Best website:
3rd place

NALC BRANCH 1100
Garden Grove, CA Branch 1100
Best website:
2nd place

MA Northeast Mgd. Branch 25
Best website:
1st place

Eugene, OR Branch 916
Best cartoon or photo: 3rd place

Christine Delgado, South FL Branch 1071
Best cartoon or photo: 2nd place

Jack Hayes, Seattle Branch 79
Best cartoon or photo: 1st place

Ken Bonin, MA Northeast Mgd. Branch 25
Best news or feature story: 3rd place

Richard Thayer, NC State Association
Best news or feature story: 2nd place

Richard Thayer, NC State Association
Best news or feature story: 1st place

CCA Diary: “Blues on Wheels” by Jess Stoner

A writer becomes a carrier for the United States Postal Service out of a long-held love for the mail. What she discovers are screams, threats, lies, labor violations, and a dog attack.

After taking a personality test online and another exam consisting mostly of questions evaluating the sharpness of my memory, I was granted a five-minute interview and hired as a city carrier assistant (CCA) for the United States Postal Service.

The CCA position, akin to a contract letter-carrier, was created in 2013 to save the USPS money and shift higher-paid transitional employees (TEs) into lower-paying jobs. Or, as one district supervisor screamed at me: “YOU EX- taken by ambulance to the hospital. His supervisor told him he could visit them, but he had to return to deliver the mail. He had already worked more than 14 days in a row.

Once you leave the classroom, you head to the station you’re assigned to for three days of shadowing. My first day on the job, I clocked in at the beginning of my shift and was immediately reprimanded by my supervisor, who told me, “You don’t clock in until I tell you to clock in.”

I cried once more, a few weeks in. The mail was heavy, and I was covering a route with a number of apartments whose mailboxes were old, often wouldn’t budge, and even when they did, residents so rarely checked their mail that I had to painstakingly fold and squish letters to fit them in. Then I dropped my scanner and it broke. I called the station to tell them I was running late. My supervisor screamed, “YOU’RE HORRIBLE,” and I said, “I’m doing my best,” and I meant it.

When an assistant supervisor showed up to help 20 minutes later, the strap on my satchel also broke. I thanked the supervisor for her help, although even she couldn’t get the mailbox closed, and turned away so she couldn’t see my face. I drove to my next loop and sobbed aloud as I tried to shove thick magazines through thin, razor-sharp mail slots that made my fingers bleed. I kept crying, from exhaustion and frustration, as I walked through bodies and tree branches. When

Jess Stoner, Santa Barbara, CA Branch 290
Promoting unionism: 3rd place

Say no to Walmart!

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON CONSIDER SPENDING YOUR HARD EARNED UNION WAGES ON RETAILERS THAT RESPECT AMERICAN WORKERS

MARK TRAVERS
VICE PRESIDENT

S
ince the holidays are fast approaching, I felt it was a good time to write about some of the reasons to avoid spending our hard earned union dollars at Walmart. Here is an excerpt from the Institute for Local Self-Reliance® website:

While the big-box business model Sam Walton pioneered half a century ago has been great for Walmart, it hasn’t been so great for the US economy.

Walmart’s explosive growth has gutted two key pillars of the American middle class: small businesses and well-paying manufacturing jobs.

Change at Walmart is a campaign challenging Walmart to help rebuild our economy and strengthen working families. Anchored by the United Food & Commercial Workers (UFCW), we are a coalition of Walmart associates, union members, small business owners, religious leaders, community organizations, women’s advocacy groups, multi-ethnic coalitions, elected officials and ordinary citizens who believe that changing Walmart is vital for the future of our country.

There are many, many more reasons to avoid supporting a company such as Walmart—what they reportedly do to as taxpayers in our local communities subsidize the low wages paid by Walmart, so let’s not support them by spending our money at Walmart as well.

Support companies that are either union or are known for treating their employees with respect and dignity. Companies like Costco, Trader Joes, Gap, and Zappos to name a few. We can and should send a message with our spending, nothing motivates companies to change like the bottom line. If spending is reduced because of their pay policies and how they treat workers, then the Walmarts of the world will have no

Mark Travers, South FL Branch 1071
Promoting unionism: 2nd place (tie)

Dave Welsh, San Francisco Branch 214
Promoting unionism:
2nd place (tie)

Peggy Durso, South FL Branch 1071
Promoting unionism: 1st place

Javier Rodriguez, South FL Branch 1071
Best editorial or column: 3rd place

Susan Lewis, Buffalo-Western NY Branch 3
Best editorial or column: 2nd place

PMG blames unions for USPS woes

OUTGOING POSTMASTER GENERAL PATRICK DONAHOE LAUDS HIS LEADERSHIP SKILLS IN FAREWELL SPEECH AT NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

JAVIER RODRIGUEZ EDITOR

Outgoing Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe's farewell speech before the National Press Club, January 6, was self-congratulatory and blamed the woes of the Postal Service on Congress, mailers and the labor unions. In his hour long talk, Donahoe did place a share of the blame on the pre-funding mandates and pension overpayments, something he rarely acknowledged in the past.

For one who consistently questioned the viability of the Postal Service, Donahoe expressed a surprisingly optimistic outlook for the future of the agency, of preserving jobs and benefits as they currently exist."

There is no doubt the NALC, like any other labor union, aims to protect the jobs of its members and improve benefits. If that were not the case, the union officers would not be doing their jobs. However, in contrast to Donahoe's contemptuous and unfair assessment of the union's commitment to save the Postal Service, in reality the NALC and its officers have always been fair in their dealings with the Postal Service at the bargaining table, asking only for what economic experts determined the agency

Javier Rodriguez, South FL Branch 1071
Best editorial or column: 1st place

Richard Thayer, NC State Association

From the Editor’s Desk

PMG Donahoe’s Plan for USPS: Death By A Thousand Cuts

For those of us keeping up with the news about the Postal Service, it can be very disheartening some days. It can become depressing at times. It seems apparent that postal management has as its major objective — come hell or high water — to privatize America’s postal service.

In response to recent allegations from proponents of “real” postal reform in Congress that this seems to be the agency’s would eliminate at least 80,000 full-and part-time jobs. And rather than rescind the potentially destructive 2006 law requiring the Postal Service to pre-fund its retiree health benefits 75 years into the future over a 10 year period, has put forward a plan that could actually result in the USPS paying even more. The bill, if passed, would also add an additional $1 billion burden by making it necessary to pre-fund workers’ comp.

In responding to the committee-passed bill President Fredric Rolando said, “The Postal Service is now running an operating profit—$623 million last year and $1.1 billion projected by USPS for this year—and so it makes no sense to degrade the networks and employees customers, not improve it.

One doesn’t have to look far on the internet to find story after story of customers from the frozen tundra of Alaska to the sunny state of Florida complaining about late mail delivery. This growing problem has been facilitated by two issues propagated by upper level management: the consolidation of nearly 140 mail processing plants and forcing fewer and fewer carriers to do more and more work.

Although it has temporarily postponed plans to pursue additional consolidations under Phase 2 of its dismantling program, it’s only temporary. As soon as it can, it will continue to consolidate plants even though Phase 1 of its plan continues to wreak havoc on service to its customers.

At the same time that it is degrading service and putting carriers in harm’s way, the USPS is either closing post offices, reducing their hours or selling them off.
General excellence, small branch: 3rd place

Toms River, NJ Branch 2128
General excellence, small branch: 2nd place

Santa Barbara, CA Branch 290
General excellence, small branch: 1st place
General excellence, large branch/state assoc.: 3rd place

The New Hampshire Letter Carrier
Winter 2015

Wayne Alterisio/President

No Time for Cynicism

It's real easy to become cynical of politics when an election doesn't quite go your way. Even when it's an off-year election and voter turnout is low. However, elections are like delivering mail, tomorrow there will be more mail and it needs to be delivered. Maybe a better analogy would be elections are a lot like farming.

You prepare the soil then you plant the seeds and hope that the climate cooperates and gives you a good crop. Sometimes you plant seeds, like rutabaga, but nobody wants to eat rutabaga. But, lo and behold two years later there is a killer recipe for rutabaga and were the case next year you have no food and you die. No, you just keep on delivering; just like letter carriers do every day, and eventually you get the crop you want. It's cyclical.

When your job depends on the elected officials in Congress and the Senate then you need to be especially vigilant and vote for the best candidate who will ensure that the Postal Service survives. The job of the Letter Carrier is becoming more demanding everyday, but the pay remains the same. The only increase we see is in overtime. That is certainly on the rise.

I recently spent ten weeks leading up to the election and said, “Letter Carriers were leaders in the Labor effort in this election.” Our success in New Hampshire is directly attributable to the efforts put forth by Bill, Jim, Steve and Ross. I thank them from the bottom of my heart. They acted as the face of New Hampshire Letter Carriers and significantly increased Labors’ voter turnout. Our Union is stronger because of their work.

NH State Association
General excellence, large branch/state assoc.: 2nd place

South Florida Letter Carrier

South FL Branch 1071
General excellence, large branch/state assoc.: 1st place

Boston Branch 34