall remain posted for 10 days, unless a different length for the posting period is established by local negotiations.

Article 41, Section 1, paragraph C. 2.

Within ten (10) days after the closing date of the posting, the Employer shall post a notice indicating the successful bidder, seniority date and number.

Article 41, Section 1, paragraph C. 3.

The successful bidder must be placed in the new assignment within 15 days except in the month of December.

What this means to Carriers!

Under the previous contract it took

5 days to post assignment

10 days to closeout date

10 days to post successful bidder

15 days to place into assignment

40 days total

Under the 2006-2011 National Agreement it will take

14 days to post assignment

10 days to closeout date

10 days to post successful bidder

15 days to place into assignment

49 days total

Submitted by "Mean Dean"

Election Results 2007

Ballots mailed 150

Ballots received 59

Ballots valid 57 (two were unsigned)

Trustee elected: Ryan 29 Daniel 21

National: Debbie 47 Al 37 Sam 35 Dean 30

State: Debbie 44 Al 41 Sam 38 Dean 37 Steve 27

Vince 26 George 23 Ryan 22 Dan 14 Dave 13

Election Committee: Anthony Williams and Lisa Wooden

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



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

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

YOUR 17-DIGIT ACCOUNT NUMBER:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Confirmation Number: _____

Your allotment will become effective on: _____

Your allotment will be reflected in paycheck dated: _____

Keep this information for your records and future reference.

By making a COLCPE allotment through PostalEASE, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your contribution is not a condition of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers or employment by the Postal Service nor a part of union dues and that COLCPE will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office as permitted by law. You are also making this allotment with the understanding that COLCPE contributions are not tax deductible and that your selection shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled through the PostalEASE system.

Union meetings are held on the third floor at the Labor Temple :

119 1/2 Capitol Way
Olympia, WA
(360) 754-8600

Branch 351 holds its union meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm, unless otherwise noted.

The Branch Union office will be opened every Tuesday & Thursday from 2:30 pm till 5:30pm. If I can't help you, I know where to get an answer for you.

Your VP,
Sam Samuels

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Union Stewards / Alternates and Phone Numbers

	Station Numbers
Chief Shop Steward - Debbie Dixon 923-9197	
Alt. Chief Steward - Al Floyd	
Main Office Shop Steward - Al Floyd	357-0222 or 8548
Main Office Alt. Steward - Marty Burdick 456-8201	
Westside Station Shop Steward - Al Floyd 459-4469	352-9731 or 0910
Westside Station Alt. Steward - Vacant	
Lacey Station Shop Steward - Debbie Dixon 923-9197	459-8988 or 1120
Lacey Station Alt. Steward - Vincent Corsi 493-1622	
Shelton Office Shop Steward - George Vocke 426-5928	426-4291
Tumwater Shop Steward - Al Floyd 459-4469	352-6200

BRANCH OFFICERS AND PHONE NUMBERS

President - Al Floyd 459-4469
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HBR Representative - Vacant
Sergeant of Arms - Kevin Hageman
Trustees - Ryan Troy (08-09)
Karen Colpo (07-08)
Cliff Darnell 431-6599 (07-08)

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