

MEMBER OF THE YEAR: Tiaona Winot



MA State President William Piwowarski giving Tiaona Winot the Member of the Year Award, for all of her hard work and dedication.

MARLCA

BACKROADS JOURNAL

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Future Dates to Remember

- 09/04/2017— *Labor Day*
- 09/11/2017— *Patriots Day*
- 09/14/2017— *District 1 Meeting*
450 Memorial Dr. Chicopee
- 09/19/2017— *District 2 Meeting*
Homeplate, Taunton
- 09/24/2017— *Gold Star Mom's Day*
- 09/26/2017— *District 4 Meeting*
J Anthony's Auburn
- 10/05/2017— *District 3 Meeting*
VFW, Lowell
- 10/09/2017— *Columbus Day*
- 10/12/2017— *District 5 Meeting*
Hyannis Youth & Community Center
- 11/10/2017— *Veteran's Day Obs.*
- 11/11/2017— *Veteran's Day*
- 11/23/2017— *Thanksgiving Day*

MARLCA

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The Backroads Journal is a publication of the MARLCA. Opinions and views expressed in this newsletter are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect or represent those of the Editor or the State Officers of the MARLCA.

September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 PP-19
3	4 Labor Day	5	6	7	8 Pay Day	9
10	11 Patriots Day	12	13	14 D 1 Meeting	15	16 PP-20
17	18	19 D 2 Meeting	20	21	22 Pay Day	23
24 Gold Star Mom's	25	26 D 4 Meeting	27	28	29	30 PP-21

October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 D 3 Meeting	6 Pay Day	7
8	9 Columbus Day	10	11	12 D 5 Meeting	13	14 PP-22
15	16	17	18	19	20 Pay Day	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 PP-23
29	30	31 Halloween				

November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Pay Day	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 PP-24
12	13	14	15	16	17 Pay Day	18
19	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Day	24	25 PP-25
26	27	28	29	30		



Presidential Update

“What’s Happening in 2017”



September is upon us and that means Fall District meetings, please try and make yours so that you might gain a little more insight to your job and what is happening. Since being elected this spring your Vice-President and I traveled to Washington, D.C. to the NRLCA Legislative seminar. We sat through another few days of informational meetings and trainings and then we were off to the Hill to lobby our Representatives. If we are lucky we meet with them, but mostly their aids. It’s up to us to enlighten them as to why we want their support for the Postal Service. We are always fortunate that all our Representatives support the legislation to support the Postal Service.

Summer Break - boating, swimming, biking, running, PMC, enough already back to work.

The Massachusetts Delegation is recently back from the National Convention. We had a load of things to vote on and we all tried to do our best in your interests. There were a few positions on the National Board that had challenges, and yes, a new committeeman was elected. You’ll be able to see how we voted

on binding resolutions further on in this issue.

We are going to use the half day format for our Fall Booster Meeting again and see how it goes, mark your calendar for November 5th. I’m sure you will all have questions about something, Christmas, the New Year, mail count, contract expiring, or something that affects you more closely. Please make the time to attend your Fall Meetings, District and State. Remember, knowledge is Power.

I would like to thank all those people who go above and beyond for this Union, all those who work in the National Steward System, DR, ADR’s, Area and Local stewards. The District Presidents and their Secretary/Treasurer’s, the Executive Committeemen, State Editor and PAC Chair, and the State Officers. I couldn’t do it without all of you. Then there are all of you, our members for whom we do it. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!

Respectfully,

William J Piwowski, MaRLCA State President



VP Report

“Effect vs Affect”



First let me start with thanking all of you, rural carriers are being overworked and underpaid! Our days are long and tiring! Like you, I deliver mattresses, refrigerators, rugs, etc. This summer is one for the records, parcels are at an all-time high. Many carriers have to make second trips. If you make your daily evaluation, you are one of the lucky ones. I can only imagine what this Christmas season is going to be like. Rural carriers throughout the country are fighting back. Managers are continually violating our contract. The National Steward System has seen an increase of 6000+ grievances since its inception in 2010. The cost to the union is phenomenal and needs to be addressed. Our DR’s, ADR’s, and stewards have been working diligently for our craft and should be recognized for all their arduous work.

On October 31,2017, the panel of engineers is going to present to the USPS and NRLCA our new evaluated system and what progress has been made. Both parties will have 30 days to respond to the panel and any questions for the engineers will need to be addressed within 90 days. This study has been a long and frustrating process for rural carriers. Our craft is unique and the number of scenarios that carriers en-

counter daily throughout the country must be addressed. Our new evaluated system must be fair to all rural carriers.

PMG Megan Brennan addressed the delegation at convention. Her focus was on USPS finances and opportunities for growth. She talked about technology and how the USPS needs to continually change to meet the needs of the American public. Competition for last-mile delivery, retaining new employees and academy training are also high on her priority list. PMG Brennan ended by taking questions from the delegation. This year we had fifteen constitution changes and two hundred seventy-nine resolutions to vote on. Needless to say, our delegation worked very long days for our state. Each vote was cast with the best interest of our membership in mind. Our State requires each delegate to record how they voted on each binding resolution so it can be published in the fall issue of the BRJ. District meetings will be starting soon. Please make every effort to attend your district meeting. I understand that you work all day, your tired and want to go home but, I learn something new at every meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lorraine Pacheco



Sec-Treasurer's Two Cents

State Sec-Treasurer: Dawn Makrinikolas



08/31/17

MaRLCA Statement of Activities July through August 2017

	Jul - Aug 17	Jul - Aug 16
Income		
4100000 · Interest / Dividends	0.00	189.88
4200000 · Membership Dues	34,324.92	35,392.44
4400000 · Reimbursements	75.00	528.00
4500000 · Sales	0.00	456.00
Total Income	34,399.92	36,564.12
Expense		
5000000 · Accounting Fees	25.00	427.50
5010000 · Bank Charges	4.00	8.00
5100000 · Awards Recognition Bereavement	0.00	100.00
5200000 · Education & Training	125.00	62.50
5700000 · National Convention	22,639.10	24,882.00
5800000 · Office Expense	419.29	208.27
5900000 · Payroll Taxes	927.80	624.96
6000000 · Per Capita Dues	635.00	734.71
6100000 · Postage	7.63	23.53
6200000 · Printing	0.00	288.98
6420000 · National Seminars	0.00	1,659.52
6600000 · Salaries & Wages	3,734.90	3,664.83
6620000 · Salaries-Annual	0.00	0.00
6700000 · State Meetings	792.43	1,248.93
6900000 · Telephone & Internet	124.90	479.60
7000000 · Travel	703.19	673.06
7300000 · Storage Rental	287.00	396.50
8000000 · State Income Tax	0.00	257.21

08/31/17

MaRLCA Statement of Activities July through August 2017

	Jul - Aug 17	Jul - Aug 16
9000000 · Penalties	0.00	167.67
Total Expense	30,425.24	35,887.77
Net Income	3,974.68	676.35



Sec-Treasurer's Two Cents
State Sec-Treasurer: Dawn Makrinikolas



MaRLCA
Statement of Finance
As of August 31, 2017

	<u>Aug 31, 17</u>	<u>Aug 31, 16</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
1000000 - TD Bank	3,886.54	20,168.21
1100000 - APCU Savings Account	46,527.27	18,615.07
1200000 - APCU CD's	109,891.77	108,646.31
Total Checking/Savings	<u>160,305.58</u>	<u>147,429.59</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>160,305.58</u>	<u>147,429.59</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>160,305.58</u></u>	<u><u>147,429.59</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities		
2100000 - Payroll Liabilities	2,258.91	856.01
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>2,258.91</u>	<u>856.01</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>2,258.91</u>	<u>856.01</u>
Total Liabilities	2,258.91	856.01
Equity		
3900 - Net Assets	154,071.99	145,897.23
Net Income	3,974.68	676.35
Total Equity	<u>158,046.67</u>	<u>146,573.58</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>160,305.58</u></u>	<u><u>147,429.59</u></u>

Delegates on the Last Day of Convention



- 1st Row: Dawn Makrinikolas, Daniel Cote, Kathryn Makowski
- 2nd Row: Theron Boudakian, Brian Miskell, Liz Loftus, Robert Richardson, Lorraine Pacheco, William Piwowarski
- 3rd Row: Amy Buccelli, Vicki Laczynski, Bill Tokarz



From The District Rep's Desk: Art Courcy

"Compensation on SPM's"



Service Performance Measurement (SPM)

The NRLCA has signed a Letter of Mutual Understanding to address outstanding compensation issues for rural carriers while conducting the test of "Service Performance Measurement" (SPM). This letter also addresses the retroactive compensation for SPMs for the period of September 3, 2016 through September 1, 2017.

Rural Carrier Compensation Instructions

Background:

As of September 3, 2016, carriers began tracking postponed alerts along with all SPM alerts for delivery and collection.

PS Form 4240 was used for tracking all SPM alerts/work orders.

Managers transferred alerts to tracking workbook for future payment.

Payment for SPM Alerts was suspended as of September 3, 2016. We now have a standardized process for retroactive and future payments for all SPM alerts.

Letter of Mutual Understanding, re: Service Performance Measurement, dated 8/14/17 Retroactive Compensation

After extensive review of the available data and several meetings regarding SPM, the NRLCA and USPS have reached an agreement on the compensation to be provided for SPM delivery work orders and alerts. The following rates will be implemented effective September 2, 2017:

Thirty-five (35) seconds for each delivery point alert/work order requiring scans of one or more mail pieces.
(Annotated as the letter 'D')

Eighteen (18) seconds for each delivery point alert/work order for which there is no scanning, regardless of whether the task requires one, two, or four additional keystrokes.
(Annotated as the letter 'A')

Seventy (70) seconds for each collection mail work order.
(Annotated as the letter 'C')

Instructions for Retroactive Regular Rural Carrier Compensation September 3, 2016 through September 1, 2017

1. Alerts that were tracked and carriers were paid each pay period: NO COMPENSATION will be provided on PS Form 8127

2. Alerts/Work Orders that were tracked on PS Form 4240: Use the time allowances above to calculate total compensation for regular carriers. Allowances for alerts from September 3, 2016 through September 1, 2017 will be totaled and entered on ONE (1) PS Form 8127 for PP19. **DO NOT COMPLETE MULTIPLE 8127s**

3. Validate entries on PS Form 4240. Any discrepancies should be resolved locally. All 8127s must be completed prior to September 15, 2017 with PP19 effective date.

Instructions for Retroactive Leave Replacement Compensation September 3, 2016 – September 1, 2017 5 Retroactive Compensation- RCA

1. Alerts that were tracked and carriers were paid each pay period: NO COMPENSATION will be provided on PS Form 1314-A

2. Alerts/Work Orders that were tracked: Use the time allowances above to calculate total compensation for leave replacement carriers. Allowances for alerts/work orders from September 3, 2016 through September 1, 2017 will be totaled and entered on ONE PS Form 1314-A using route code A-999. **DO NO COMPLETE MULTIPLE FORMS 1314-A**

3. Validate entries on PS Form 4240. Any discrepancies should be resolved locally. SPECIAL NOTE FOR LEAVE REPLACEMENT COMPENSATION In any one week, if a leave replacement worked over 40 hours no additional time will be included for alerts during that specific week on the 1314-A. Carriers exceeding 40 hours have already been paid for these alerts

"For Retroactive Compensation you must have PS forms submitted by September 15, 2017."

Rural Carrier Compensation Beginning September 2, 2017 Rural carriers will receive compensation each pay period for all SPM alerts/work orders recorded on the carrier's 4240 or leave replacement "green" card as follows:
Thirty-five (35) seconds for each delivery point alert/work order requiring scans of one or more mail pieces.
(Annotated as the letter 'D')

Eighteen (18) seconds for each delivery point alert/work order for which there is no scanning, regardless of whether the task requires one, two, or four additional keystrokes.
(Annotated as the letter 'A')

Seventy (70) seconds for each collection mail work order.
(Annotated as the letter 'C')

SPECIAL NOTE FOR LEAVE REPLACEMENT

COMPENSATION In any one week, if a leave replacement works over 40 hours, no additional time is warranted as compensation is based on actual work hours

RECAP
Retroactive compensation period for SPM work orders/alerts listed on PS Form 4240 (9-3-16 through 9-1-17)
Last day to submit PS Forms 8127 or 1314-A for retroactive compensation is 9-15-17
Rural carriers begin tracking all SPM alerts/work orders on PS Form 4240 according to new instructions on 9-2-17 (non-scanning events are recorded as "A")
Beginning 9-2-17, compensate rural carriers each pay period for SPM alerts/work orders via PS Forms 8127 or 1314-A, as applicable.
Art Courcy
District Representative, NRLCA
CT Valley/ Greater Boston Districts

113th National Convention - National Harbor, Maryland

MARLCA National Delegates



From Left to Right , Top to Bottom:
Art Courcy, Theron Boudakian, Robert Richardson, William Piwowarski, Amy Buccelli, Daniel Cote, Kathryn Makowski, Vicki Laczynski, Lorraine Pacheco, Dawn Makrinikolas, Liz Loftus, Tiaona Winot, and Brian Miskell.



1) ***MOVED TO NON-BINDING***

2) BE IT RESOLVED: A Q&A forum be developed for the NRLCA website where any union member can ask a question and have it answered by a National Officer or NSS employee appointed by the National Office.

INTENT OF/REASON FOR CHANGE: To give union members another resource for understanding the contract as a benefit of becoming a union member and to eliminate misinformation being distributed on unofficial websites. (AL) FINANCE COMMITTEE ESTIMATE: CREATION OF PROGRAM-\$2,000; ANNUAL COST-\$112,000

3) ***MOVED TO NON-BINDING***

4) WHEREAS: The National Board requests input from the State Boards for DRs and ADRs.

BE IT RESOLVED: That the State Boards be notified who has been selected or reappointed.

INTENT OF/REASON FOR CHANGE: Currently, no clarification is made to the State Boards. (NH)

5) WHEREAS: It appears at times our National Officers are unaware of what is transpiring in our State as per work rules and environment.

BE IT RESOLVED: A quarterly meeting be set up between our National President and/or their representative to discuss relevant issues. This could be done at a teleconference at a set time and date.

INTENT OF/REASON FOR CHANGE: As State President, my voice is not heard unless I call the National Office or speak up at an Area Conference or National Convention. (CT)

6) BE IT RESOLVED: That a photo ID be provided to all Area Stewards employed by the National Steward System.

INTENT OF/REASON FOR CHANGE: To provide a professional look for an Area Steward when going into other offices where they may not be known locally. Financial Impact: Minimal its already being proved for DRs and ADRs. (NY)

FINANCE COMMITTEE ESTIMATE: \$270.00

7) BE IT RESOLVED: That the NRLCA move to an automated voting technology for constitution changes, resolution changes, and elections.

INTENT OF/REASON FOR CHANGE: 1. Reduced time for voting counting. 2. Accurate vote tally instantly; and 3. Data collection capability for reporting results. (NC) FINANCE COMMITTEE ESTIMATE: \$33,122.80

8) WHEREAS: Numerous non-binding resolutions are adopted each year and sent up for consideration and no report is given to the membership.

BE IT RESOLVED: A report is given to the membership of the resolutions used and presented during negotiation with the USPS response. This would include the ones not presented to the USPS and why.

INTENT OF/REASON FOR CHANGE: To inform the membership of the outcome of the submitted resolutions. (OH)

9) WHEREAS: The NRLCA is the creator of the RAFT program.

BE IT RESOLVED: The NRLCA National Office should continue to administer and make the RAFT incentive payment directly to the individual recruiters. (IA, SC)

10) WHEREAS: The "Find Your Steward" link on the website is set to only display a single result for the zip code entered.

BE IT RESOLVED: That in addition to the search function for the zip code, a page with the contact information for the DRs and ADRs will be listed with their territory assignments.

INTENT OF/REASON FOR CHANGE: To provide the Duty of Fair Representation. (SD)

11) WHEREAS: Currently some Stewards are only provided two (2) days of enhancement training per year.

BE IT RESOLVED: The NSS provide all Stewards with a minimum of four (4) days of enhancement training per year.

INTENT OF/REASON FOR CHANGE: To give all Stewards the tools and knowledge necessary to provide fair representation to all rural carriers. (TX) FINANCE COMMITTEE ESTIMATE: \$1,549,695.00

12) WHEREAS: The NRLCA can expect or require state officers to attend seminars or training sessions at the state's expense.

BE IT RESOLVED: Any seminars or training sessions to which state officers are invited, expected, or required to attend, that all days of pay and expenses shall be borne by the NRLCA.

INTENT OF/REASON FOR CHANGE: These seminars and training sessions are not state functions and as such, these expenses should not be carried by the states. (VA) FINANCE COMMITTEE ESTIMATE: \$407,895.00

13) WHEREAS: The Gaylord Corporation sees fit to remain non-union and publicly criticizes union attempts to organize its staff.

BE IT RESOLVED: Effective August 2022, that our National Board makes arrangements to host our conventions with venues that staff with union workers. (VA)

14) ***MOVED TO NON-BINDING***

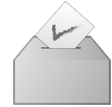
15) WHEREAS: Only NSS DRs/ADR's have access to SharePoint.

BE IT RESOLVED: All NSS Stewards have access to SharePoint.

INTENT OF/REASON FOR CHANGE: Ensure all NSS Stewards have access to the SharePoint website which contains a wealth of knowledge compiled for the Steward System. (WA) FINANCE COMMITTEE ESTIMATE: \$151,515.00



2017 Delegate Voting Records



16) WHEREAS: The NRLCA magazine articles can be accessed by category on SharePoint.
 BE IT RESOLVED: The NRLCA magazine articles can be accessed by category on the NRLCA.org website.
 INTENT OF/REASON FOR CHANGE: Ensure that all NRLCA members have access to the NRLCA magazine articles by category, similar to the Steward Link articles by category. This will allow members to access the information from the NRLCA magazines more easily. (WA)

17) WHEREAS: Local and Chief Stewards currently have the right to the appeals process in our constitution, however NSS contract employees do not.
 BE IT RESOLVED: NSS employees be afforded the right appeal any adverse action (including non-renewal of contract) taken against them by the National Association or officer, representative or steward thereof.
 INTENT OF/REASON FOR CHANGE: To avoid exclusion of any member from the protections afforded by the NRLCA constitution.

DELEGATE	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11	#12	#13	#14	#15	#16	#17
William Piwowarski	M	Y	M	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	M	N	Y	N
Art Courcy	M	N	M	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	M	N	Y	N
Lorraine Pacheco	M	N	M	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	M	N	Y	N
Robert Richardson	M	N	M	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	M	N	Y	N
Bill Tokarz	M	N	M	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	M	Y	Y	Y
Amy Buccelli	M	N	M	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	M	N	Y	N
Vicki Laczynski	M	N	M	Y	N	A	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	M	N	Y	N
Daniel Cote	M	N	M	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	M	N	Y	N
Kathryn Makowski	M	N	M	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	M	N	Y	N
Liz Loftus	M	Y	M	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	M	N	Y	N
Brian Miskell	M	Y	M	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	M	N	Y	N
Theron Boudakian	M	N	M	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	M	N	Y	Y
Dawn Makrinikolas	M		M	Y						Y				M		Y	
Tiaona Winot	M	A	M	A	A	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	A	M	N	Y	N

Who Ya Gonna Call? Stewards at a glance

Area Stewards:

Ed Knight ed-mary@msn.com
413-323-7392

Bill Piwowarski wjp01585@yahoo.com
413-436-5097

District Rep CT Valley/Greater Boston:

(Full Time DR)

Art Courcy Arthur.Courcy@nrlca.org
508-761-6870

Assistant District Representatives:

Peter Allatin Peter.Allatin@nrlca.org
860-267-0033

Don Ryle Donald.Ryle@nrlca.org
508-997-1696

Dan Cote Daniel.Cote@nrlca.org
978-237-2625

Joan Tenerella Joan.Tenerella@nrlca.org
401-536-8697

Full Time ADR

Bill Smith Bill.Smith@nrlca.org
860-664-1020

First Timer's Report:

The convention was truly one of the best representations of the democratic process that I've ever witnessed and gave me renewed faith that the voice of our carriers' is heard and represented in contract negotiations by our National Board. Additional highlights from this year included 1) status of the upcoming route evaluation system (aka engineering study), widely expected (but not yet adopted) to replace much of the current mail count evaluation system some time in 2018; and 2) election of a new Executive Committeeman, Miller, to your National Board. Further driven by the election process, there was also much discussion on the training, retention, and review of your stewards, culminating in the re-election of your current Director of Steward Operations, David Heather, for another year term at the National level.

Your suggestions (aka 'Resolutions') for our upcoming contract negotiations are brought forth to all the delegates (1178 in total) for debate and vote. This year, the committee in charge of organizing and consolidating identical resolutions started with over 350+ for our review, and brought 295 to the floor. Having now witnessed the entire process, I urge all of you to come to your district and state meetings and participate in the former process of submitting resolutions for your MA delegates to bring forth to the floor

of future conventions. This is ultimately how your voice is heard, and I believe that when several states follow the written process to bring forth the same resolution that your National Board will consider this weight in their prioritization of issues during contract negotiation. We can talk amongst ourselves in offices, but the way to really get your voice heard is to come to local union meetings and work with your state board members to submit your resolutions.

I was relieved to witness that the entire national delegation believes in fighting for more rights and benefits for our RCAs, as most RCA-related resolutions were passed unopposed. I have only 1 disappointment, in that I'm still in the minority at the National level for carriers that are paid on Table 2, and as such, it is difficult to get this issue prioritized, but I resolve to continue to fight against disparate pay going forward. I found that our union does not spend any of your money on coffee supply, even for those long days of debate and elections. So, in closing, I urge you to 1) get to your meetings and get your ideas submitted formally and 2) always travel to the convention with your own coffee maker. See you all soon at District 3 and Fall/Spring MA State meetings!

Kathy Makowski



Hello Everyone, I would like to start off by saying thank you all for your demanding work and determination this year. Not only on your routes but also with PAC contributions. Massachusetts has had a wonderful year with PAC. Our end of year totals for the 2016-2017 year was \$4995.00, which increased our per capita to \$3.84! We have just come back from National Convention in National Harbor, MD. With the donations raised from our state at Convention and with the sustaining donors we have here in Massachusetts we are currently at \$604.00 and our new per capita rate is \$.46 for the new 2017-2018 year.

At National Convention, we learned that Florida broke a record for the most money raised in a single state, they raised over \$80,000! Their PAC Chair mentioned how most of their fundraising came from sustaining donors. Sustaining donors play a very large part in PAC contributions, just like everyone who donates in person at your local and state meetings. PAC is a great cause to donate a few dollars every pay period, we have shirts for people who sign up for \$5.00 per pay period to be electronically taken from their paycheck. We also have pins for sustaining donors to earn as well. All you need to do is sign up, and if you are already signed up then you can just increase your donation by \$5.00 per pay period as well. There will be a special drawing for sustaining donors who sign up or increase their donations at the fall state meeting. Make sure you get in it to win it! I hope to see you all at your local and state meetings.

The Postal Service Reform bill was passed favorably by voice vote out of committee. We are all still working on the threat of taking 6-day delivery away. Now, a lot of us are delivering 7 days a week. As an RCA, we deliver parcels on Sundays and Holidays too. H.R. 756 which is the Postal Service Reform Act, and H.R. 760 which is the Postal Service Financial Improvement Act were passed favorably on January 31, 2017 as I mentioned previously. Both bills are similar to the postal bills that were introduced in the last congress year. However, last Congress the time elapsed, so these bills were brought up again this Congress. The NRLCA is currently reviewing H.R. 756. The legislation on these bills and others that have relation and/or impact on the Postal Service can be viewed in full on our National Website at nrlca.org.

There is some legislation being proposed. As union members, we should keep an eye on them. Contact our Congressmen and women and let your voices be heard! Some Anti-Union legislation coming up is called the Page Act. In a summary, the Page Act specifically calls for making new

***“Anti-Union Legislation:
Page Act, Tax Delinquency,
Official Time, Mail Box
Monopoly, and Civil Ser-
vice Reform.”***

federal employees “at will” workers, allowing management to immediately suspend an employee without pay or appeal, denying retirement benefits to anyone under investigation for a felony, management can demote career employees and reduce pay without cause, and much more. The next one to be more aware of is the Tax Delinquency Act, which calls for any federal employee who is tax delinquent can be removed, that does include new hires too! Anyone who is in debt with taxes can never apply or receive a federal employment position. Under Official Time there are two bills coming up, H.R. 1364 and H.R. 1461. The first one, 1364, is to

limit the time for political activity and to exclude certain official time from eligibility as creditable service under CSRS and FERS. The latter, 1461, caps official time for VA employees at 25%. It does not allow it for those making over \$100k, unless the Sec. certifies a specific waiver, and allows VA members to cancel their dues at any time. Not to mention the Mail Box Monopoly/ Privatization, in summary the Postal Service now has monopoly on the use of mailboxes, and shipping first class mail and standard mail. This was brought up to try and take that away from the Postal Service. Lastly, there is the Civil Service Reform, H.R. 1385, is to limit the recruitment and retention of bonuses for employees who spend a certain duration of time on official time. As you can see we always have an uphill battle on the Hill. There is also the Stop Act, H.R. 1057 and S. 372, it ensures that merchandise coming through the US mail shall be subject to review by US Customs and Border Protection and to require the provision of advance electronic information on shipments of mail.

Therefore, your donations and contributions to PAC are so important. We use the donations to PAC to fight for all our rights as federal employees with the US Postal Service. We all want to keep our jobs, our homes, and our families fed. This is a little insurance that the Postal Service will stay standing so our future generations all have the opportunity we do, to work for a company where we can and will have a career. A career that we appreciate and that the public appreciates us for doing. I do hope to see you all at your district meetings, and at our State meeting in the fall. I will be there to go over these with you all and of course, take donations for PAC. So, let’s sign up some sustaining donors, increase some donations, and all pitch in to help Congress hear our voice!

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