

## Letter carriers and the mail on social media

**V**arious news stories and interesting anecdotes that celebrate letter carriers and the mail have been appearing on social media. The following are some that have come to the union's attention. If you come across a story you'd like us to consider featuring, send it to [social@nalc.org](mailto:social@nalc.org).

### Fastest man in Buffalo

Buffalo-Western New York Branch 3 member **Jesse Osiadlo** is now officially one of the fastest men in Buffalo.

On May 29, Osiadlo placed eighth in the Buffalo Marathon in his division of males aged 35-39, but was the fastest male marathon participant hailing from the city of Buffalo.

"Buffalo's fastest man is a USPS letter carrier, a union member and a steward," Branch 3 President **David Grosskopf Jr.** said, adding that it was an "incredible feat on endurance displayed by this man to top all his competitors locally. Great job, Jesse!"

### When an Ohio ZIP Code and the date align

Excitement abounded for Gambier, OH 43022 on April 30 as the village, home to Kenyon College, celebrated a "date matches ZIP" day.

The once-in-a-century event was marked with games and giveaways, activities, food trucks and a parade.

Gambier Mayor Leeman Kessler issued a proclamation making the day official on the steps of the post office. The ceremony also included comments from local postal workers.

The residents of 43022 appreciate their post office as an integral part of town and student life, David Hoyt, a writer and news director for the college's Office of Communications, told USPS Link.



"During first-year orientation, every Kenyon student is assigned a P.O. box," Hoyt said, adding that many students "come to know and love the dedicated employees."

Kenyon alumni around the United States joined in on the fun, with satellite 43022 gatherings held in at least 10 other cities.

At the town's Independence Day festival in 2020, "Citizen of the Year" honors were bestowed upon the Gambier Post Office.

"In such a small village, the post office remains an important community hub," Hoyt said.

### Mississippi neighborhood's 'celebrity mail carrier' retires

**Patsy Larry** of Vicksburg, MS Branch 94 retired in early July after 30 years with the Postal Service, including 22 in Vicksburg. As a letter carrier, Larry made a point of befriending her customers and treating

them with kindness and conscientiousness.

"Every day has been really mostly a good day. I've liked every route I've had. I've liked the people," she told *The Vicksburg Post*.

One customer told the *Post*, "She's doing her job, but she's also looking out for all of us and aware of everything and what's happening in our day-to-day celebrations and our trials."

Jack Burns, a manager of an apartment building on Larry's route, described her as "our favorite celebrity mail carrier."

He said, "She has a fabulous smile. And she has a wonderful sense of humor and a fabulous demeanor."

Burns added that the carrier understood the ins and outs of her job better than anyone and always managed to deliver the mail to the right person, even if a business was closed or someone had moved away.

Larry also appreciated USPS for what it's done for her. Regarding her father's death in early 2022, she told the *Post*, "[My co-workers] rallied around me and just made me feel normal when it really wasn't a normal time."

Patsy started her career as a letter carrier in Los Angeles, CA, and transferred to Mississippi when she moved



# NALC

## 72ND Biennial Convention



# SAVE OUR UNION

### Elect Clean Sweep for National Office

**Our union is facing a crisis.** Participation is down across the country because carriers, particularly CCA's, are overworked and don't see the point of investing in a union that has invested so little in them. The Clean Sweep slate aims to increase local engagement by providing a national that carriers can believe in.

### For the sake of our union, we must:

- ✓ Push for letter carriers' pay to be comparable to UPS drivers'
- ✓ Ensure that every carrier receives the full COLA
- ✓ Eliminate the non-career CCA classification
- ✓ Abolish Table 2, giving all carriers hired after 2013 an about \$6 per hour raise
- ✓ Strictly enforce the contract's requirement that a normal work week consists of five eight-hour days
- ✓ Return to having management pay for 90% of carriers' health benefits premiums
- ✓ Eliminate B-Teams and make the third step of the grievance procedure adversarial
- ✓ Eliminate the Windfall Protections Act (WEP)
- ✓ Shorten the time for all grievances to be arbitrated to two weeks after the appeal to arbitration
- ✓ Add a "Letter Carrier Rights" article to the collective bargaining agreement that would abolish programs such as DOIS and PET and would prohibit supervisors and managers from raising their voices to letter carriers, criticizing carriers on the workroom floor, and establish other rights and procedures that would protect carriers from abusive supervisors



Cleansweepnalc.com

Visit the Clean Sweep website to see the entire platform, or join the Clean Sweep 2022 Facebook group to talk with us directly.



Clean Sweep  
2022 FB group

The Clean Sweep slate consists of David Noble for President, Maureen Valadie for EVP, Cie Sharp for Secretary Treasurer, Matt Webster (HBP), William Boone (MBA), Linda Mann (RET), Rolando Rodriguez (Tru), Kay Hall (Tru), Francisco Jose Cabrera (Tru).

## Social media (continued)

back to take care of her mother. She plans to go back to Los Angeles after retirement to visit some old friends, namely former customers.

After Los Angeles, Larry is toying with the idea of going on vacation to the Maldives, a nation of islands in the Indian Ocean. “The water is so beautiful. That would be amazing,” she said.

However, Larry’s customers said they will sorely miss her.

“I just can’t imagine downtown without her presence. I just love her. I respect her. I think she’s an incredible person,” Chris Porter, a business owner on Larry’s route, said.

### Benevolent Florida carrier retires after three decades

**Tim Rice**, a member of Central Florida Branch 1091 and a second-generation letter carrier, hung up his mailbag in May after 34 years.

Rice was inspired at a young age to join the Postal Service—as a preteen, he used to have lunch with two of his father’s friends who were letter carriers. Rice has witnessed many changes within the Postal Service since 1988; for example, his city went from nine routes to 47. Rice’s route was on the north side of the city, and he could walk it in under five hours.

“My wife used to tell me I walked like my butt was on fire,” he told *The Orange Observer*. Rice’s house was on the route, so he ate lunch every day with his wife of 37 years, Sandy.

Rice’s customers loved him, and they showed it—Rice remembers Mrs. Kannon always leaving out a 32-ounce glass of ice water under the lid of her grill. He remembers another resident always waiting to greet him with a glass of cold water.

The affection went both ways. Rice

took care of his customers—one time, he saw a man trying to get a lawnmower to start, and Rice brought him an extra one from his own home.

“People that knew me, they would donate those things to me, and I could give to people—bikes, lawnmowers, ceiling fans,” he told the newspaper. “And it was helping people. I saw kids out there with no bicycles, and people would give me bikes and I’d delivered them to their parents.”

The children on the route always waited for him to deliver the mail: “They called me Rubber Band Man,” he said. “If I didn’t have mail for them, I would give them a rubber band. You didn’t want to disappoint them. I watched them from 2, 3 years of age, and I watched them grow up and graduate and get married and have kids.”

Rice decided to retire once the heat became too much. He tried to say his goodbyes in person. “When I posted [my message] on Nextdoor, I got like 600 messages,” he said. His last day of work was Friday, April 29, and his co-workers threw him a party.

Rice’s goals for retirement include flying in a plane and taking a ride on a boat, both for the first time. He and his wife want to see whales and glaciers in Alaska. He also wants to spend time with his three grandsons, who live 15 minutes away. However, Rice plans to always stay in touch with his co-workers and customers.

### A celebrated retirement for longtime Wyoming carrier

After 38 years, **Mike Moss** of Riverton, WY Branch 5923 retired on May 26. “Mailman Mike,” as he’s known on his route, will be missed by his customers.

Moss knows everyone on his route; he even takes time to kick a ball

around with the children.

Moss told County 10, a local web-based media outlet, that he would miss his customers and the kids, but that he is happy to leave behind the winter commute from Red Canyon, a commute he has been dealing with for 22 years.

“No plan is the best plan,” Moss said about his retirement.

He thanked his customers and the community for their kindness over the years—“I appreciate all the love,” Moss said.



Tim Rice



Mike Moss

### Virginia community marks retirement of ‘Santa Paws’

Northern Virginia Branch 3520 member **Scott Arnold** retired in late June after 40 years, and it’s clear that he will be missed by his customers.

“He always stops, and never drives by,” Racquel Collins-Milinkovich, a resident, told WUSA-TV, the CBS affiliate in Washington, DC. “It’s not a wave for him but it’s a ‘Hey, how’s your day?’” Regarding the pandemic, Collins-Milinkovich added, “He really brought the community together when we were in this strange period of isolation. To see his smiling face every day greeting you and your dogs felt like some sense of normalcy.”





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# THE RENFROE BARNER TEAM

**The Renfroe-Barner Team has the experience, skills, and judgement to build on NALC's long record of success over the next four years.**

While we have shown great success as a union in the most challenging situations, our resolve to protect our members is stronger than ever. Our top priority will be defending and improving the pay, benefits and rights we demand at the bargaining table for all NALC members. We will not stop there.

**The Renfroe-Barner Team will work tirelessly to sustain and grow our success in collective bargaining.**

To achieve this goal, NALC must have capable and tested leaders to perform in these arenas and to handle the complicated challenges that arise. They must have the capacity to advance our interests with postal management and enforce the collective bargaining agreement while engaging strategically with the media, members of Congress, the White House and our brothers and sisters in the labor movement to maintain broad public support for letter carriers.

**The Renfroe-Barner Team possesses this capacity and has proven track records of dedicated and effective service to our union and its active and retired members.**

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## Social media (continued)



Scott Arnold

Arnold knew the names of every resident on his route of 30 years, but he also had a special spot in his heart for the dogs—not only did he learn their names as well, but he decided that dogs deserve holiday packages just as much as humans. Toward that end, Arnold made a stocking with a bow on it for each dog on his route and called himself “Santa Paws.” For his final Christmas as a letter carrier, Arnold made 300 stockings. (See story in the January *Postal Record*.)

In 2020, Arnold’s son died at age 37. “The outpouring of affection and support just blew me away,” he said. To deal with the loss, Arnold focused on his work as a letter carrier. “Even in his own losses, connecting to the community always put him in a better headspace,” Collins-Milinkovich said.

Arnold decided to retire because of the oppressive heat and because he wanted to spend more time with his grandchildren.

He sent a letter to everyone in his community to say goodbye, and residents celebrated his retirement with balloons and signs in their yards. “It’s been a privilege and a pleasure to be your carrier all these years and to come to know you,” Arnold wrote. “You’ve accepted me, and I’ve accepted you. Like I say, it’s family to me and it kills me to leave.”

### Beloved Massachusetts carrier retires

**Dick Dassatti**, a member of Pittsfield, MA Branch 286, retired in late June after 38 years as a letter carrier. The carrier can’t seem to take a stroll downtown without running into three or four friends.

Dassatti has worked a variety of fascinating jobs—before joining the Postal Service, he maintained baseball fields and did some summer work at the North Adams Parks and Recreation Commission. He also worked at Help Line, a crisis intervention hot line; at the color shop for Arnold Print Works; and as a flock supervisor, raising thousands of chickens at Arbor Acres at Mount Hope Farm. Dassatti also hitchhiked his way around the United States and western Canada. Finally, a friend suggested that he apply for the Postal Service, so he took the test and got the job.

“I was very grateful to have this job,” Dassatti told *The Berkshire Eagle*. “During that 36-year period I was able to be a part of 300 to 400 families in that neighborhood on a daily basis. The route allowed me to be exposed to part of the business community, elderly housing tenants, college students, professors and both retired and working families.”

Regarding his union leadership role as a shop steward, a position he served



Dick Dassatti



Kalani Han

in until 2014, Dassatti said, “Mutual respect was the key. There’s always going to be conflict—if someone was hurt by it, you try to make it right.”

Dassatti plans to spend retirement growing wild berries and tending both to other gardening chores and to his friendships. Of the job, he said, “In a way, it’s heartbreaking to leave it.”

### Illinois letter carrier spreads joy through his clothing

**Kalani Han**, a member of Chicago, IL Branch 11, has already gained recognition along his route for his polished look, which his customers described as “quaint” and “dapper.”

Han started as a letter carrier in November, and from the very first day, he donned a particular look: a signature pressed and creased Postal Service shirt, tuxedo stripe pants, an Italian silk necktie, an eight-point hat and a mid-century A. Hirsch watch. He also carries a crisp handkerchief, has a pointed solo mustache and styles his hair in a pompadour. Han told Block Club Chicago that he views his look as “quaint,” “Americana” and “[exuding] a level of friendliness.”

Before deciding to enter the Postal Service, Han planned to attend the Fashion Institute of Technology, but instead he now channels his love for style into his job as a letter carrier.

Han’s inspiration comes from the uniforms of mid-century letter carriers, which were described as “breathable but itchy.” He said that wearing this uniform reminds him of his father, who served in the military. “Now we’re both serving our country in different ways,” Han noted.

Han said that his older customers appreciate his uniform more than others. “It’s a happy memory of their



