



NEW JERSEY MERGED BRANCH 38

National Association of Letter Carriers

374 Morris Avenue • Springfield, New Jersey 07081-1106

Telephone: 973-564-7244 • Fax: 973-564-7673 • www.branch38nalc.com

"A Stronger Union Through Merger"

January 2021

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and in good health. This past year has been a difficult one for all of us, and I look forward to better times in 2021. I want to thank each of you for your dedicated service to the American public throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. You were challenged with a massive increase in parcel volume, an election conducted largely through the mail, and health and safety concerns for you and your families. You excelled beyond all expectations, and you should be congratulated and thanked.

As the world, the country and the Postal Service suffered the health and economic impact of the coronavirus, the NALC was able to reach a Tentative National Agreement with the Postal Service, following seventeen months of negotiations and arbitration hearings. Details of the 2019-2023 Tentative National Agreement can be found on the Branch 38 web site, the NALC Bulletin posted in your office, the most recent issue of the Postal Record, and will be mailed to all active NALC members

Beginning during the week of January 11, 2021, every NALC member who is an active letter carrier will receive a copy of the tentative agreement, along with a summary of the changes from the 2016 National Agreement. Included in that mailing will be a secret ballot, which will be your opportunity to express your desire to either accept the proposed tentative agreement, or send the parties back to final and binding arbitration.

The Executive Council of the NALC has unanimously recommended ratification of the tentative agreement. The Executive Board of NJ Merged Branch 38 has reviewed the tentative agreement, and has also unanimously recommended that the membership support ratification. None of the terms of the Tentative National Agreement, including the wage increases, retro-active payment of past increases, or automatic conversion of CCA's, will be implemented until the agreement is ratified by the membership, or a decision is rendered by Arbitrator Dennis Nolan, in the event that the tentative agreement be rejected by the membership.

This is your opportunity to direct the leadership of your union how to proceed in securing your wages, benefits and working conditions during the life of this contract. I encourage you to take this responsibility very seriously, and to take this opportunity to have your voice heard. This vote, as do all elections, have consequences. Your participation is critical. **Your ballot must be received no later than February 16, 2021, so get it in the mail as soon as possible.**

Although the importance of this vote should be incentive enough for everyone to participate and return their ballot, Branch 38 is once again offering an additional incentive. **We will raffle off a 65" television at the March Branch Meeting, via Zoom.** In order to be entered into the raffle, all you have to do is present your sealed ballot ready for mailing to your shop steward.

Once again, thank you for your service to the American public and your support of Branch 38, the NALC, and each other. The concept of unity is never more important that it is during times of crisis, and this past year has brought us together perhaps more than ever before. Thank you in advance for your participation in this very important ratification vote. Let's have Branch 38's voice heard loud and clear, as it has always been before.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael J. O'Neill".

Michael J. O'Neill, President
NJ Merged Branch 38, NALC



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Win a 65" Samsung Smart TV!!!

NJ Merged Branch 38 is raffling off a 65" Samsung TV. In order to be eligible for the drawing, all you have to do is complete the ballot for the ratification of the Tentative National Agreement, place it in the sealed envelope ready for mailing, and show it to your shop steward. The ballots will be in the mail during the week of 1/11/21.

The terms of the Tentative Agreement can be found in the mailing that contains the ballot, and in the most recent Postal Record and NALC Bulletin. Any questions regarding the terms of the Tentative Agreement can be forwarded to your Area Representative or the Branch 38 office.

This is an important opportunity to have your voice heard regarding your wages, benefits and working conditions. Branch 38 has decided to add this additional incentive to promote more participation by our members.

None of the terms of the Tentative Agreement, including retro-active pay or automatic conversion of CCA's, will be implemented until the Agreement is ratified by the membership, or absent such ratification, the issuance of a final and binding decision by Arbitrator Dennis Nolan.

Your ballot must be received no later than February 16, 2021. The deadline for entry for the TV raffle, therefore, will be February 9, 2021. Thank you for your anticipated participation.



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Cloth Face Coverings

Branch 38 has acquired a supply of cloth face coverings with the Branch logo, and is offering them for sale at \$5.00 each. The Branch will be covering the additional cost of the masks.

Please contact your shop steward or area representative to place an order. There is a limited supply, so place your orders as soon as possible. If there is a demand, we will place an additional order.

Thank you for observing all of the COVID-19 protocols. Maintaining social distance of six feet, wearing a face covering, and washing your hands continues to be essential for getting through this pandemic. With the advent of the new vaccines, there is a light at the end of the tunnel, but we must not let our guard down.

Thanks again, and be safe.



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"A Stronger Union Through Merger"

Advanced Shop Steward Training

Tuesday - January 12, 2021 - 7:30 PM

Branch 38 will be holding Advanced Shop Steward training on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 via Zoom. The link can be found below. All shop stewards are encouraged to attend, and all Branch 38 members are welcome.

We will be covering Local Memorandum of Understanding negotiations. This will include preparation for negotiations, the negotiating process, and the twenty-two items contained in each LMOU. With a new Tentative National Agreement being sent out to the members for ratification, it is important that we have everyone prepared for LMOU negotiations.

Topic: Branch 38 LMOU Negotiations Training

Time: Jan 12, 2021 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6988072647>

Meeting ID: 698 807 2647

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,6988072647# US (Washington D.C)

+13126266799,,6988072647# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 698 807 2647

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6988072647>



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Branch 38 Retirement Training

NJ Merged Branch 38 will be holding a retirement seminar **via zoom** for those considering their option to retire during the next few years. Information relative to CSRS and FERS retirement plans will be addressed.

We will be covering topics such as how to calculate your annuity and carrying health and life insurance into retirement. We will discuss what information you will need to complete the application for retirement, and what you need to do to prepare for retirement.

Below is the link and phone numbers to log onto the meeting.

Topic: Branch 38 Retirement Training

Time: January 17, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6988072647>

Meeting ID: 698 807 2647

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February 3, 2021 Branch 38 Meeting **Via Zoom**

In the best interest of the safety and health of our members and their families, and given the government regulations regarding gatherings during the current COVID-19 pandemic, the monthly Branch 38 meeting scheduled for February 3, 2021 will be conducted via Zoom. Information regarding how to attend the meeting on your computer or phone is attached.

MICHAEL O'NEILL is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: February Membership Meeting

Time: Feb 3, 2021 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6988072647>

Meeting ID: 698 807 2647

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Topic: Branch 38 LMOU Negotiations Training

Time: February 9, 2021 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

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