March/April 2025

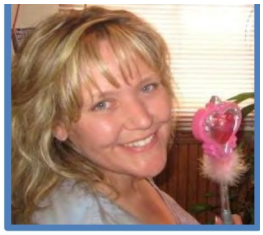
Circulation 500

NALC

Branch 442

Swingroom Gazette

Serving: Spokane, Spokane Valley, Cheney, Colville, Fairchild AFB, Ritzville, Coulee Dam and Colfax



President's Report

Sharee Eschenbacher

The Spokane Tribe Casino provided us with a spectacular event space for our Installation Banquet. The food was delicious, and it was so nice to visit with everyone outside of work. Regional Administrative Assistant, James Frankford installed your officers and gave us Regional and National updates. He said our back-up Step B teams have been "decommissioned" which accounts for why the no "no-lunch" in overtime case is taking so long to be settled. We had our MDA Bowlathon on February 15th. We do this every year to raise money for MDA research and to send the kids to camp. The camps are opportunities for children living with muscular dystrophy to spend time with kids who are just like them, doing activities adapted to their needs and making new friends. I believe we raised close to $2000.00. Next year will not be late-night Cosmic bowling and will probably start closer to 7:00 pm. I want to thank Louanna Hamersky for stepping up and literally running with this project. Thanks to those who helped with our basket-filling night. Next year, I'm lobbying for a Blackstone grill to be our grand raffle.

There are three recent developments that I must address, the status of our contract, Dejoy stepping down and the possibility of President Trump signing an Executive Order placing the Postal Service back into a department in his Cabinet.

I'll start with our contract. On February 20th, our National Executive Council voted to expedite the arbitration process. This means timelines will be significantly shortened and the final decision will come faster. If the Postal Service agrees, only certain issues, like pay, will be put in front of Nolan and we'll sort the work rules out later. Dejoy leaving won't have much impact on the arbitration process because deputy Postmaster General, Douglas Tulino and his staff, is who we have been negotiating with. I have not heard any plans of him leaving. I'm indifferent about the PMG leaving. He has done more damage than good, but you never know who's coming next. I don't think the ten-year plan will be forgotten and we will be fighting consolidation for 8 more years, or so.

Next, I feel compelled to give a brief history/political science lesson on the Post Office. According to our Constitution, the government is divided into three branches: the Legislative branch (makes laws), the Executive branch (enforces laws), and the Judicial branch (interprets laws). The Executive branch, where the president sits, has an Executive Office filled with hand-picked advisors to the president who advise him/her

Branch 442 Contact List

President	Sharee Eschenbacher	509-953-3027
Vice President	Steve Thrift	509-263-3341
Secretary/Treasurer	Bill Bauder	509-990-5245
Recording Secretary	Miranda Riley	509-991-4822
Sargent at Arms	Tracy Pardick	208-651-3505
Trustee	Conner McKinnon	509-844-4269
Trustee	Milissa Franklin	509-209-3941
Trustee	Miranda Riley	509-991-4822
Director of Insurance	Rick Enright	509-599-5470
Director of Retirees	Steve Schultz	509-863-4873
Spokane Labor Council	Melissa Franklin	509-209-3941
	Curt Rein	509-991-7914
	Cara Harrington	509-251-5185
Gazette Editor	Scott Thorland	509-934-9263
Director of Safety	Mike Meredith	509-747-4447
	Hays Park	509-252-2373
	Main: Simona Farnsworth	509-496-4811
	Alt: Jeff Schriver	509-953-3730
	Hillyard	509-252-2327
	Main: Jeff Schriver	509-953-3730
	Alt:	
	Collections	509-363-6080
	Main: Cara Harrington	509-251-5185
	Alt:	
	Manito	509-252-2335
	Main: Jeff Schriver	509-953-3730
	Alt:	
	Metro	509-252-2323
	Main: Jeremie Simpson	509-768-6344
	Alt:	
	Northpointe	509-465-0325
	Main: Rick Enright	509-599-5470
	Alt: Scott Thorland	509-934-9263
	Regal	509-462-0555
	Main: Tracy Pardick	208-651-3505
	Alt: Josh Nix	206-963-0599
	Riverside	509-252-2337
	Main: Rhonda Mason	509-671-5501
	Alt: Wade Outcalt	509-991-6263
	Shadle	509-327-9023
	Main: Leslie Phelps	208-755-0046
	Alt: Everitt Hopper	406-208-9105
	Spokane Valley	509-252-2325
	Main: Tracy Pardick	208-651-3505
	Alt: Peder Bakken	509-590-6279
	Main:	
	Alt: Bill Bauder	509-990-5245
	Sunset	509-252-5101
	Main: Connie Guerrero	916-236-7526
	Alt:	
	Cheney	509-235-1590
	Main: Mike Poff	509-209-1820
	Alt:	
	Colville	509-684-2241

The **Swingroom Gazette** is a **NALC Branch 442** bi-monthly publication. All articles contained herein are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of the branch or editorial staff. Permission is hereby granted to reprint any information verbatim with appropriate credit given to the author, branch or posting. Branch meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at the Progression Credit Union located at 2919 E Mission Ave Spokane WA 99202. (Conference room on the 2nd floor) Note: when a holiday falls on Monday the general meeting will convene on Wednesday at 7pm. The January installation of officers ceremony also counts as the general meeting and is held every two years at a location and time to be determined by the branch. The July Annual picnic held at Mission Park counts as the general meeting. The August general meeting with food and beverages is held at the **Union Hall located at 2903 E Mission Ave, Spokane WA 99202.** Office phone: 509-534-9144, Office Fax 509-534-1610. All articles for review and publication on are sent to: spokanegazette442@gmail.com as a Word or text attachment. "This is a war, we are soldiers" -Anonymous

Notice

By making a contribution to the Letter Carrier Political Fund, 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 of employment by the Postal Service, nor is it part of union dues. You have a right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal. The Letter Carrier Political Fund will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office and undertake other political spendings permitted by law. Your selection shall remain in full force and effect until canceled. Contributions to the Letter Carrier Political Fund are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the Letter Carrier Political fund from soliciting contributions from individuals who are not NALC members, executive and administrative staff or their families. Any contributions received from such an individual will be refunded to that contributor. Federal law requires us to use or best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation, and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed $200 per calendar year. Any guideline amount is merely a suggestion, and an individual is free to contribute more or less than then the guidelines suggest and the Union will not favor or disadvantage anyone by reason of the amount of their contribution or their decision not to contribute.

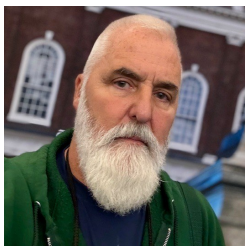
on subjects like economics, environment, security, and science and technology. Next, we have the Cabinet of the United States. The current Cabinet is comprised of 15 departments administratively led by people the President appoints, and the Senate confirms. Cabinet leaders serve at the pleasure of the president and can be dismissed at any time, by the president, without the approval of the Senate. The departments are Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Labor, State, Transportation, Treasury, and Veterans Affairs, as well as the Attorney General. In 1791, Goerge Washington's first Cabinet had 4 members, Secretary of State, Secretary of Treasury, Secretary of War, and his Attorney General. The next year, George signed the Postal Service Act and made us a part of the federal government. 80 years later, in 1872, the Post Office Act elevated the Post Office Department to Cabinet status. Back then, we had what is known as the Spoils System where friends and family of the winning political party were placed in civil servant jobs, displacing anyone they wanted. This went on for 10 more years until Congress passed the Pendleton Act, which created the merit-based system for competing for federal government jobs. For the next 90 years, the Postal Department remained in the Cabinet and under political influence. Anyone who has gone through Carrier Academy has seen or heard about the successful wildcat strike of 1970. Carriers who were fed up with low wages, horrible working conditions, and no ability to collectively bargain went on strike. The outcome was the 1970 Postal Reorganization Act. Congress abolished the Post Office Department and created the United States Postal Service. The Act took us out of the Cabinet, and we were labeled an independent government agency. The Act created the Board of Governors and the Postal Rate Commission (later renamed the Postal Regulatory Commission), each with Postal oversite responsibilities. The Board and Commission members have lengthy staggered terms and there must be a balance of political party affiliation. This took us out of the political battlefield and made us self-sustaining. We also received a 6% raise and were able to engage in collective bargaining. Just for fun, this is the first paragraph of the Act:

"The United States Postal Service shall be operated as a basic and fundamental service provided to the people by the Government of the United States, authorized by the Constitution, created by Act of Congress, and supported by the people. The Postal Service shall have as its basic function the obligation to provide postal services to bind the Nation together through the personal, educational, literary, and business correspondence of the people. It shall provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons in all areas and shall render postal services to all communities. The costs of establishing and maintaining the Postal Service shall not be apportioned to impair the overall value of such service to the people."

I want everyone to understand where we were, where we are now and where we might be again. With President Trump threatening to fire the Board of Governors and put us back into the Cabinet, under the Department of Commerce, we would lose our independence from the Executive Branch and be subject to political interference, dismantling or privatization. National recently kicked off the "Fight Like Hell" campaign to bring attention to our battle for a fair contract, our safety on the job and the threat of privatization. Call me if you think we should have a "Fight Like Hell" event here. National will supply shirts and materials. I also want everyone to contact your representative in the House and urge them to sign as a co-sponsor to H-RES 70, which is an anti-privatization resolution. An identical bipartisan Senate resolution will be introduced soon. You should also call Speaker Johnson at 202-224-3121 and tell him to put a stop to this.

With Union Strength,

Sharee



Vice President's Report
Steve Thrift

As I sit here and write this, it has been the single most eventful week of my postal career. At the beginning of the week, the 15-day renegotiating period elapsed, and we were going to arbitration. Eventful enough by itself, but by the end of the week the Postmaster General Louis DeJoy had tendered his resignation. there were reports of the new Presidents intent to fire the Postal Board of Governors, clean house at Postal Headquarters, and eliminate the Postal Services status as an independent Federal Agency by bringing us under the control of the Dept. Of Commerce. This is significant because the new secretary of Commerce is Howard Lutnick. He is the former head of the administrations transition team and as such has spoken about their intent to privatize the Postal Service. At a press conference the president was asked about this, and he said "yes, we're looking at that". This is not surprising, as it was on the table during his previous term, but there was not enough support in the House and Senate. But that picture looks different today.

The Postal Service was created to replace the Dept. Of the Post Office by the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, which designated the Postal service as an independent Federal Agency, with a Board of Governors appointed by the President, and the postage rates to be established by the Postal Regulatory Commission. This was passed by an act of Congress and signed into Law by Richard Nixon.

39 U.S. Code § 101 (a)" The United States Postal Service shall be operated as a basic and fundamental service provided to the people by the Government of the United States, authorized by the Constitution, created by Act of Congress, and supported by the people. The Postal Service shall have as its basic function the obligation to provide postal services to bind the Nation together through the personal, educational, literary, and business correspondence of the people. It shall provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons in all areas and shall render postal services to all communities. The costs of establishing and maintaining the Postal Service shall not be apportioned to impair the overall value of such service to the people." So, what does this mean for us today?

It means that any attempt to change the way we are structured or destroy our status as an independent agency will need to be accomplished by a new law passed through the House and the Senate and signed into law by the President, NOT by a simple Executive Order. The House and the Senate are currently controlled by the same party, and very few if any dare to speak up against the President right now. So, there may be enough support to push something like this through. I sure hope not. If we are stuck into the Dept of Commerce, they could try to invalidate existing Collective Bargaining agreements, wage and work hour protections, and health and retirement benefits packages for all Postal employees.

To combat this possibility, we need to act now. Blow up the phone lines to the Speaker of the House, and our other elected representatives in DC. Write emails. Get all your friends and family to do the same. Let them know that this is Americas Post Office, and nobody voted to let them come in and destroy it. We've been yelling for years for there to be improvements in employee retention, delivery efficiency, elimination of multiple redundant layers of middle and upper management and watched as they steadily eroded the service standards and our customers faith in our performance. All the while HQ gets mid 6 figure salaries and bonuses for running us into the ground. The 10-year plan has been a joke and accomplished nothing but wasting millions of dollars. Seriously let them hear it! If you need some help, there will be some talking points printed elsewhere in this Gazette, on NALC.org, and will be shared on the Facebook page as well. I'm not prone to hyperbole, but I'm serious... this is an existential emergency for the Post Office and our jobs as we know them. We must fight back right now!

Stay Engaged...

Steve Thrift



Director of Retirees Report
Steve Schultz

Director of Retirees
Steve Schultz

Well, it looks like winter finally decided to arrive. We had been pretty fortunate up until this point, and who knows how long it will last. As fast as the snow came it could leave with an atmospheric river of rain or a Chinook wind/Pineapple Express as it is often called. Until then, make sure that you use extra precaution when driving and walking in the winter conditions. Give yourself extra time to stop when approaching an intersection, and be careful when walking on slanted surfaces such as driveways. Make sure you use the handrails when going up and down stairs, especially on painted concrete porches. Your safety is your responsibility. In all my years with the union, management has never been successful in disciplining a carrier for being safe.

I thought I would take a moment to write about how the Swingroom Gazette got its name. This has been passed on to me by many of the carriers who were around when this is the way the Post Office Department (prior to becoming the US Postal Service) worked. When you were hired on as a substitute, you did not have guaranteed number of days or hours. The subs used to have to go to the station in the morning and see if there was any work available. Back in the day, what we call a loop was called a swing, and the subs would sit in the swingroom (lunchroom or an area that was designated) waiting to see if there was any work for them to do. Some days they got work, and some days they didn't, but they used to have to go and wait to see if there were any swings available to carry. Thus, the newsletter became known as the Swingroom Gazette. We are more fortunate now that we do not have to go sit at the station every day to see if there is any work available, and this is thanks to the union negotiating for our agreement.

Speaking of agreements, I see that the membership rejected the contract in a ratification vote, and as a result no movement in the subsequent negotiations, we are now going to binding arbitration. Over the years I have gone through quite a few of these, and it can be hit or miss depending on the arbitrator. Chris Warren brought up a good point at the union meeting last night that the Postal Service had over $10 billion in Treasury Bonds as of the 3rd Quarter of last year, yet they can't afford to give us a decent pay increase. I have every bit of confidence in our union's economists, such as Jim Sauber who held that position for many years, that this information will be brought out at arbitration. Now it is wait and see as the NALC presents its case before Arbitrator Nolan. I was looking at the seniority roster, and of the 273 regular carriers in Spokane, only 88 of them or 32% have more than 10 years of experience, and 141 or 52% of our carriers have less than 5 years of experience. Arbitration is all new to them. Just bear with us as we go through our struggle together. Stay united!!

Finally, the Social Security Fairness Act was passed by the House and the Senate, and signed into law by President Biden. Retirees that had earned Social Security benefits while working for the Postal Service will now finally be able to receive their full benefit amount. That's it for this time. Hopefully Spring is just around the corner.

Until next time, take care...

Progressions
CREDIT UNION

1% Cash Back Auto Loan Refinance Special!

Up to $500.00 Cash Back on Approved Credit*



Postal Workers Credit Union
Choice Since 1928

509.535.0191

www.progressionscu.org



***Offer valid 01/01/2025 and subject to change. Some restrictions apply. 1% Cash Back on loan amount up to $500.00. Only loans not currently financed through Progressions Credit Union qualify. Contact us for more details.**



Welcome Jason Tan!

New member

New main steward Cheney

Bowlathon







Executive Board Meeting Minutes January 8th, 6:00pm

In Attendance:

Sharee Eschenbacher, Bill Bauder, Conner McKinnon, Melissa Franklin, Connie Guerrero, Miranda Riley, and Steve Thrift

Reports:

-Sharee Eschenbacher: Station Labor Management meetings the first week of the month. People going to banquet should be off by 4 on Saturday, management says they will allow it, Carrier Academy Instructor position needs to be filled. Connie needs to be put in for. Day of memorial for Carter if on OWCP the carrier will get paid by OWCP not admin leave. Welcomed everyone back and new members. Jeremy Simpson is learning orientation for new carriers. Sharee is trying a new way of tracking CCA,s.

-Steve Thrift: Daughter is pregnant. Installed officers at Moses Lake. He is excited about the new people at Moses lake.

-Melissa Franklin: Shed needs to be organized. Discussed when it could be done. Trustees need to do a new inventory. Sharee will find the last inventory.

-Connie Guerrero: No report first meeting.

-Conner McKinnon: Discussed duties of Alternate Stewards. Wants to be more involved. Discussion on how to get more involved. Steve told how he kept a grievance log. Conner told us he's engaged. Discussed ways to get more communication between everyone. Conner wanted to know if the jackets were available for officers.

-Miranda Riley: Discussion on how to get retirees more involved.

-Bill Bauder: We have to reserve the picnic area. Picnic will be on July 20th, 2025. At Valley Mission Park.

-Banquet discussion. James Frankfurt is coming to the banquet from the Region office. Two people from the credit union will be helping out.

-Stewards will be called up to be sworn in. A discussion on the flow of the dinner. Spring Training: Discussed what was going to be taught and the price of going. March 14th and 15th, 2025. Will see who is interested in going.

Next meeting will be February 4th, 2025 at 6pm.

Motion to adjourn was made at 3:15 p.m. and was passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

William F Bauder

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2025 6:00pm

In Attendance:

Sharee Eschenbacher, Bill Bauder, Melissa Franklin, Miranda Riley, and Steve Thrift. Excused Connie Guerrero and Conner McKinnon.

Reports: Sharee Eschenbacher: Steve and Sharee had a Labor Management meeting has anyone seen the minutes? No one has.

-Do we want to get something For Lou for all her hard work planning the bowlathon? Will recommend that we give her $100 and will have the membership vote on it at the next meeting.

-Does anyone want more tickets for the firepit drawing?

-A letter carrier is going to get a restraining order for a customer harassing her. Can anyone board members go. Maybe Miranda, Sharee is going with the Postmaster to it.

-ADT is coming tomorrow to talk to Sharee about upgrading the system.

-Jeremy Simpson is being trained to be an organizer for the orientation of new carriers. Sharee has submitted names for a new Academy Instructor.

-Fencing and new computer on back burner.

-First year Steward College is full. Working with Nick to have a second one probably in March.

-Mike Caref is going to be speaking at Branch 79 meeting. He's running for NALC President.

-Sharee has registered us for the food drive. The Progressions Credit Union is donating $2000. Instead of bags. Its not enough money to come close to buying bags. The Food Bank would prefer the money. Donations are down when we don't have bags.

-Do we want to post minute meetings on Facebook. There was discussion on it. People need to come to the meetings if they want that information, so it was decided not to.

-Steve Thrift: Union and management are doing street observation. Looking at joint observation process geared more towards corrective instead of discipline action

-Miranda Riley: We have 11 people going to spring training in Wenatchee hotel will be $3200.

- Need to discuss later how much we are spending and how many people we can send.

Melissa Franklin: Wants to know why management is still asking leaving and return time. Sharee said no that they shouldn't re-quire it. If they do ask for steward time.

Bill Bauder: We could check with the grocery workers union to see if they want to help with the cost of bags or anything else. Working on getting the computer ready to switch to Miranda's computer. Having a tough time getting December reconciled.

Next Meeting:
March 4th 2025 at 6pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

William F. Bauder

Phone Script

Dial: Call your U.S. Senators and Representatives through the U.S. Capitol switchboard: (202) 224-3121, or via direct line

When connected, say: "**Hello, my name is [Your Name], and I am a constituent from [Your City, State]. I am calling to urge [Senator/Representative's Name] to support and protect the United States Postal Service."**

"The USPS is a vital public service that delivers to every address in the country, ensures affordable mail service for all Americans in urban and rural areas alike, and supports over 600,000 jobs, including 100,000 veterans. It is essential for businesses, seniors, and rural communities, as well as government entities, by delivering political mail during election season, and ensuring the safe handling of mail-in ballots. USPS in it's current state ensures that private corporations are forced to keep their prices low and competitive. Should the White House decide to take action to alter the postal service, USPS services could be cut, delivery times could worsen, and costs could increase for Americans like me. As a [job title] within your jurisdiction, a change to the postal service could be immeasurably detrimental to my current way of life."

"I urge [Senator/Representative's Name] to call and take a stance toward protecting the US Postal Service in its current state and opposing privatization efforts. Will [he/she/they] commit to standing with the Postal Service and its workers?"

[Wait for a response, take notes if needed, or if voicemail, continue]

"Thank you for your time. I hope to see [Senator/Representative's Name] take action to support the USPS."









Email or Letter Sample (fromAtoArbitration.com)

[Subject:] Urgent: Protect the U.S. Postal Service - A Vital National Asset

Dear [Senator/Representative's Name],

I am writing as a concerned constituent from [Your City, State] to ask you to support and protect the United States Postal Service and to urge you to take action to protect this essential institution. As we approach the 250th anniversary of the USPS in 2025, it is important to recognize the critical role it plays in our society. The USPS ensures the delivery of important items such as taxes, medication, passports, driver's licenses, legal documents, and more, regardless of geography, income, or accessibility. Every day, USPS delivers 376 million pieces of mail and packages to nearly 169 million delivery points nationwide, comprising 44% of the world's mail. The Postal Service is an essential public institution that provides reliable, affordable mail service to every American—urban and rural—without relying on taxpayer funding. Additionally, the US Postal Service's pricing forces private corporations like Amazon, UPS, and FedEx to keep their prices low and competitive.

The USPS plays a crucial role in handling political mail and ballots, ensuring a fair and secure election process, free from political influence. In emergencies such as hurricanes, wildfires, and pandemics, the USPS remains a lifeline for communities, delivering essentials when others cannot. During the COVID-19 pandemic, USPS ensured the public continued to have access to essential services. The USPS employs nearly 73,000 military veterans, making it one of the largest employers of veterans in the country. Letter carriers often serve as the only point of contact for elderly or disabled Americans, acting as the eyes and ears of the community. Numerous lives have been saved by heroic letter carriers.

Without the USPS, 51.5 million households and businesses in rural communities would have no guaranteed delivery of their essential mail and packages. USPS's universal service obligation ensures mail reaches every U.S. address, which is critical for rural communities. Privatization or a focus on profitability could lead to reduced service, disproportionately impacting remote areas that rely on USPS for essential needs. International postal privatization efforts have resulted in lower service quality, higher prices, and reduced access to delivery services, particularly in rural and low-income areas.

I strongly urge you to oppose privatization efforts that would reduce service and increase costs for Americans, including any potential executive order that would displace the Postal Service from it's current constitutionally mandated service obligation, and echo your support for the US Postal Service, as 600,000 American citizens have found a lifelong career ensuring the movement and delivery of America's mail.

Please stand with the American people and the dedicated postal workers who keep our country connected.

I look forward to hearing how you plan to support USPS in upcoming legislation.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[Your Email]

The USPS is a critical institution that serves as the backbone of American communication and commerce. The “A Sustainable Path Forward” report outlines several key reasons why preserving and strengthening the Postal Service is essential:

USPS Ensures Universal Service & Accessibility

- The USPS delivers mail and packages to every address in the country, including remote and rural areas that private carriers often neglect or surcharge.
- It maintains a nationwide network of post offices, ensuring that all communities have access to postal services regardless of profitability.
- Over 43 million Americans in rural areas depend on USPS for essential mail and package delivery.

USPS Powers the Economy & Supports Local Businesses

- The USPS handles 146 billion pieces of mail annually and facilitates commerce for small businesses and major corporations alike.
- USPS delivery services help local businesses compete with large e-commerce companies by providing affordable shipping options.
- The mailing industry supports 7.3 million jobs and $1.58 trillion in economic activity.

USPS is Essential for Public Safety & Government Services

- The Postal Service delivers prescription medications to veterans and seniors who rely on timely shipments.
- It plays a vital role in delivering Social Security checks, passports, and IRS documents, ensuring millions of Americans receive critical government services.
- USPS is the primary carrier of election ballots, safeguarding the democratic process by enabling vote-by-mail for millions.

USPS is a Major Employer & Supports Middle-Class Jobs

- With over 600,000 employees, USPS is one of the largest employers in the country, providing stable, middle-class jobs with fair wages and benefits.
- The Postal Service employs over 100,000 veterans, making it one of the largest veteran employers in the U.S.

USPS Operates Without Taxpayer Funding

- The Postal Service is self-funded through the sale of postage and services, not taxpayer dollars.

USPS is More Reliable and Affordable than Private Carriers

- Private carriers like UPS and FedEx rely on USPS for last-mile delivery in rural areas.
- USPS rates are significantly lower for consumers, keeping delivery costs affordable for all Americans.
- Unlike private companies, USPS does not discriminate based on geography or income level.

Washington 5th District

Representative

Michael Baumgartner

(202) 225-2006

25 Independence Ave, SE

Washington DC 20515-4705

https://www.baumgartner.house.gov

Idaho 1st District

Representative

Russ Fulcher

(202) 225-6611

15 Independence Ave, SE

Washington DC 20515-1201

https://www.fulcher.house.gov

Senators

Maria Cantwell

(202) 224-3441

120 Constitution Ave, NE

Washington DC 20510-4705

https://www.cantwell.senate.gov

Senators

Mike Crapo

(202) 224-6142

100 Constitution Ave, NE

Washington DC 20510-1375

https://www.crapo.senate.gov

Patty Murray

(202) 224-2621

2 Constitution Ave, NE

Washington DC 20510-4704

https://www.murray.senate.gov

James Risch

(202) 224-2752

2 Constitution Ave, NE

Washington DC 20510-1206

https://www.risch.senate,gov

General Meeting Minutes February 19th, 2025 7:00pm

President Sharee Eschenbacher called the meeting to order.

ROLE CALL: 16 Present, 5 unexcused, 4 excused

Reading of Previous Minutes: General meeting minutes moved seconded and passed. Executive minutes one correction Mr. Caref's name spelt wrong. Seconded and approved.

Secretary/Treasurer Report: Moved Seconded and approved.

Reading of Communications: none

Application of New members: none

Initiation of New members: Jason Tan

Reading of Reports:

Director of Insurance: not present no report.

Director of Safety: not present no report

Retirees: no report

Trustees: Up to date as of October. Bill has had trouble reconciling December.

Spokane Labor Council: Jacob, DeeDee and Leslie. Jacob stated that the new officers for our branch need to be sent to the Labor Council. The waste to energy plant being penalized by the carbon tax. Landfills put out more methane. Emergency 911 calls are going unanswered due to labor shortages.

Swingroom Gazette: articles past due.

Committee Reports:

Legislation: The wind fall provision passed and was eliminated.

Resolutions: None

By-Laws: Steve Schultz and Conner McKinnon have been going through the bylaws to update them. So far 49 instances of a male pronoun. Changing pay of officers from level O to level P. Tonja Salguero volunteered to be on the committee. There was a discussion on the bylaws.

Entertainment/Athletics: No Report. Discussion on having a Bloomsday team. Discussed getting group tickets for hockey, baseball and soccer tickets.

MDA: Lou Hamersky has spent a lot of time getting the bowlathon going this year. Leslie Phelps has helped Lou. Spent the day getting sponsors. Raised $1875. For MDA

Hospital and Health: Wes Westmorland, Martin Grogen and Tom Neese are addressing health concerns. Tesxhana had a new grandbaby.

Condolences: Jim Bryan has passed away. Mike Poff's sister has passed away.

Labor Management Agenda Items: Sharee asked if labor management meetings were being posted. Use those minutes to guide station labor management meetings. VMF not cleaning their vehicles. The plant isn't cleaning the sorting machines. Some stations having troubles getting their lots plowed. Metris vans taking off as if gas pedal was all the way to the floor. Function 767 should not be used when carrying express. You should move to the route.

Unfinished business: none

New Business: Moved and seconded and passed to give Lou Hamersky $100. For her hard work on the bowlathon.

Good of the Association: Contract not ratified going to arbitration**.** Leslie Phelps is trying to set up a blood drive in honor of her friend.

Improvement of the Association: Discussed Postmaster General leaving**.**

Meeting Drawings: Number 256 Melissa Hickman. Number 322 Jeff Patterson**.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 18th 2025 at 7pm

Respectfully Submitted,

William F. Bauder

Your local Arslan Sales Representative:

Steve Schultz

Proud Branch 442 Member

426 E. Hawthorne Rd.
Spokane, WA 99218
509-863-4873
509-467-7528

Arslan

Featuring: Elbeco and Blauer Uniforms
Thorogood, Rocky, New Balance, Reebok and Rockport Footwear



Hays Park

Simona Farnsworth

Carriers are the face of the post office. We are out in the public every day delivering mail and picking up mail. We go to every house and every business to provide a service to our customers. It is extremely important for us to always be professional while at work. Not only with our attitude but with how we present ourselves as well. This includes being in proper uniform. Lately being in proper uniform has become way too relaxed. It is an issue that has started because management has not been enforcing our uniform policy. Now as management is going to enforce the uniform policy it has become stressful for some carriers. What has been allowed for well over a year now for so many carriers is suddenly being taken away. All I can say is management caused this confusion about what is allowed to be worn at work. It is management's responsibility to enforce the uniform policy. Now they are trying to fix this uniform problem that never should have become a problem in the first place. We are required to be in a proper uniform. We all got hired for this job knowing that we would have to wear the uniform.

Being in a proper uniform is extremely important. It is the way the post office has always been and always will be. It is not a punishment to wear our uniform. It is a requirement, and we should all be proud to wear our uniform. I remember being in elementary school and learning about adults to go to for help. My teacher always said police men, fire men and the mailman where safe people to go to for help. We are identified by our uniform. Let's take pride in our appearance and come to work like the professionals we are, in proper uniform.

I would like to ask every carrier if you have any uniform items that you do not need or want to please bring them in and donate them. Some offices have a shelf in the break room for spare uniforms. There are also extra uniforms at our union office. If any carriers at Hays Park want me to help find uniforms, I am more than willing. Let me know what size you need, and I will try to find it for you.

Simona Farnsworth



Fight Like Hell Rally Washington DC February 24Th

Spokane date TBA– stay engaged



Shadle

Leslie Phelps

Hello Brothers & Sisters! Leslie Phelps, main steward at the Shadle Garland Post Office here. I feel like winter just came out of nowhere and hit us like a brick. Glad to be out of the cold snap we had for a little bit. As cold as it was I would still take the extreme cold weather vs the extreme heat during summer! Remember to be safe when delivering in the snow and make sure that your customers are properly clearing snow for both park & loop and curbside delivery. Your safety is more important than that TEMU or SHEIN package that customers paid nickels and dimes for. It is a part of city ordinance that 24 hours after snowfall, customers have to clear pathways for the public.

With that being said Shadle had the new routes adjusted at the beginning of January. It hasn't been a smooth transition by any means. We lost 2 routes and now have a 45-60 minute auxiliary route. Now that everyone has been acquainted on their new routes, now is the time to start requesting copies of your 3996 for anyone who requests overtime or auxiliary assistance for 3 or more days a week over the span of 6 weeks. When this happens you can request a 271.G with management in hopes of having another 6-day route count.

I will be attending the spring training coming up in Wenatchee in March. My next article will cover what I learned during my time. Now that the Tentative Agreement has been rejected by the union, let's hope that we get what we fought for. The wait will be worth it! Thanks for reading my article.

Sunset Hill Station



Hey everybody, I hope you have all been well and taking care of yourselves. It has been going good over here at Sunset it was a pretty easy Christmas season and brought in the new year smoothly, one thing I wanted to talk about management here recently wanted us to sign a form that showed our designated lunch and break spots the issue is none of them were even accurate to where we take our breaks also they had asked us a couple months prior to write down our locations and when I did they changed it to something totally different. I told them I wouldn't sign anything until they got it correct, also management I guess is responsible for doing out edit book changes for us and let me tell you that has been a disaster I don't know why they put management in charge of all these things when they cant even do " THEIR" job done correctly, but besides that I wanted to mention checking in with your cca and seeing how they are doing and if they are needing anything whether that be extra training or guidance I have been having to help cca talk to management about things they need to do outside the job like having a doctor's appointment or needing to take their car in for maintenance I don't know if they are afraid to have something outside of this job to do and letting management know or what but please help your cca find their voice and speak up for themselves.

Well, that's all I have for you today. I hope you all are staying safe and taking care of yourselves until next time!

Connie Guerrero

Shop Steward



Tracy Pardick

Valley

SPOKANE VALLEY ARTICLE

Valley Article February 2025

Well, not much to say. Things have been changing quickly around here. Employees are changing routes constantly leaving uncovered routes. Miranda switched over to route 606, Hagood bid over to 616 and Garret bid over to route 1621, leaving 3 more routes open for this bid cycle. Sandi Glenn retired, and she is already missed, her route went up for bid this month.

Not much going on with the grievance side, there has been a couple article 8 issues, but Miranda has stepped up and embraced the suck with those. She has also taken over ODL tracking and posting of the opting sheets, she is doing awesome and has helped decrease my stress levels. This has given me a little more time to put my attention to Regal issues and Formal A issues.

Todd Peterson's dad just recently pasted away, it is always hard to say good bye to a parent. We have had some injuries. Wes Westmoreland is out due to medical issues. King has been in and out also. Chad Fortenski has been out due to his injuries sustained on the job. There are a few more also. It has been a little harder to cover routes lately. Woodland is also out due to surgery. April Sly is also out with surgery and will be out for a while.

We have been pushing safety a lot at the station lately. I do not have an issue with this. It is our responsibility daily to work in a safe manner. Do the right thing. Wear your seat belt and any other thing that is told. We get paid to do this. I still see carriers driving around without it, if I see it then management will also. I heard that nation wide there has been a big push for this and that carriers are being 16.7'd if caught. It is up to you to make the decision if you can go without pay until the union gets your job back. Please don't put yourself in that situation.

Also, with the snow it seems more accidents occur. Take your time pulling up to boxes and getting in and out of the vehicle. Pay attention to where you are stepping. It seems that every house has a camera these days and management does request the footage from the customers if there is an accident. Make sure you are doing everything safely; it is up to each of us to get home the way we left it.

There hasn't been much pressure for numbers at the Valley as I have heard is going on at other stations. The union and management team have a pretty good relationship and are able to fix most issues before they become grievances. If anything is needed to be discussed, please let me know and I will talk to management to get it fixed. We are still waiting on the no lunch grievance that was sent to the B-Team months ago, hopefully, it will come back soon with the proper language that is in our favor.

I know unscheduled sick leave has been a big issue at the station and in the city as a whole. If you have a medical condition that falls under FMLA, ask for the paperwork. This includes your family members if you are needed to care for them. I have helped many carriers get this done. Management should not be asking for medical documentation for absences of days or less. If they request documentation, request your steward. Go to the doctor, even if you have to make an appointment for it. Save your receipts, calculate your time, calculate your miles and get copies of all your bills for the visit. Then request your steward to file a grievance on it. Management will claim protection of the service each time and they will always loose. This is your benefit, don't abuse it, but use it when it is needed.

We have the bowl-a-thon coming up. Not much participation so far. Hopefully we will have a better turn out than what it is showing at this point. I have always been able to sell tickets, this year it just seems there isn't much support from the membership as previous years. Not sure if it's because we have newer carriers, and the older crew have mostly retired. It would be nice to see the newer carriers start getting involved in the union. There are many things that you can do, just ask me and I will help out.

That's about all I have at this point, I am show with my ADHD I have missed most of the topics that I needed to cover. But that's ok, I will forget I forgot anyways.

As always you can call anytime with questions.

Tracy Pardick

Valley/Regal Steward

208-651-3505



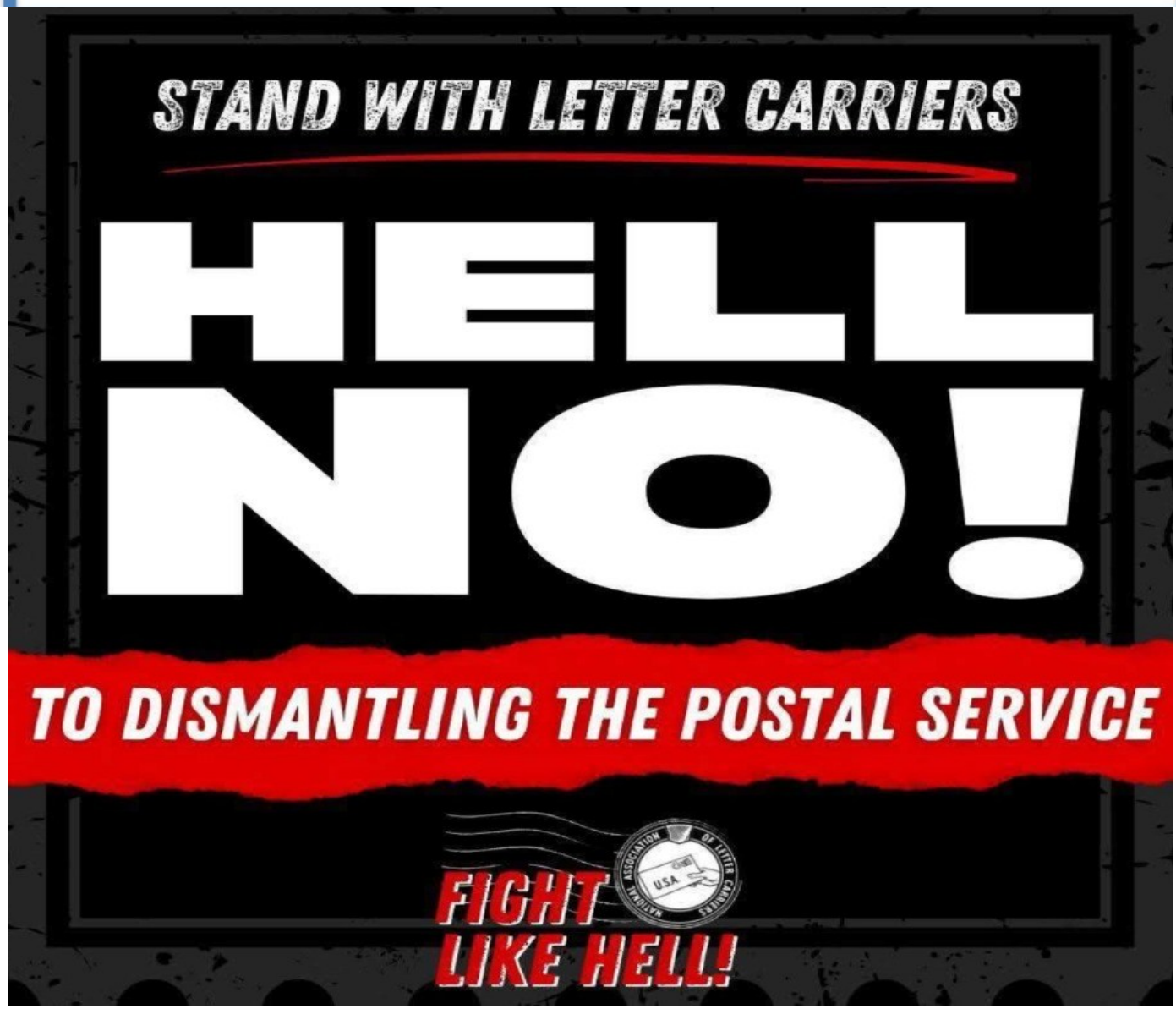
For my entire career, a little over 32 years now, there has been someone worrying that we were going to go out of business, that we were all going to lose our jobs. That fear has always been there, and you just kind of get used to hearing it and maybe get a bit complacent about it. However, right now the threat to our jobs is the highest I have ever seen it. There is a lot of information out there, a lot of it conflicting. The current President has repeatedly expressed a desire to "do something with the Post Office." The message from DeJoy stating that laws can be changed should alarm us all, especially as he is on his way out the door. NALC President Renfroe has shared a lot of information about the concerns at the Postal Board of Governors, USPS Headquarters and NALC Headquarters over what they are hearing in Washington DC. It all comes down to our jobs are more at risk right now than at anytime in recent memory. So, what can we do about it? It is time to fight! We need to bombard our representatives in congress with phone calls, emails and letters to make sure there is no doubt in their minds that we will not let them destroy the Post Office. There are over 600,000 USPS employees. There are 7 million people who work in jobs directly related to the USPS (think printing companies, direct mailers, Pitney Bowes postage meters and supplies). This doesn't include the small businesses that use USPS for shipping as we provide the lowest cost. The entire industry related to the USPS is $2 Trillion per year. It is easy to understand why certain people may be looking to sell off the profitable parts of our business (likely to themselves). Elsewhere in this issue you will find the names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses for the Senators and Representatives for Eastern Washington and North Idaho. There are sample scripts of what to say to them when you call, and what to write to them in emails and letters, as well as talking points. We will be holding a Fight Like Hell Rally in the near future. Please get involved! Please stay informed. Ask friends and family to call as well.

-Scott Thorland

THE
SWINGROOM GAZETTE
Official Publication
Of
BRANCH 442
National Association of Letter Carriers
2903 E. Mission Avenue
Spokane, Washington 99202-2364

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Spokane, WA
Permit No. 442



Important Dates:	*FIGHT LIKE HELL RALLY*	*TBA*
Steward Meeting	March 11th	6:30pm
General Meeting	March 18th	7:00pm
Steward Meeting	April 8th	6:30pm
General Meeting	April 15th	7:00pm